

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2009
7:30 P.M.

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

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, July 2, 2009 (Regular Session) as submitted. Chairman Hegarty seconded the motion. The motion carried. Mr. Phillips abstained from voting.

Mr. Rose made a motion to accept the minutes of Thursday, July 2, 2009 (Executive Session). Chairman Hegarty seconded the motion. The motion carried. Mr. Phillips abstained from voting.

Pinning Ceremony for Glenn Fernald to Sergeant's Position

At 7:35 p.m. Police Chief Warren Phillips presented the Sergeant's badge to Officer Glenn Fernald. He was pinned by his wife Jeanne Martineau-Fernald.

The Board congratulated Glenn Fernald on his appointment to permanent, full time Police Sergeant, effective August 2, 2009.

At 7:40 p.m. Park and Recreation members Sandra Anderson, Barbara Littlefield and Cornelius Hallisey appeared before the Board. Chairman Hegarty explained the Board wanted to discuss findings and suggestions of the recent auditors' report for fiscal year 2009. The following items were mentioned regarding the Park and Recreation Commission:

- (1) All communications, payments and invoices should not bear any residential addresses. All payments for Town-sponsored events should be mailed to the Town offices.

- (2) Copies of all contracts/proposals should be furnished to the Town Accountant.
For example: the building of a shed – a written proposal is needed.
- (3) Insurance certificates must be on file to assure that a contractor is licensed
- (4) Project costs of \$5000.00 or greater, require three (3) quotes. For projects between \$1000.00 and less than \$5000.00, a verbal quote is acceptable
- (5) Written procedures/policies must be on file for accounting any donations for use of the Civic Center
- (6) Copies of insurance certificates must be on file for everyone using the baseball fields

Mrs. Littlefield reported the Park and Recreation website has not been updated for quite some time. Mr. McCue stated his office regularly solicits updates at staff meetings and via memos—the information should be given to him and he would take care of the matter.

A letter was received from residents of Pratt Street requesting permission to block off the upper part of Pratt Street on September 12, 2009 from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Permission has been obtained from all residents affected by this blockage. One side of the street would be left open for emergency vehicles.

Chief Phillips stated he has no objection to the Pratt Street block party.

After further discussion, Mr. Rose made a motion to approve the request for the September 12, 2009 block party from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. 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 appoint Brian T. Collum and Dennis M. Collum as Assistant Wire Inspectors for the Town of Avon, term to expire: June 30, 2010.

Chairman Hegarty reported a vote needs to be taken for the proposed language on the Proposition 2 ½ debt exclusion question on the September 15th Special Election ballot.

The public safety facility debt exclusion question reads as follows:

“Shall the Town of Avon be allowed to exempt from the provisions of Proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bonds to be issued in order to finance the acquisition of architectural design and related services in connection with a public safety facility for the Town; said facility to provide headquarters and

operational space for the Town's police, fire and emergency preparedness departments, including as part thereof related site improvements, necessary demolition and original equipment"?

Mr. Rose made a motion to accept the language as previously read. Mr. Phillips seconded the motion. All were in favor.

A resignation letter was received from Pamela Pacheco notifying the Board of her retirement, effective July 30, 2009, which would be her last day.

Mr. Rose made a motion to accept the retirement letter submitted by Pamela Pacheco, with regret, effective July 30, 2009. Mr. Phillips seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Chairman Hegarty announced a Special Town Meeting would be held on Wednesday, September 9, 2009. The deadline for Town departments to submit an article on the warrant is Friday, August 7, 2009.

There is one Board of Selectmen meeting scheduled for the month of August to be held on Thursday, August 13, 2009.

A discussion ensued regarding implementing sections of the fiscal year 2010 state budget relative to local option excises on restaurant meals.

Chairman Hegarty explained a municipality may add a new local option excise of .75 percent on sales of restaurant meals. Local excises become operative only if accepted by the Town. Acceptance of a local excise must occur at least 30 days in advance of the first day of a calendar quarter in order to become operative for that quarter. Mr. McCue stated that the state would soon provide an estimate as to what revenues Avon could expect from this tax. Chairman Hegarty reported the item would need to be placed on the upcoming Special Town Meeting Warrant for voters.

Mr. Rose made a motion to allocate space on the Special Town Meeting Warrant of September 9, 2009 for the new local meals excise option. Mr. Phillips seconded the motion. The motion carried.

At 8:10 p.m. Jim Watson, Comprehensive Planning Supervisor, and Bruce Hughes, Economic Development Specialist, of Old Colony Planning Council, appeared before the

Board to present a workshop. Priority Development Areas (PDA's) and Priority Preservation Areas (PPA's) were the subject of the workshop.

Mr. Watson asked the Board "what lands are important to the Town" and "what are the Town's needs"?

Chairman Hegarty replied that infrastructure repairs are moving along but the highest priority is the completion of a public safety building. The Avon Middle School has been renovated and the other schools are in fairly good shape

Chairman Hegarty mentioned infrastructure work needs to be done in the Industrial Park—i.e. roads, etc. There is not much land left there to develop. Water and sewerage is a vital concern in Merchants Park, limiting future development. Upcoming projects, such as the Pond Street drainage and road construction project, were discussed.

Chairman Hegarty discussed a revitalization of Avon center where parking facilities and even a breakfast shop could be designed for residents to frequent. The center currently is underused with limited parking. Chairman Hegarty reiterated that the creation of a redevelopment authority would be necessary to re-design the center, encourage new businesses, and make it attractive.

Priority Preservation Areas

Chairman Hegarty questioned "what types of business can a Town of 4400 people support"?

Mr. Watson reviewed the map presented and asked about the parcels of land around D.W. Field Park. Chairman Hegarty enlightened him about the parcels of land taken by the City of Brockton to protect their water supply. He also mentioned parcels that are owned by the Striar family.

Chairman Hegarty related some of the difficulty the Town faces with the high volume of traffic on Page, Pond, Harrison Blvd. and Route 24. The Town's public safety costs are very high. Many truck routes and commuters pass through Avon's back roads every day to avoid main road traffic.

At 9:35 p.m. Mr. Watson and Mr. Hughes departed and the Board thanked them for their presentation.

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.

At 9:40 p.m. Mr. Rose made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss a legal matter. Mr. Phillips seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken:

Mr. Rose voted aye

Mr. Phillips voted aye

Chairman Hegarty voted aye

The Board would not reconvene in Open Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Miriam Rothstein

Secretary