

**AVON TOWN COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
DECEMBER 5, 2005**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Selectmen's Chamber by Chairman Hines. Members present: Mrs. Hornaday, Messrs Hines, Carlson, Shea and Woodford.

**Comments from Chairman Hines**

"I want to thank everyone who came here tonight. I am so appreciative. When I think about all the efforts that go on in Town the greatest people who make things happen are here tonight. This makes me feel good because when I leave, you are still here. I thank you all."

**II. PUBLIC HEARING- None**

**III. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING**

On a motion made by Mr. Woodford, seconded by Mr. Shea, it was voted:

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council approves the minutes of the November 3, 2005 meeting as read.

Mrs. Hornaday, Messrs Hines, Carlson, Shea and Woodford voted in favor.

**IV. COMMUNICATION FROM AUDIENCE – None**

**V. COMMUNICATION FROM COUNCIL**

Mrs. Hornaday reported she attended an Eagle Scout ceremony on Sunday. The young man who worked with the Gifts of Love had a goal of 150 baskets to distribute but distributed a total of 357 baskets.

Mr. Woodford reported 170 people attended the Firemen's dinner, which was great and the Fire Department got the recognition which they really deserved.

Mr. Carlson reported he has worked with Chairman Hines over the past 23 years and he has lead the Town Council with nothing but integrity, and always with the best interest of Avon in mind. We want to thank you for that.

Mr. Shea stated in behalf of all the Democrats, everyone in Avon and all the Council members, I want to thank you for all your dedication and hard work. You have always done what you thought was best for this community, and at the end of the day, was the true measurement of giving back to this community and trying to make this town the great town that it is. Your leadership, your integrity, your character, have lead us for quite some time. We hope in your transition you will continue to give us your thoughts and guide us as we continue to face all the obstacles that we face as a community that is growing and trying to improve. You are a credit to the community and most importantly a credit to your family.

Chairman Hines reported when he first came on the Town Council in 1980, it was a difficult time and wondered, "why am I doing this"? We would argue about items we all agreed on. But from 1981 to the present it has been extremely smooth and we have had excellent people, and I am leaving now with just great people here who will continue for us. I am very pleased with that. I have tried to do what is best for Avon.

Chairman Hines reported the 175<sup>th</sup> Committee should come to the January Meeting. We should invite the Committee and have a presentation honoring them. They have done such a great job and we want

to thank them for their hard work. Also, a couple of meetings are coming up in Avon that someone from the Town Council should attend, the Jewish Community Relations Council on December 7<sup>th</sup> to meet and greet, and the Farmington Valley Visitors Association's open house on December 13<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Shea agreed to attend.

Chairman Hines reported he attended a Metro Alliance Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Steering Committee, something we discussed about two years ago. The Federal Economic Development Administration has money that can help industry come here. I recommend that we get involved with this. I have been on the committee for the last year and they hired an agency to help put a program together because you have to get approval from the Federal Government before you can get these grants. In the long run we might need it. Within the week the Committee will put a 75-page report on the web site for us, which the Town Council can review. They are emphasizing an improved school system that has to do with grades 11 and 12. They will also recommend improved tax structures for business. We are trying to come up with the top three priorities of this plan for us to work on. There will be a meeting in January, which I will go to, to finalize this whole thing. But there was a lack of business people there today. It was mainly government people so if possible, we want to continue on that next year. Overall, hopefully this is a plan we can get approved so we can have that money available to us.

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

### **04/05-80 Comprehensive Plan – Center Study**

Mr. Kushner, Town Planner, reported we were here this past Summer to present our Master Plan which you looked at favorably, but you had a couple of comments and subsequent to that, the Town Manager and I had a couple of meetings with Richter & Cegan, Landscape Architects, who have been working on this project. We have also received a fair amount of input from Ensign Bickford Realty concerning the original Master Plan. The Plan has gone through several revisions and Richter & Cegan were hired by Ensign Bickford Realty to do this study which they are paying for. The Planning & Zoning Commission required Ensign Bickford Realty to do it as part of the commercial project.

