

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2008
7:30 P.M.

Members present: Francis A. Hegarty, Chairman
Wayne Phillips
Steven P. Rose

Others present: Michael McCue, Town Administrator
Joseph Lalli, Town Counsel

Chairman Hegarty called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with all members present.

Mr. Rose made a motion to accept the minutes of Thursday, November 6, 2008 (Regular Session) as written. Mr. Phillips seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

On a motion made by Mr. Rose, seconded by Mr. Phillips, it was unanimously voted to approve the minutes of Thursday, November 6, 2008 (Executive Session) as submitted.

Chief Spurr presented the Avon Fire Department's fee schedule changes/additions for the Board's approval. Some of the additions included "Third Party Plan Review" and "System installations." Additional changes included "Hazardous Materials incidents," "Trench Permits," "Damage to Fire alarm systems (after an accident)," and charges for false alarms after the first incident. Fees for report copies were added. Performing work without a required permit fees are double the regular permit fee plus \$100.00.

After Chief Spurr presented the additions and changes to the fee schedule, Mr. Phillips made a motion to approve the fees as submitted by the Fire Chief. Mr. Rose seconded the motion with discussion. Mr. Rose asked that the time period for the trench permit be lengthened. The motion carried.

Mr. Rose read the following motion relative to appointment of a trench inspector for the Town of Avon as follows:

"I move to designate the incumbent Avon Fire Chief as the Trench Permitting Authority, pursuant to MGL Chapt. 82A, Section 1 et. seq. and 520 CMR 14.00, for an indefinite term; said appointment to remain with the position and pass to any succeeding individual; Further, I move to establish a fee of \$50.00 for each permit application, exclusive of entities subject to the provisions of MGL, Chap. 165, 166 and 166A; Further,

I move to set upon parties responsible for the creation and/or perpetration of trenches deemed unsafe by the permitting authority the cost of monitoring and remediation of said hazard(2) to include, but not be limited to, A Fire Department detail at a minimum of four (4) billable hours and any and all Highway or other department expenses, to include time and materials; Further, I move the aforementioned shall not preclude immediate shutdown and fill of trench if deemed a serious threat to public safety and the assessment of additional fines allowed by MGL Chapt. 82A, Section 1.”

Mr. Rose made the motion to appoint the Fire Chief as trench inspector as written above. Mr. Phillips seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Mr. Rose made a motion to appoint Carly Anderson to the position of Library Shelver, Grade F5, Step 1 at an hourly rate of \$10.65. Mr. Phillips seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Phillips made a motion to appoint Carol Anderson to the Council on Aging Board, term to expire June 30, 2010. Mr. Rose seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Meeting dates for the month of December were set as follows:

Thursday, December 4, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, December 18, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.

Chairman Hegarty made the following public announcements:

Town Hall would be closed to the public on Friday, November 28th.

On Sunday, December 7, 2008 the holiday celebration begins at 1:30 p.m. with Santa at the Gazebo; 3:00 p.m. a holiday concert at the Avon Baptist Church; 5:00 p.m. Avon's annual Christmas Tree Lighting would be held at Harrison Blvd. and West Main Street sponsored by IKEA of Stoughton.

8:00 p.m.—Pinning of Avon Fire Department new hires

At the request of Fire Chief Spurr, it was unanimously voted to appoint Daniel Wauhob of East Spring Street as a Full Time Firefighter for the Town of Avon. A brief ceremony followed where Daniel was pinned by his father Lee.

At the request of Fire Chief Spurr, it was unanimously voted to appoint Kevin Capuzzo of North Main Street to the position of Call Firefighter for the Town of Avon. Kevin was pinned in a brief ceremony by his mother Patty.

It was unanimously voted to sign and accept the contract to T.L. Edwards, Inc. for coarse road sand at a price of \$15.85 per ton.

On a motion made by Mr. Rose, seconded by Mr. Phillips, it was unanimously voted to sign and accept the contract to Eastern Salt Co., Inc. for rock salt at a price of \$69.75 per ton.

At 8:05 p.m. Chairman Hegarty called for a brief recess.

At 8:10 p.m. the Board reconvened.

Senator Brian Joyce appeared before the Board to make a budget presentation "The State of the State and Its Impact on Avon." Representative Galvin was unable to attend.

Senator Joyce discussed the State's budget of 28.2 billion dollars, indicating that the largest increases were in the areas of healthcare and education. Senator Joyce reported on Governor Patrick's 9C cuts and stated at the present time there would be no cuts to local aid and Chapter 70 funding for Avon.

Senator Joyce expressed his concern over the current economic conditions, informing the Board that it is highly unlikely that any increases would be made to local aid for fiscal year 2010. He mentioned avenues to create more revenue including instituting a local meals/hotel tax. Chairman Hegarty stated that would not be a benefit for Avon since there are no hotels and very few eating establishments. Mr. Phillips discussed a sales tax option.

Mr. Phillips mentioned the amount of truck traffic that passes through Avon. He reported there is a situation where another transfer station is cited for Holbrook. Chairman Hegarty requested Senator Joyce's assistance to adopt legislation relative to transfer stations within a five (5) mile geographic area. Senator Joyce assured the Board he would look into the matter.

The Board thanked Senator Joyce once again for his assistance and the budget update.

On a motion made by Mr. Rose, seconded by Mr. Phillips, it was unanimously voted to approve all vouchers for the payment of bills as submitted.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. McCue informed the Board of a Community Development Block Grant Program that would allow individuals (seniors and/or low income residents) to make home improvements at low interest rates. The program is managed by Community Opportunities Group, Inc. and not the Town. It is a federal program. Mr. McCue stated the goal of the program is to provide low interest loans to seniors and low income residents to remain in their homes. With the Board's permission, Mr. McCue would like to schedule an informational meeting on December 4th during the Board of Selectmen's meeting.

After some discussion, Mr. Rose made a motion to allow Community Opportunities Group, Inc. to run the Community Development Block Grant program in Avon. Mr. Phillips seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

At 9:07 p.m. Mr. Rose made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss a litigation matter. Mr. Phillips seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken and the Board would not reconvene in open session.

Mr. Rose voted aye
Mr. Phillips voted aye
Chairman Hegarty voted aye

Respectfully submitted,

Miriam Rothstein
Secretary