

**AVON TOWN COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
July 27, 2016**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Avon Town Hall, in the Selectmen's Chamber by Chairman Zacchio. Members present: Mrs. Maguire and Messrs: Stokesbury and Pena. Mr. Speich was absent.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Zacchio.

**III. PUBLIC HEARINGS:** None

**IV. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING:** June 2, 2016

Corrections to the June 2, 2016 Meeting minutes were made as follows:

On page 8, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph, 5<sup>th</sup> line, change "rehabilitating" to "rehabilitate it" and in the 6<sup>th</sup> line, change "caricature" to "character."

On a motion made by Mr. Pena, seconded by Mrs. Maguire, it was voted:

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council accept the minutes of the June 2, 2016 Meeting as amended.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, and Stokesbury voted in favor.

**V. COMMUNICATION FROM AUDIENCE**

Flo Stahl, 2 Sunset Trail, made some remarks to the Council (which are attached and made part of these minutes). She commented that perhaps a discussion about videotaping Town Council meetings for rebroadcast on Nutmeg TV could be on an agenda at some meeting. Council thanked Ms. Stahl for her comments. Chairman Zacchio commented that we have looked into this subject before and he asked the Town Manager to consider it again. He agreed that from a modern perspective it is good because it opens up a convenience to the general public to be able to see a meeting but it might also turn people off from coming before the Town Council who may not want to be broadcast on TV, Facebook and social media site so there is a balance that is important for us to consider. He added that we have not talked to the Board of Education about their experiences so far; it is very young in terms of being taped and broadcast but certainly something we can consider. He noted that the Town Manager comes from Simsbury where there have been taped meetings for a long time and might have some anecdotal experience as well so it is something that we can certainly consider.

**VI. COMMUNICATION FROM COUNCIL**

Mr. Pena reported that he attended the Taste of Ramadan and happy to represent the Council and was a very nice event. He reported that he also attended, along with Mr. Stokesbury, the Boy

Scout event honoring Bill and Peggy Roell and it was a wonderful event and reflected on the amount of volunteer work that they have contributed.

Mrs. Maguire congratulated Bill and Peggy Roell for all of their hard work with the boy scouts. She also attended the High School graduation ceremony and nice that the Council is invited and it is so well done. She reported that the Avon Education Foundation awarded three grants: one to Thompson Brook School for robotics training, a second to Avon Middle School for Fidget for Focus, and a third to the Avon Free Public Library for a community build of the Wrights Brother plane.

Mr. Stokesbury also congratulated Bill and Peggy Roell and noted that through Bill's leadership Troop 274 typically has over 100 scouts and can be 10 times more than a lot of troops. He added that Bill and his assistants helped dozens of scouts become Eagle Scout and Troop 274 is a model throughout Connecticut and beyond and Avon should be quite proud of their service and success. He thanked Peggy Roell who was sitting in the audience. He reported that we have a new fire truck and is in service and we wait for the next one. He commented that he has spent a lot of time at Buckingham fields over the last couple months and combination of the dugouts, our new turf machine, and mowing the hill has really sharpened up the area and we should consider doing more improvements there to maximize its use. He commented on the following two items for budgets as we move forward. He alerted the Town Manager about a month ago about a Hartford Courant article on all of Hartford's ash trees that are commonly streetscape trees and that a number of communities will have to budget for the cost of removing all of these trees and we are saved that expense but yet another unfunded mandate that is out there for towns. He commented that he would like to see us work hard to try to consolidate the finance function into one consolidated office with the impending doom and gloom with the State government and what that may do to funding down to the municipalities and really need to work to focus our dollars as best we can and eliminating duplication in that function would be another step in the right direction. He noted that we have done so well with some of other areas from the advisory group with maintenance and insurance and other interests; it is time to push forward.