Mr. Bill Yocom from Richter & Cegan, reported most of what I will show you tonight is a recap of what was reviewed with you in July. We were asked to do some preliminary studies to enhance the green beside the new construction that Ensign Bickford completed. The thing that remains the same is the fountain area that is in the same place. There is a retaining wall that backs up the fountain with seating behind it. The Town center lights, within the Park, stay. One of the things that were questioned was the Pergola, which has since been moved to the West Side of the green. It has an overhead structure with columns that match the columns on the existing Gazebo. The existing walk that runs over to the Gazebo has been extended by Ensign Bickford Co. to the retail area. This is all new paving around the fountain, around the wall, and connect to the existing walk that is in the park. Chairman Hines questioned the size of the circle of The Green. Mr. Yocom reported he did not know the actual size but probably larger than 40,000 square feet. Mr. Shea questioned if the trees around the Pergola were going to be removed. Mr. Yocom reported work will be done on that area but they will work around existing trees if possible. Basically, this is a long-term project. We have divided the budget numbers into seven components as follows:

#### **Phase 1: Site Lighting**

Furnish and install Avon Center ornamental light post in and around Green.

Includes five at 12 feet high and one at 10 feet high. \$ 24,000.

#### **Phase 2: Brickwalk at Perimeter Loop**

Completion of perimeter brick walk.

\$ 10,000.

#### **Phase 3: Fountain/Sitting Area**

\$ 215,000.

Includes cast iron fountain and base, brownstone veneer pool, fountain, plumbing and electrical, brownstone retaining wall, brick pavers, planting, and miscellaneous grading and fill.

**Phase 4: Pergola Garden**

Includes pergola, brownstone seatwall, trellis, columns, brick pavers and plantings. \$ 137,000.

**Phase 5: Irrigation**

Allowance for Green. \$ 10,000.

**Phase 6: Memorial Bench**

By Others

**Phase 7: Miscellaneous Plantings**

Includes shrubs, perennials and groundcover not included in other phases. \$ 15,000.

**Miscellaneous site improvements (installed)**

Ornamental Bench (6')	\$1,800. each
Trash Receptacle	\$1,200. each
Specimen Shade Tree (1 @ 5-6" Cal)	3,000.
Shade Trees (4 @ 3-3 1/2" cal.)	800. each

It was the consensus of the Town Council to proceed with this plan.

**05/06-06 FY 06/07 CIP Budget Presentations**

**a. 7:30 p.m. Board of Education**

Mr. Thomas McNeil presented the Board of Education Budget for FY 2006/07, which is \$801,221 for capital improvements.

1.	Roaring Brook School Roof Replacement 49,000 sq. ft.	\$357,500
2.	Replacement Floor Covering – Avon Middle School	46,704
3.	a) Avon Middle School Fire Alarm	233,500
	b) Roaring Brook School Telephone System	20,936
	c) Avon Middle School Telephone System	22,806
4.	Kitchen equipment replacement – Avon Middle School	25,000
5.	Track Resurfacing – Avon High School \$40,000 and Resurface Avon Middle School Tennis Court \$54,775 totaling	94,995
	Total	\$801,221

Chairman Hines questioned if Roaring Brook School has a problem with the roof leaking. Mr. McNeil reported it is not as bad as Pine Grove School but there is a problem with moisture penetration and the perimeter of the building has had a problem for a number of years. The roof was installed in 1965 and renovations were done in 1976.

Mr. Shea questioned if the kitchen equipment is one piece and is there a reason it would be in the Capital Budget as opposed to the Operating Budget. Gary Franzi reported it is not one piece and \$6,300 was spent in repairs over the past few years. It is currently up to code with OSHA.

