

**AVON TOWN COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
May 16, 2022**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

A Special Meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. at the Avon Town Hall, in the Selectmen's Chamber by Chairman Polhamus. Members present: Messrs: Polhamus, Weber, and Ms. Ausiello. Absent were Mrs. Maguire and Mr. Indomenico. A quorum was present.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Polhamus.

Chairman Polhamus paused and reflected on the Pledge of Allegiance, a pledge to make sure our country is the best it can be, looking out for our neighbors, helping this country succeed and news about the recent shooting in Buffalo, New York was crushing, a persistent dark undercurrent of our society was once again louder and uglier, a community was targeted based on hate; a few weeks ago he had a constituent ask why we haven't moved forward with an equity statement and are behind a few other towns in that regard; the Town has made a concerted effort towards emphasizing the importance of diversity and inclusion in our community; we have done a pretty good job in a lot of ways, particularly through the Library Director at the Avon Free Public Library; as a Council member for the past two years and now as Chair it feels incomplete to him; the majority in our community recognize the systemic issues in our society but struggle to recognize how it affects us here in Avon and what we can do to be part of the solution; one of our most important roles on the Council is messaging; we're the ones that set the narrative for Avon, that is why we raised the Pride flag last year which was our use of our voices to help in a fight for public well-being and physical and mental health of our constituents; we believe in Avon in which all of our fellow humans regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation and gender identification are welcomed and cherished; this is not political; it is by far the predominant sentiment to our constituents of any political affiliation. He thinks it is time to formalize this and work together over the coming months to begin with an equity statement and work from there; we can't be responsible for the next hate-filled 18-year old murderer and we won't stand for those that work against a fair and equitable and just community; this does indeed affect us and we will be part of this country moving past this painful chapter in our country's history; thank you.

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

**21/22-120 Contract Recommendation: Municipal Solid Waste & Recycling Disposal Services**

The Town Manager noted that after Council decided to opt out and not renew with MIRA we put out an RFP and this is the recommendation from that result. Ms. Ausiello inquired what would happen if the Town decided to break the contract within the five years. The Assistant Town Manager would have to recheck the terms of the agreement but there would likely be some kind of penalty costs involved with doing so; given what is in the market right now we are of the opinion that five years will allow us to set it and forget it for a bit and then regroup. She noted

that Murphy Road Recycling's per year increase includes free recycling. In response to a question from Ms. Ausiello, the Assistant Town Manager responded that if we want to compost we would probably put out a separate RFP. She noted Blue Earth and Textile Recycling as potential options. In response to a question from Chairman Polhamus, the Assistant Town Manager responded that 950 tons is based on what we budget for annually. Chairman Polhamus inquired if we ever looked into composting onsite. Bruce Williams, Director of Public Works, responded that he did not believe we could do so at the Landfill. The Assistant Town Manager noted that CRCOG is planning to do a competitive solicitation for composting. Mr. Weber asked if Town staff could look into that as an option. Ms. Ausiello inquired about what our compost options are including regionalization and expressed this interest on behalf of many residents. The Assistant Town Manager will investigate and report back to Council.

On a motion made by Mr. Weber, seconded by Ms. Ausiello, it was voted:

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council award a contract to Murphy Road Recycling of Hartford, CT for the disposal of municipal solid waste and recycling for a five-year term at the rates of \$110 per ton for Years 1 and 2, \$115 per ton for Years 3 and 4, and \$120 per ton for Year 5. Ms. Ausiello, Messrs: Weber and Polhamus voted in favor.

#### **21/22-121    Donation of Expired Kevlar Vests to Ukraine**

The Town Manager noted that there are approximately thirty Kevlar vests in the Police Department that have expired, have no cash value, and are not a capital asset; there are some recycling options however several police departments have spearheaded an option of sending them to Ukraine. Mr. Weber inquired if there are any other similar items that the Police Department could be shepherded to Ukraine to which the Town Manager replied that he would inquire with the Director of Police Services. Mr. Weber noted that given the historical implications of what is happening in Ukraine and how Putin perceives Ukraine, this is a fight that we want to be in and we want to be on the right side of it and anything we can do as a Town to support Ukraine we should wholeheartedly do. Town Council gave consensus to proceed with the donation.

#### **21/22-122    Approve Resolution: Urban Act Grant, \$60,000 – Sycamore Hills Playscape**

Chairman Polhamus expressed appreciation to Representative DeGraw for her work on securing these funds for the Town.

On a motion made by Ms. Ausiello, seconded by Mr. Weber, it was voted:

**RESOLVED,** that Brandon Robertson, Town Manager, Town of Avon, is authorized to execute on behalf of the Town of Avon a Personal Service Agreement/Grant Contract under the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection with the State of Connecticut for a \$60,000 grant for the Sycamore Hills Playscape; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED,** that Brandon Robertson, Town Manager, is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Town of Avon and to do and perform all acts and things which he deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents for said grant with the State of Connecticut.

Ms. Ausiello, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

*Exit Selectmen's Chamber to begin Town Facilities Tour*

**21/22-123   Town Facilities Tour: Avon Police Department  
Town Hall Campus  
Department of Public Works**

Present for the Town Facilities Tour: Brandon Robertson, Town Manager; Grace Tiezzi, Assistant Town Manager; Bruce Williams, Director of Public Works; Alex Trujillo, Deputy Director of Public Works; and John Schmalberger, Police Lieutenant.

Brandon Robertson and Grace Tiezzi provided a tour of Building #1 on Town Hall Campus. John Schmalberger, Police Lieutenant, provided a tour of the Police Department facilities. Bruce Williams, Director of Public Works and Alex Trujillo, Deputy Director of Public Works provided a tour of the Public Works facilities. Council members engaged in discussion at each location.

**IV.   ADJOURN**

On a motion made by Ms. Ausiello, seconded by Mr. Weber, it was voted:

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m.  
Ms. Ausiello, Messrs: Polhamus and Weber voted in favor.

Attest: Jennifer Worsman, Clerk