

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 2008
7:30 P.M.

Members present: Francis A. Hegarty, Chairman
Wayne Phillips

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

Not present: Steven P. Rose

Chairman Hegarty called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Mr. Rose was not in attendance.

The Board discussed the Annual Town Meeting warrant of Tuesday, May 6th.

Mr. Phillips made a motion to approve signing the Annual Town Meeting warrant of May 6, 2008 as prepared by Town Administrator Michael McCue. Chairman Hegarty seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

A letter of interest was received for reappointment as Constable for the Town of Avon by Sean Bastis of 65 East Street, Avon.

After some discussion, Mr. Phillips made a motion to reappoint Sean Bastis as Constable for the Town of Avon, term to expire: December 31, 2008. Chairman Hegarty seconded the motion. All were in favor.

A request was received from Dana Nessen of Avon Auto Brokers for a name change from personal to corporate on his Class II licenses at 109 and 159 Memorial Drive.

Mr. Phillips made a motion to approve the name change on the Class II licenses to Avon Auto Brokers Inc. at 109 and 159 Memorial Drive. Chairman Hegarty seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

There were no public comments during the Open Forum.

Chairman Hegarty announced Senator Joyce would be holding office hours at the Town Hall on Wednesday, March 26th from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. in the Meeting Room.

On a motion made by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Chairman Hegarty, it was unanimously voted to pay the bills as previously read.

Town Administrator Michael McCue presented the Board with a draft of Revenue Projections for fiscal year 2009.

The Board reviewed tax revenue figures, new growth, local receipts, state aid and other revenue sources for the Town.

At 7:55 p.m. Mr. Phillips made a motion to recess until 8:00 p.m. at which time a public hearing was scheduled. Chairman Hegarty seconded the motion. The motion carried.

At 8:00 p.m. the Board reconvened.

Mr. Frank Avelar of 56 Littlefield Street appeared before the Board. Chairman Hegarty reported the Board received a complaint letter from Mr. Avelar. Chairman Hegarty asked Mr. Avelar to please state his concern to the Board.

Mr. Avelar reported that he has a concern with the fence located at 80 East Street where the fence meets the corner. Mr. Avelar stated the location and height of the fence affects the line of sight and safety of vehicles and pedestrians from oncoming traffic on Littlefield Street.

Mr. Avelar stated he checked with Hawkeye Fence in Brockton to find out what the height regulations are for a fence. He was told four (4) feet in height if you have a swimming pool.

Mr. Alfred Barkhouse of 80 East Street was questioned by the Board. Mr. Barkhouse stated he installed the fence over 10 years ago when he had a pool installed. He stated the fence does not go to the corner—he cut the fence back from the corner of his property. Mr. Barkhouse stated at the corner stop sign on East and Littlefield Streets there is a clear view of the oncoming traffic on Littlefield Street. Mr. Barkhouse installed a six (6) foot fence to enclose his yard and pool.

Police Chief Warren Phillips inspected the location of the fence. He reported that as long as the fence is on the property owner's property, he did not see a problem with the height of the fence. To enclose a pool, the minimum height under the State Building Code is four (4) feet.

After further discussion, Mr. Phillips made a motion to take the matter under advisement and render a decision at the next Board of Selectmen's meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 20th. Chairman Hegarty seconded the motion. All were in favor.

At 8:15 p.m. Mr. Phillips made a motion to recess until 8:30 p.m. Chairman Hegarty seconded the motion. The motion carried.

At 8:30 p.m. the Board met with School Superintendent Margaret. Frieswyk and School Committee members Janis Kelly, Robert LeGrice, John Nolan and School Business Manager Kathy McDonald for a budget meeting.

On behalf of the Avon School Committee, Dr. Frieswyk presented the Board with a proposed 2008-2009 school department budget with the town's contribution of \$5,797,363.00, a 5.4% increase over FY '08.

Dr. Frieswyk presented a "maintenance" budget with some additions in technology, and advanced placement classes. Dr. Frieswyk reported that advanced placement classes would allow the Town of Avon to be competitive with the surrounding school systems. The proposed budget would also fund the addition of computer smart boards, LCD projectors and other computer classroom upgrades.

The increase in utility costs town-wide was also discussed, impacting every department from heating costs to fire, police and highway vehicles and street lighting increases.

Dr. Frieswyk discussed special education costs with the Board.

Chairman Hegarty stated this would be another challenging year for the Town. He reported there is a \$600,000 gap between revenue vs. expenses.

Dr. Frieswyk requested a timeline from the Board when the FY '09 budget would be presented to the Finance Committee. Chairman Hegarty replied the FY '09 budget would go before the Finance Committee on Wednesday, March 12th.

At 9:15 p.m. Mr. Phillips made a motion to enter Executive Session for the purpose of collective bargaining. Chairman Hegarty seconded the motion. The Board would not reconvene in open session.

A roll call vote was taken:

Mr. Phillips voted aye.
Chairman Hegarty voted aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Miriam Rothstein
Secretary