Mr. McNeil reported we have had a problem with the fire alarm system at Avon Middle School, we have had a number of false alarms. We have not been able to come up with a reason as to why the system is failing. We have had people analyze the system and found that it does not meet current standards. This system cannot be up-graded. In order to meet current standards and bring the building up to fire code, we have to install a new system. Chairman Hines questioned if Roaring Brook has the same situation. Mr. McNeil reported the system is similar but they are not having problems with it. They do not know why the system at Avon Middle School is failing and replacement parts can not be purchased because of the age of the system. The other two items, Roaring Brook and Avon Middle School telephone systems, have a similar problem in that they cannot be repaired or replaced because of the age of the system and lack of replacement parts. The telephone network is decreasing because the panels used to run the systems are failing.

The Fire Marshall, Jamie DiPace, reported as far as the alarm system, we did some testing along with the consultant and found it is an older system, they have had some problems but were able to get parts to repair it. That may not be the case in the future but it is not a safety issue at this time. Mr. Shea questioned the Consultant as to the number of bids he got to come up with the cost of \$233,500 for the fire alarm system. The Consultant reported it is the estimated costs for the volume of work to be done.

Mr. Shea reported it does not indicate what the guarantee would be on the roof replacement for Roaring Brook School. The school Finance Director reported about 40 years.

Mr. McNeil reported some of the flooring at Avon Middle School has been down a long time, is quite worn and has stains that can not be removed and is due for replacement. It will be replaced with the same type of flooring that was installed in Roaring Brook in 2003. It has a 30-year life.

Mr. McNeil reported some other issues we want to pay attention to is the track at the high school, which has to be resurfaced in order to get more longevity out of it. We are actually beyond the five-year mark, which was initially recommended, and since it is well used, it needs to be taken care of. We recently had someone out to take a look at it and if it is not done, it will shorten the life of the track. It will be a much bigger expense if we hold off.

Chairman Hines reported that the Seniors have indicated to him that Dial-A-Ride is not always available and they have to wait as long as an hour for a ride. He questioned if anything can be done as far as transporting Senior Citizens to and from the Senior Center between the hours of 11:00 am to 2:00 pm using the Board of Education's small mini bus. Mr. Franzi reported the school bus that shuttles students between schools and for small field trips is used continuously, but perhaps not every day. It can hold 12 to 15 passengers. The Town Manager reported we have some grant money coming out so we may be able to expand the Dial-A-Ride service on a regional basis, without having to purchase another vehicle, but we will speak to the Director of Social Services, Alan Rosenberg.

Mr. McNeil reported Towpath Annex Renovation Project is an expensive item, but first we have to consider if it is worth it. Chairman Hines questioned if we have the cost on the environmental study of hazardous material. The Town Manager reported we have that, and also the estimated cost of the work that will need to be done to the annex, but that is incumbent upon where we go with this. This project is scheduled for FY 2007/08, therefore, not included in this budget. Board of Education did not have the figures when they were preparing this budget. That is a central question that has to be asked. "Do we want to invest in that building? If so, \$617,000 is the cost of it for future office space."

Chairman Hines reported this is a big decision the Council has to make as to whether we want to renovate or not. We could push this off for one year and continue working on it. That will give the Council a little more time to decide. This is a lot of money to invest in the building.

Town Manager reported the removal cost of the hazardous material is in the \$50,000 range. The Board of Education needs to look down the road in terms of five or ten years as to whether that building is still going to be suitable for their use. To invest that amount of money, you want to get a considerable amount of time out of the building. Assuming they are comfortable with it, that it meets their needs, then the investment makes sense to go ahead and do it. Otherwise, they will have to look at alternatives, and once they did vacate it, the issue then comes up, "Do you want to keep the building, do we want to take it down?" If you decide to take it down, you are probably going to pay several hundred thousand dollars in some of the same costs--demolition, removal of hazardous waste materials, and restoration. There will be additional costs for removing the building. There is some historic ties in with the building also. That is an issue that will have to be discussed as to whether it should be put to some other use. We do have a shortage of storage space, both the Town and the Board of Education for a wide variety of different reasons and different materials that we need storage space for, so it could always be used for that, if they decide to vacate it.