Chairman Zacchio congratulated Bill and Peggy Roell. He noted that Peggy's commitment to our community has been well documented through her services on Boards, Committees, and the Boy Scouts and Bill's as well with Boy Scouts. He noted that he receives comments about the number of Eagle Scouts that our Town has and it is a testament to our program and the leadership that has been there over a long period of time that brought scouting to the forefront and interested kids at a young age and kept kids interested through Eagle Scout. He also reported that we are reminded of the aging infrastructure in Town with the Big Y fire that just happened and the speed in which it was put out and controlled by the Avon Volunteer Fire Department was admirable and we need to remember that when it comes budget time; in the capital budget we have been funding new trucks, working with them on the Fire Training Center and it is important that we continue to think about those capital needs with the Fire Department as our infrastructure ages and we see more and more calls happening. He commented that is something to think about as the next capital budget process is just around the corner. He reported that we should talk about at some point our meeting calendar and whether this meeting in late July works better and we have no early July or August meetings but still take care of the housekeeping business that needs to be taken care of and discuss the meeting start time of 7:00 p.m. versus 7:30 p.m. Mr. Stokesbury commented that at times you hear that people are just

getting home and the start time of 7:30 p.m. is better. Mrs. Maguire commented that during the year 7:30 p.m. is better. The Town Manager commented that he would list it as an agenda item for September.

## **VII. OLD BUSINESS**

### **15/16-25 Appointment: Avon Water Pollution Control Authority (R - 12/31/2018)**

On a motion made by Mrs. Maguire, seconded by Mr. Stokesbury, it was voted:

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council appoint Keith Jones to the Avon Water Pollution Control Authority as a regular member to fill a vacancy with a term to expire on December 31, 2018.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Stokesbury, and Pena voted in favor.

### **15/16-42 Appointment: Wild & Scenic River Study Committee (R – 12/31/2017)**

On a motion made by Mrs. Maguire, seconded by Mr. Stokesbury, it was voted:

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council appoint Steve Hunt to the Wild & Scenic River Study Committee as a regular member to fill a vacancy with a term to expire on December 31, 2017.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Stokesbury, and Pena voted in favor.

### **15/16-43 Appointment: Youth Services Advisory Board (R – 12/31/2017)**

On a motion made by Mrs. Maguire, seconded by Mr. Pena, it was voted:

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council table agenda item 15/16-43 Appointment: Youth Services Advisory Board (R – 12/31/2017) to the September 1, 2016 meeting.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Stokesbury, and Pena voted in favor.

### **15/16-66 Appointment: Avon Clean Energy Commission (R – 12/31/2017)**

On a motion made by Mrs. Maguire, seconded by Mr. Pena, it was voted:

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council appoint Don Fallon to the Avon Clean Energy Commission as a regular member to fill a vacancy with a term to expire on December 31, 2017.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Stokesbury, and Pena voted in favor.

### **15/16-76 Amend Motion – Contract Terms for Dispatcher Union Contract**

Chairman Zacchio commented that when the motion was made at the May meeting we approved it through June 2018 but the contract actually runs through June 2019 so we need to amend the motion.

On a motion made by Mr. Pena, seconded by Mr. Stokesbury, it was voted:

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council amend the original motion made at their May 5, 2016 Meeting to state “That the Town Council authorize the Town Manager to execute a tentative agreement with the Dispatcher Union CILU Local #22 resulting in a three-year contract from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2019.”

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Stokesbury, and Pena voted in favor.

**15/16-84 Appointment: Avon Clean Energy Commission (D – 12/31/2017)**

On a motion made by Mrs. Maguire, seconded by Mr. Pena, it was voted:

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council table agenda item 15/16-84 Appointment: Avon Clean Energy Commission (D – 12/31/2017) to the September 1, 2016 meeting.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena and Stokesbury voted in favor.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

**16/17-01 Supplemental Appropriation: Peer Review for Avon Village Center, \$30,000**

The Town Manager reported that this is for the processing and review of the Avon Village Center application. He noted that a few years ago Council adopted an ordinance that allows the Planning and Zoning Commission to retain outside professional services for complex applications and have the applicant pay for those services. He noted that in this case it went through the staff level and conducted a request for proposal process for architects and engineers. He added that the Town Planner, Town Engineer and himself conducted interviews and selected Weston and Sampson as the engineering firm and Amenta/Emma as the architectural firm to provide peer review consulting services and estimate that the cost is \$30,000 for the services that we will need to process the application and the applicant agreed to us and provided us a check in that amount and now the supplemental appropriation will allow us access to the funds. He noted that in the interest of time we had a Board of Finance meeting on Monday where they approved this anticipating the Town Council would act on it tonight.