Chairman Hines stated we need a report back from the Board of Education on how they would like to go and if this would provide long term use. He also questioned if there would be any savings if we tore down both Towpath and the Annex at the same time. Town Manager stated there would not be that much difference.

Mr. Carlson questioned the rental cost of 8,000 square feet and the cost of razing the building and suggested the Town Council compare the life expectancy of the building, to see how long they can stay there. The Town Manager reported the Health District, which is located in Towpath School, has been going through that process and their initial estimates were \$15-\$20 per sq ft per year, so you can figure \$50,000 - \$60,000 per year to rent office space. Mr. Carlson reported that figure sounds a lot better than the cost of razing the building and moving the people.

Mr. Shea reported if we are going to spend \$600,000 - \$700,000 restoring a building, we should look into building a new building on that site. We could either do it for a storage building or for another Board of Education building. When we go to the taxpayers, we should be able to say we looked at both spectrums. He stated he thought renting would be fine, until he looked at the figures. Within ten years we will have expended all the money we would have spent to renovate or build. What we spend in rent could go into building a new building.

**b. 8:30 p.m. Fire Department/Emergency Management**

The Chairman of the Planning Committee for the Avon Volunteer Fire Department, Mr. James Speich, presented the Budget for FY 2006/07:

Command Vehicles	\$ 55,000
Bishop Lane/Cider Brook Cistern	\$ 30,000
Total	\$ 85,000

Mr. Speich reported on the Fire Department's Capital Improvement Program and Project Proposal. We have given consideration to events this year such as natural disasters and mass casualty incidents, continuation of the Water Supply Program, which includes cisterns in areas that do not have water, Vehicle Replacements and Facilities Upgrades. There was a lot learned from the Avon Mountain Accident. Some of those you will see in our Capital Improvement Budget, particularly the use of our personal vehicles during a large incident like this. Working out of a truck with only two seats in it,

there is not enough room to carry necessary equipment, not enough room for the people that had to be involved. We also have to be concerned about the weather conditions. Lessons learned from Recent Natural Disasters are that we have to be ready to take care of your own Town. Right now we are discussing the possibility of purchasing a total of four Command Vehicles over the next four years, so that no matter who is in town, or who is closest to the accident, there will be one available. Right now, the Fire Chief nor the three Assistants have this type of vehicle.

Chairman Hines questioned as to where these vehicles would be. Mr. Speich reported they would be used as their personal vehicles and would be available all the time. The question was raised as to whether the vehicles should be left at the Firehouse to be used by whoever is in charge at the time. Mr. Speich reported some thought was given to that but when an emergency happens, it would be a more flexible system if the vehicle is already on the road and the response time would be quicker. The Fire Chief stated the Federal Government is cutting funding from \$750,000,000 last year to \$250,000,000 this year, so there are more people applying for less money. Chairman Hines questioned if they worked out of town, could the vehicle be left in town while they are at work. The Fire Chief reported the Assistant Chief works for the State of CT in Avon, Deputy Chief works in Meriden, but they have discussed the possibility of that.

The Fire Chief reported he handled the Avon Mountain accident out of his pickup truck with two microphones and several different people trying to make headway with multiple functions that had to be accomplished. It was extremely difficult, even in good weather. Had it been raining or snowing, we would have been cramped in that little vehicle, unable to handle that problem.

Mr. Shea stated maybe two vehicles should stay in town at all times and the Fire Department can have the access to it when needed. Mr. Carlson stated the key thing with these vehicles is accessibility and availability to the people responding to the incident. If they had three of the four vehicles with people that worked 30 miles away, then you have three or four vehicles that can not respond to the incident. The Fire Chief stated, in that case, if someone works out of town, the vehicle that he uses might have to be left in town so it would be available if needed.

Mrs. Hornaday questioned because we agree to the purchase of one vehicle does not mean that we agree to the other three in the future. The Fire Chief agreed.

Mr. Speich reported the Bishop Lane/Cider Brook area has a cistern for water but we need to put in an additional one. He further reported, for FY 2007/08, we are asking for a Portable Light Tower because it is easier to use than having a fire truck at the scene for the entire time. We may require additional time for restoration of the area and to clean up debris. This can also be used by the Police Department when they have a need for long-term lighting. In FY 2008/09, Engine II will be 25 years old and will need to be replaced/refurbished. It carries 500 gallons of water and is used for a backup engine when our other apparatus is out of town. The last item is Facility Upgrades, which is part of a ten-year forecast. Future plans include the possibility of a new firehouse to service the Secret Lake area, which would probably enter off of Lovely Street. This is based on the development in town and fire service requirements.

**c. 8:45 p.m. Library**

Mary Suter, President, Library Board of Directors, thanked Chairman Hines for his extraordinary legacy and fine service in leadership to the Town. Chairman Hines reported the Library is one of the facilities in town that everyone has positive comments about. You may talk about your limited space but they do not notice that. They only speak of the good service they receive, which is great. Ms. Suter reported last years report was fairly detailed as to what our priorities and goals were for expansion. Since then there has been an adjustment to our time line, so we did not think it necessary to go through an extensive, detailed summary of what our goals and priorities are, they remain the

same. Our Board is very understanding of what the priorities of the Town are. All of us are parents and either have or have had children in the school system and are certainly supportive of the Town's goal of having a first rate school system. We also feel that having a high quality library is being consistent with that education program. Some of the things we are working on is to increase books for patrons of all ages, stacks for the book collections, extend library services for impaired young adults, grades six through ten, where they sometimes lose their interest in reading. We want to help foster lifelong learning and provide schools for information literacy to this particular age group. We also need more workspace for meetings and programs. Chairman Hines reported parents would like to have book drop off access as a high priority because when you have children in the car, you cannot leave them while you return your books. Ms. Suter reported in order to do that now, it would have to be across from the building, which would interfere with the parking area. Chairman Hines suggested that more parking could be had by just using gravel on Town owned land beside the Library on Country Club Road. Ms. Suter reported we want to have more space for groups and hope to have a larger community room, a couple of smaller conference rooms and two to four small group study rooms, as well as some quiet study areas. We also want to expand the room that is dedicated to the Avon History Collection; we need space to accommodate researchers and also the artifacts that are so important in preserving Avon's history. Our final thing is to increase space for the library staff and the volunteers that help out every day. We have also been proactive in obtaining information and speaking with board members and architects from other towns who have gone through expansion programs, and have gained a lot of insight from them. It has been very developmental for us to get perspectives on what architects think about when they are designing libraries. We have also established an endowment fund at the library and we hope to increase this fund before our project gets under way. One thing we want to do as a Board is to keep lines of communication open with the Town Council. Chairman Hines stated this budget will have to be looked at and fine tuned, but you are doing a good job.

Ms. Suter reported we are disappointed with the time line and we certainly want to make sure we continue to keep the lines of communication open with the Town Council. Chairman Hines reported one of the ways to speed things up is to have fund raisers to fund a good portion of the renovation cost. If you are successful in that area, the Town Council would be more interested too, because that reduces the amount of money the Town would have to pay for. Ms. Suter stated we will not be able to launch this program until we know what the expansion will look like. We need to have something on paper to present when we are asking for donations. Chairman Hines stated it would only take a little work on your part to start a capital campaign. The cost of an architect, to draw up plans at this point is far too costly, but for \$15,000 he could perhaps put together a concept, which would be sufficient to start your fund raising projects. Basically, you would tell him what your needs are, and with your input, he could do some preliminary work quickly, including all of the parking areas. Then you can do the final plans once it has been approved by the Town Council. The Town Manager reported one of the issues of moving ahead with that is, "do we create a Building Committee to hire the Architect because we do not want to have an architect hired by the Library who develops a plan, then we decide to go ahead with it and the Building Committee hires a different Architect.