On a motion made by Mr. Stokesbury, seconded by Mrs. Maguire, it was voted:

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council hereby recommends that the Board of Finance amend the FY 16/17 Budget by increasing:

**REVENUES**

General Fund, Other Local Revenues, Refunds & Reimbursements, Account #01-0360-43612, in the amount of \$30,000 and increasing:

**APPROPRIATIONS**

General Fund, Planning, Service & Consultant, Account #01-7101-52184, in the amount of \$30,000, for the purpose of recording funding received from Carpionato Properties for consulting services/peer review by Amenta/Emma Architects and Weston & Sampson for planning studies in connection with the November 17, 2015, approved Carpionato Master Plan for Avon Village Center.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, and Stokesbury voted in favor.

**16/17-02 Equipment Donations**

Chairman Zacchio thanked the organizations who do a lot of fundraising to make our facilities better, they do a lot of work around what the needs are for each sport and try to put up equipment that is good and can be used by anyone that uses the fields including scoreboards, benches, etc. He thanked them from the Council for engaging in these activities and raising those kinds of monies. He noted that the donations being acknowledged tonight were for scoreboards and benches. He added that it makes our parks nicer and sharper. Mr. Stokesbury commented that

Buckingham has taken a completely new look from where it was five years ago. He noted that the advertising that is now permitted is done very tastefully. He recommended accepting these donations with great thanks to Avon Little League, the High School Booster Club, and Avon Soccer Club who have done so much work to make our parks nicer.

On a motion made by Mr. Pena, seconded by Mrs. Maguire, it was voted:

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council, on behalf of the Town of Avon, accept the following gifts as noted: \$6,000 from Avon Booster Club, \$6,000 from Avon Little League, \$6,100 from Avon Soccer Club, and \$10,319 from Avon Little League, with great thanks and appreciation. Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, and Stokesbury voted in favor.

Chairman Zacchio asked the Town Manager if we send letters of thanks to those organizations. The Town Manager responded that we do, we have certainly given them a verbal thanks but will follow up officially with letters.

### **16/17-03      Contract Recommendation: STEAP Phase IV**

Chairman Zacchio commented that this item was supposed to be for a contract recommendation for the STEAP Phase IV project for sidewalks that would continue from the corner of Sperry Park north on the east side of Hopmeadow Street (Route 10) down to the Town line but the bids have come back and are not nearly as favorable as they have been in the past.

The Town Manager introduced Grace Tiezzi, Assistant to the Town Manager, to the Town Council. He reported that this morning we opened bids and for the most part came in higher than we expected and there were some unexplained differences in unit amounts that both the Director of Public Works and Town Engineer want to sharpen their pencils on. He noted as an example the low for the sidewalk was \$10 per linear foot and another bid at \$20 per linear foot so they want to go back and talk to the bidders and understand those differences. He added that for most of the construction work he wants to hold on it for now and may be back in September with a contract recommendation. He noted that another theory about why the estimates came back higher than anticipated is to do with the timing of when the bids are going out as contractors are busy at this time of year and will pay a premium to get the work done this fall. He noted that we ran into the same issue with some sewer projects that we had scheduled for Paper Chase Trail. He added that the combination of reviewing the bids and he never wants to overextend Public Works but if we can do it in-house in the spring we can do this at a much lower cost.

The Town Manager reported that we structured the bids for the lighting separately and he does have a recommendation for GraybaR to move forward with that portion of the project. He noted that the contract award amount is above the threshold in the purchasing regulations that requires approval from Council. He noted that the lighting contract requires a lot of lead time to get the fixtures in so to the extent that we can move forward with the project this year we need to get this in the hopper as it is between four to eight weeks out. He added that even if the project goes over into next year we will hold the fixtures at the MH Rhodes facility. Chairman Zacchio commented that this is only to purchase the fixtures and not installation. The Town Manager responded yes.