Chairman Hines reported when we did the schools, we first did an overall plan, very conceptual of what should be done and it was not that much money. This two stage approach is a possibility that the Town Council and the Library ought to consider. With fund raising, you do not have to do details. You have some pretty nice work that was donated by an architect, which gave you a good idea of how you could do it. This would be a good time to have a Building Committee and deal with some very preliminary work. Ms. Suter questioned when will we be able to start on this? Chairman Hines reported that is something the Town Council will have to wrestle with next year. It will be better once we have the total costs for the High School Project, because it deviates from the current set of plans, that can have an impact too. Ms. Suter stated we appreciate your support and look forward to working with you on the project. They were advised to start a Building Fund.

**05/06-33 Avon Day: Request of UNICO to Sponsor Avon Day 2006**

The Town Manager reported UNICO has submitted a written request that they be designated as the organization responsible for running Avon Day 2006. We agree this past year's Avon Day was a huge success and UNICO would like to sponsor it again, with the Town's approval.

On a motion made by Mr. Woodford, seconded by Mr. Carlson, it was voted:

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council approves the request to allow Avon Chapter of UNICO National to sponsor AVON DAY 2006.

Mrs. Hornaday, Messrs Hines, Carlson, Shea and Woodford voted in favor.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

**05/06-36 Schedule Public Hearing: Acceptance of Darling Drive-Arch Road Connector 7:30 p.m. January 5, 2006**

The Town Manager reported the Town Planner is requesting a Public Hearing to accept Darling Drive and Arch Road Connector. Avon's Chamber of Commerce has requested that this connector be completed and we have tentatively scheduled that in the 07/08 Capital Improvement Program at a cost of approximately \$130,000.

On a motion made by Mr. Woodford, seconded by Mr. Shea, it was voted:

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council authorize a Public Hearing to be held January 5, 2006 at 7:30 p.m.

Mrs. Hornaday, Messrs Hines, Carlson, Shea and Woodford voted in favor.

**05/06-37 Modification of Personnel Rules per IRS Guidelines:**

The Human Resources Director reported the Town's existing Tuition Reimbursement Policy is taxable because it does not qualify as a 127 Plan. If it were in a separate document designated as Appendix A of the Personnel Rules, it would qualify. The Town Attorney's office has provided us with a draft that sets up a program that contains all the former program provision in a separate document that, if adopted by the Town Council, would qualify as a 127 Plan and enable the Town to provide this benefit on a tax free basis to our employees, as funding allows.

On a motion made by Mr. Woodford, seconded by Mrs. Hornaday, it was voted:

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council authorize Modification of Personnel Rules, per IRS Guidelines regarding Tuition Reimbursements, to be nontaxable.

Mrs. Hornaday, Messrs Hines, Carlson, Shea and Woodford voted in favor.

**05/06-38 Bid Award FY 05/06 and FY 06/07 Street Sweeping Services**

The Town Manager reported the Director of Public Works recommends a two-year contract rather than the traditional one-year contract. If circumstances change, we have the option of not proceeding with the second year contract, or modifying it, depending upon conditions. He further reported we take names from the Yellow Pages or people we know that are vendors and send them bid documents and specs for the job. We also put an ad in the paper. We received two bids out of a possible seven, as follows:

Pavement Maintenance Systems, LLC, Bridgeport, CT	FY 2006/07:	\$481.00 per mile
	FY 2007/08:	\$495.00 per mile
DeAngelo Brothers, Hazleton, Project Architect	FY 2006/07:	\$675.00 per mile
	FY 2007/08:	\$675.00 per mile

On a motion made by Mr. Shea, seconded by Mr. Woodford, it was voted:



**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council accept the bid submitted by Pavement Maintenance Systems, LLC for the street sweeping services, in the amount of \$481.00 per mile for 2006/07 and \$495.00 per mile for 2007/08 years, and authorize the Town Manager to enter into a two year agreement

Mrs. Hornaday, Messrs Hines, Carlson, Shea and Woodford voted in favor.

**5/06-39 CL&P Streetlight Appeal: Request by CCM for Participation; \$1,500**

The Town Manager reported the long-term effort to reduce our street lighting costs, has been successful. The original case was decided in our favor and, while CL&P has appealed it, CCM is confident that that the original findings will stand. Therefore, I recommend that we participate in this litigation and pay for the \$1,500 out of our current funds, either the Contingency Account or Legal Fees.

Mr. Shea questioned if legal representation could exceed the estimated cost of \$1,500. The Town Manager reported in a letter from CCM they stated the municipality's share of the cost of opposing CL&P's appeal would not exceed \$1,500. If that figure changes, they would have to come back to us for approval.

On a motion made by Mr. Carlson, seconded by Mr. Woodford, it was voted:

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council approve to participate with CCM in the legal cost of opposing CL&P's appeal in an amount not to exceed \$1,500.

Mrs. Hornaday, Messrs Hines, Carlson, Shea and Woodford voted in favor.

**05/06-40 Approve 2006 Meeting Schedule**

Chairman Hines reported we need to review and approve the Schedule of Meetings for 2006 and January of 2007.

On a motion made by Mr. Carlson, seconded by Mr. Woodford, it was voted:

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council approve the Town Council Schedule of Meetings for 2006 and January of 2007, as follows:

Thursday, January 5, 2006	7:30 p.m. – Town Hall
Thursday, February 2, 2006	7:30 p.m. – Town Hall
Thursday, March 2, 2006	7:30 p.m. – Town Hall
Thursday, April 6, 2006	7:30 p.m. – Town Hall
MONDAY, May 1, 2006	7:30 p.m. – AVON SENIOR CENTER
	ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING
Thursday, May 4, 2006	7:30 p.m. – Town Hall
Thursday, June 1, 2006	7:30 p.m. – Town Hall
Thursday, July 6, 2006	7:30 p.m. – Town Hall
Thursday, August 3, 2006	7:30 p.m. – Town Hall
Thursday, September 7, 2006	7:30 p.m. – Town Hall
Thursday, October 5, 2006	7:30 p.m. – Town Hall
Thursday, November 2, 2006	7:30 p.m. – Town Hall
Thursday, December 7, 2006	7:30 p.m. – Town Hall
Thursday, January 4, 2007	7:30 p.m. – Town Hall

Mrs. Hornaday, Messrs Hines, Carlson, Shea and Woodford voted in favor.

**VIII TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT/MISCELLANEOUS**

The Town Manager reported on a recent meeting held to get an estimated cost, from the Architect, as to what it would require to add a generator to make the high school available as a shelter in terms of the

cafeteria, the auditorium, the gym, and the systems that are necessary to power. The Architect's estimate to provide the necessary power for the kitchen, gym and toilet facilities is \$373,950, which includes construction cost. He reported, if we decide to move ahead with the project, this would be a Capital item. Chairman Hines questioned if it would be cost effective if it were done all at once. The Town Manager reported definitely, but it would have to be added to the Capital Improvement Program or to the high school Program.

Mr. Marc Zacchio reported the Board of Finance's intent is to keep the Board of Education and Town Council budgets at no more than a five percent (5%) increase in the Operating Budget and around a \$165,000 increase in the Capital Budget.

The Town Manager reported we think we can bring in a Capital Budget that fits within the 1.7 percent. The things that went into the 3% tax rate included a 2.25 % increase in the Grand List, which would generate about 1.2 million dollars. It is conceivable that might be a little higher because you may pick up an additional \$30,000-\$40,000 over and above the \$165,000. If we look at the Capital Improvement Program, they had \$801,000 in 06/07, they had 1.2 million for 07/08, and then they dropped to \$62,000. The point of a Capital Budget is to look ahead and smooth things out. We should be able to come in relatively close. We received a letter from Avon Water Company stating we have an \$88,000 increase in hydrants. We have to spend \$88,000 just for hydrants, and we do not know what the health insurance costs are going to be. It is good to have goals but they do not always work.