Chairman Zacchio noted that we are extremely happy when the Director of Public Works wants to step up and do some of this work but we are also very cognitive of the fact that we have a lot of paving to do, a lot of other infrastructure work that we are planning on doing and need to be really careful about how much we lend those services out. He noted that they did a tremendous job at the Fire Training Center putting in water lines, dug the foundation holes and it went smoothly, they did a great job, and saved us a lot of money by doing it which is awesome. Mr. Stokesbury commented that it is also a good example of a lot of time spent out of Town. Chairman Zacchio commented that we have had to shift our paving a little bit and our expectation is to get into the amount of paving that we wanted to pave this year. He has received positive feedback on Copplestone and Kingsbridge and want to keep that Pavement Management Plan going. He added that we would much rather work the bids and have Public Works work on the infrastructure and the capital budget first. Mr. Stokesbury commented that we continue to see very low petroleum prices so to the extent that the overall cost is still much lower than what we were looking at and we have heard from Public Works that they have labor constraints which is pretty stressful on them and our schedule therefore he would like to be cautious. Chairman Zacchio commented that there is no rush on the sidewalk piece, mostly drawing commerce from the new apartments being built in Simsbury and makes that interconnection to our businesses which is good. The Town Manager responded that the funds are not going anywhere, we have coordinated with the State, so if it waits until next year that is fine. He added that we worked with the Avon Meadow Association who approved the granting of easements so everything is in place.

On a motion made by Mr. Stokesbury, seconded by Mrs. Maguire, it was voted:

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council award a contract to GraybaR Electric Company of Wallingford, CT, in an amount not to exceed \$145,721.88 for decorative lighting fixtures for the STEAP Phase IV Project.

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, and Stokesbury voted in favor.

**16/17-04      Review, Discussion, Set Public Hearing Date: Road Acceptance for Founders Way**

Chairman Zacchio commented that they expect that the road has been in built in conjunction with the Town Engineer and built to spec. The Town Manager responded that is correct.

On a motion made by Mr. Pena, seconded by Mrs. Maguire, it was voted:

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council set a public hearing to be held at their September 1, 2016 meeting to consider acceptance of the title of road and all appurtenances thereof for “Founders Way” on a certain map entitled “ROAD ASBUILT for JZMAR, LLC, FOUNDERS WAY, AVON CONNECTICUT, prepared by Neriani Surveying Inc., Scale: Hor: 1”=40’, Vert: 1”=4’, Date: Jan. 12, 2016 revised to June 16, 2016, Sheet 1 of 1.”

Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, and Stokesbury voted in favor.

**16/17-05      Approve Fiscal Year 2017/2018 Budget Calendar**

On a motion made by Mr. Pena, seconded by Mrs. Maguire, it was voted:

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council adopt the Fiscal Year 2017/2018 Budget Calendar as follows:

## TOWN OF AVON FY 2017/2018 BUDGET CALENDAR

ACTIVITY	RECOMMENDED DATE	LATEST DATE PER TOWN CHARTER
Capital Budget Forms Prepared and sent to Departments	August 01, 2016	
Operating Budget Forms Prepared and sent to Departments	September 02, 2016	
Completed Capital Budget Forms returned to Town Manager	October 07, 2016	
(a) CIP Budgets presented at Town Council Meetings by Department Heads	Nov. – Dec. 2016	
Completed Operating Budget Forms returned to Town Manager	November 4, 2016	February 15, 2017
(b) Town Manager meets with Department Heads to review budget submissions.	Nov. – Dec. 2016	
(c) Town Manager makes recommended reductions.	Dec. 2016 – Jan. 2017	
Town Manager's Proposed Operating and Capital Budgets submitted to Town Council	January 13, 2017	March 01, 2017
Board of Education Budget to Town Council	February 03, 2017	February 15, 2017
(d) Town Council holds Special Budget Workshop.	February 2017	
(e) Further reductions are made by Town Manager's Office if necessary.	February 2017	
Capital Improvement Program Submitted to Planning & Zoning Commission for Sec. 8-24 Review	March 07, 2017	
Budget Work by Town Council completed and Budget submitted to Board of Finance	March 27, 2017	April 01, 2017
Public Hearing on Budget held by Board of Finance not later than three (3) weeks before May 01, 2017 Town Meeting	April 3, 2017	April 10, 2017
(f) Board of Finance holds evening Budget Workshop(s) with Town Council and Board of Education after the Public Hearing.	April 5, 2017	
Board of Finance Completes Work on Budget	April 2017	
Copy of Budget approved by the Board of Finance printed in Newspaper at least five (5) days before the Annual Town Meeting	April 21, 2017	April 25, 2017
Annual Town and Budget Meeting First Monday in May	May 01, 2017	May 01, 2017
First Referendum	May 10, 2017	May 12, 2017
Second Referendum (if necessary)	May 31, 2017	June 02, 2017

Third Referendum (if necessary)	June 21, 2017	June 23, 2017
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Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, and Stokesbury voted in favor.