It was the general consensus of the Town Council to have the Town Manager present an Operating Budget with a five percent (5%) increase for the FY 2006/07.

#### **IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Litigation/Negotiations**

On a motion made by Mr. Shea, seconded by Mr. Woodford, it was voted:

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council go into Executive Session at 10:30 p.m.

Mrs. Hornaday, Messrs Hines, Carlson, Shea and Woodford voted in favor.

The Town Manager, Town Council, Town Attorney, Director of Human Resources and Town Clerk were in attendance.

On a motion made by Mr. Woodford, seconded by Mr. Shea, it was voted:

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council come out of Executive Session at 10:40 p.m.

Mrs. Hornaday, Messrs Hines, Carlson, Shea and Woodford voted in favor.

On a motion made by Mr. Carlson, seconded by Mr. Woodford, it was voted:

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council add to the agenda Item 05/06-41 – Settlement.

Mrs. Hornaday, Messrs Hines, Carlson, Shea and Woodford voted in favor.

#### **05/06-41 Settlement**

On a motion made by Mr. Carlson, seconded by Mr. Woodford, it was voted:

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council authorize it's Attorney to pursue settlement discussions regarding a pending claim against the Town.

Mrs. Hornaday, Messrs Hines, Carlson, Shea and Woodford voted in favor.

The Town Manager reported every year, as we are preparing the budget, it is necessary to establish the salary and compensation rates for our non-organized, both management and non-management personnel. Our recommendation is to include a 3.25% increase in remuneration, with no changes in our benefit structure for the forthcoming year, other than those approved in prior years.

It was the consensus of the Town Council that they approve the Town Manager's recommendations.

Mr. Shea reported half the cost of the track at the High School was paid for by private funds. The \$30,000 refurbishment might be money well spent because \$125,000 of the original cost was raised in personal donations.

Mrs. Hornaday reported listening to the Parks and Recreation talk about programs that are not for the Town. They are for the school. I want something from this Town for the older residents that need the help. We do not give them a thing and I am going to hold out for it. She further reported, we do not give them anything that we do not give to anyone else. Yes, they get road repair and good schools to keep their property values up, but is it too much to ask that they get brush removal, when we pour millions of dollars into other programs? This means a lot to a lot of people I know and I think, based on community, the Town should reinstate brush removal, which a lot of folks need because they do not have equipment or capability of disposing of it themselves. The Town Manager reported that service costs \$60,000.

The Town Manager reported the driveway of Beizer, Cook & Hastings has been repaired. They are paying for it right now. They want a more in depth opinion, which Murtha Cullina is providing. We have had to go back to the early 80's researching things, but we are working on it and the driveway, hopefully, will be finished shortly. We can then restore the temporary driveway to the cemetery.

The Town Manager reported if the cost of the Recreation Master Plan can be reduced to \$25,000 we may be able to obtain money from different sources. Mr. Shea questioned if it is really something that we need. Chairman Hines reported, based upon the population, they would come in, look at what we have, what our needs are, in terms of national standards. The Town Manager reported, if the Town Council approves it, we would see if there were excess funds in the Recreation Accounts and the Fisher Meadows Project that can be used for this. Chairman Hines stated we need to have the Recreation Department come before the Town Council to show us what they have accomplished, what they have, what they have identified, what they need, and what they want before we spend the \$25,000. The Town Manager reported we want to make sure we have the funds first. If we can put \$25,000 together, then we can tell them to come before the Town Council with more detail. Mr. Woodford stated there has to be some demographics involved, suggesting how many people are going to be playing ice hockey, lacrosse, basketball etc.

The Town Manager reported the Human Resource Director put together some draft schedules for the process of recruiting a Chief of Police. We are in the process right now of interviewing the four in house individuals that appear to qualify in terms of the current job description. We are looking at their educational requirements and evaluating where they stand. We will have an update at the next meeting.

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 p.m.

### **Attest:**

**Caroline B. LaMonica**  
**Town Clerk**