## **IX. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT/MISCELLANEOUS**

**Misc. A: Purchasing Update:** The Town Manager reported that the AWPCA has been talking about the sewer projects that should go back out to bid over the winter, hopefully get much more competitive rates, and get them scheduled for early spring. He reported on the RFP – Police Assessment Center and Testing Services under Misc. C. He reported that a bid document is being put together for Company #4. He noted that the Director of Public Works has done a great job with the Police Department Renovations; initially we received some estimates that were a little high so he had the idea of working with the Gordian Group, a contractor through CRCOG, and there was a meeting last week to discuss the project and the numbers are coming in very favorable and now trying to identify the differences in cost. He is confident that with the funds we have available in capital for FY 17 we will be able to make some headway in improving Building #4 and with additional funds in FY 18 will be able to complete the project.

**Misc. B: Construction Update:** The Town Manager reported that works continues at the Fire Training Center. He reported that the Old Wheeler Lane Bridge project is coming along and are on track to complete before school starts. He reported that we are on target with the road improvement schedule; the final course is down on Kingsbridge, Hammersmith, and Copplestone and catch basins are raised on Tamara Circle and milling will start next week and will pick up a small section of Pioneer Drive. He reported that the Roaring Brook School parking lot is complete. He noted that we are going to try and do the parking lot at Sycamore Hills either this fall or next spring. Mr. Stokesbury commented that we had a comment from the audience about the Sycamore Hills pavilion roof. The Town Manager responded that it will be done this fall. He noted that the Director of Recreation and Parks has blocked off the month of September from rentals. Mr. Stokesbury questioned if we have a lot of rentals in September and if the work could be done in October instead; there is a lot of season left after the youth season drops off and might get a better construction price. Chairman Zacchio agreed that if we have significant request for use in September we should push it off. The Town Manager responded that the work will be planned accordingly. He reported that a nice job was done with the work at the pool and everyone seems to be happy with it. He reported that exterior doors have been replaced on Buildings 1 and 2 with grouting work being completed this week.

**Misc. C: Police Department Command Structure:** The Town Manager reported that we have a current Captain vacancy in the Police Department and the Chief's recommendation which he also agrees with is to go with a second Lieutenant so we would have a Patrol Lieutenant and Administrative Lieutenant who would be a direct report to the Chief; it levels out the command structure and where we should be right now, the correct span of control. An RFP process will assist with the hiring of a second Lieutenant as well as one or two Sergeants. He noted that we are short a Sergeant position right now. He would like to see internal candidates interested in the Lieutenant position and it will be posted internally first. Chairman Zacchio questioned how our recruitment has been for the patrol side; we just went through an assessment. The Town Manager responded that we have a few backgrounds in the process right now, one at the Academy followed by FTO work, and there is always discussion internally about one or two



officers potentially leaving. He noted that this remains the highest priority and we are looking at running another certified recruitment. He added that Avon is not alone; all Chiefs are talking about this at their meetings with what is happening nationally. Mr. Stokesbury commented that it runs counter to what we have been discussing previously but do we need to be more generous in some manner to recruit qualified talent. Chairman Zacchio responded that we should look at criteria around our hiring practices, the compensation package we offer and how it compares to other communities and have made steps in the past and are not as competitive with a defined pension program and more difficult retention position. He asked for the Town Manager and Chief's thoughts around whether that is just the case in the State among departments from a recruiting perspective or are we at some competitive disadvantage that is making a significant impact on our ability to recruit or retain. The Town Manager responded that over the last two iterations of the bargaining agreement we have tried to focus on recruitment and retention by increasing the employer contribution to a defined contribution pension plan, increasing the employee contribution, moving the vesting period up from three to five years, and offering a voluntary HSA. He noted that if this continues we may need to have a conversation about that. Chairman Zacchio commented that a certified recruitment process is an important part of that because they fully trained, certified, and ready to go and not typically a flight risk as they are collecting a pension from somewhere else and the 401K works well for them; it can be a very good retention program but have to watch the balance as well because you do not want them all retiring at once either. The Town Manager commented that an example is Rodney Williams who came from New Britain as a seasoned law enforcement official.

**Misc. D: High School Synthetic Turf Field Recreation and Parks Sub-Committee:** The Town Manager reported that the Sub-Committee most recently met on July 18<sup>th</sup>. He noted that this meeting was to take action on the third element of their charge which is a recommendation on the facility. He added that the base for the facility as determined by Town Council was the multi-purpose field, the track, and the lighting. He reported that they have a good recommendation for that base project and recommended options in priority order. He added that the architect is getting into design and development and doing geo-technical work to make sure that the cost estimates are solid. He noted that the next Sub-Committee will likely be in mid-August and would like them to work through the other two deliverables in their charge which is a recommendation on use policies and procedures and finalizing the statement of need. He noted that Ms. Tiezzi, Assistant to the Town Manager, did a survey to know how other towns govern their facility, what quirks there are in terms of planning and zoning approval, etc. He added that he had swim team championships at the Plainville High School and saw that their field is in the middle of a residential area and in the front of yard of a half dozen homes. He noted that there is not a lot of consistency out there in terms of how it is managed but staff will review the data, make a recommendation and see how it comes out. Chairman Zacchio noted that Wethersfield is another example where it is built around a residential neighborhood.

**Misc. E: Sycamore Hills Pool Family Movie Night:** The Town Manager reported that three movie nights have been held with only one outside so far and the other two in the Senior Center. He noted that when held outdoors it backs up to the woods in front of the pavilion and nice buffer to the sound. He noted that a week ago Friday there were approximately 120 people in attendance. He added that Bob from Perfect Sound and Vision did all of the AV work and it sounded great.

**Misc. F: Radio System/Communications Project:** The Town Manager reported that we had a kick-off meeting with our consultant; there is a committee working on this and the Phase I deliverable is for the company to give us an inventory of what we have and make a series of recommendations for improvements and those recommendations will include everything from a simulcast system to improvements that can be to the existing system and the cost and benefits for each. He hopes to have something to think about prior to capital budgeting. He noted that we are happy to have Tom Kline involved in the process.

Mr. Stokesbury asked if the Board of Education liaisons to the Town Council had any comments. Peggy Roell responded that it is summer vacation so things are pretty quiet.

**X. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Pending Claim/Litigation  
Collective Bargaining  
Real Estate/Land Acquisition

On a motion made by Mr. Pena, seconded by Mrs. Stokesbury, it was voted:  
**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council go into Executive Session at 7:55 p.m.  
Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Pena, and Stokesbury voted in favor.

The Town Manager and Town Clerk attended the session.

## **XII. ADJOURN**

On a motion made by Mr. Pena, seconded by Mr. Stokesbury, it was voted:  
**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.  
Mrs. Maguire, Messrs: Zacchio, Stokesbury, and Pena voted in favor.

**Attest:**

**Ann L. Dearstyne, Town Clerk**

## Remarks to Town Council July 27, 2016

Good evening,

I believe you know what I'm about to request...the videotaping of Town Council meetings for rebroadcast on Nutmeg TV. Something the Board of Education is already doing.

The cost is nominal and I can tell you that the disruption is zero. They are as unobtrusive and unnoticed as can be.

What is not nominal is the goodwill that would flow from having your meetings videocast. It's not only the right thing to do, it's the modern thing to do. You would be in synch with the current era of increased transparency that has become a cultural norm.

And, if necessary, you would have an easy chance to refute any false accusations or recollections.

As with anything, there are a few drawbacks. Will it affect the behavior and openness of Council members and staff? It shouldn't, and remember, you still have, by law, the right to Executive Session for certain matters.

Will it affect the behavior of the audience? Will they "play to the camera," turning the meeting into a circus? If anyone does that it will be at their own peril.

I hope you will give this serious consideration, and thank you.