

**AVON TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 2, 2006**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

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

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 17, 2005 meeting as read.
Mrs. Hornaday, Messrs. Shea and Woodford voted in favor. Messrs. Carlson and Zacchio abstained.

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council approves the minutes of the January 5, 2006 meeting as read.
Mrs. Hornaday, Messrs: Carlson, Shea, Woodford and Zacchio voted in favor.

IV. COMMUNICATION FROM AUDIENCE: NONE**V. COMMUNICATION FROM COUNCIL**

Chairman Carlson reported he attended a meeting of the Connecticut Parks Association. It was nice to see all the people from the towns Parks and Recreation Commission there. It was good representation for the town.

VI. OLD BUSINESS**03/04-64 Status Report: AHS Renovations/Additions Building Committee: Hank Frey**

The Town Manager reported he attended the last few meetings because of the potential cost and the need for additional funds to complete the project. Essentially the Town Council gave a charge to the Building Committee, which the committee has acted on. They hired an architect and came back recommending, what we call a construction management process as opposed to general contracting process. A construction manager has been hired; a contract has been signed. We are in the process of reviewing the estimates that initially showed that the project exceeded the authorized amount. The Building Committee, Construction Manager, Architect, and the Board of Education, both the Chairman and the Superintendent have been working on revising and refining the educational specs to bring the project cost down. A couple parameters that need to be looked at as we work through this process include the financial aspect of it, to make sure that the project is within the scope of the money that has been appropriated. Secondly, we have to look at whether, from a legal standpoint of Bond Counsel, the proposed revised scope of the project meets the intent of the original appropriation motion that was approved by the voters. There are various aspects here as far as moving through the adjustment process. Initially, we have some adjustments, which can possibly be made. Some of those that were suggested were sent to the Bond Counsel to get a preliminary opinion as to whether these items may be removed from the project without going through another referendum. He has indicated that several of the items proposed, for instance, the roof, they were not clear on the exact amount of the roof that could be deleted without going to referendum again. Whether we have to go back to referendum because of price or because of scope, there are certain time lines that we have to go with, which are somewhat predicated on the bidding schedule. The Architect and the Construction Manager have indicated that would take place sometime at the end of March or beginning of April. The Chairman of the Board of Finance has indicated his concerns of having a supplemental referendum in the middle of the budgeting process in April and May. We may need to have a referendum prior to April 1st. If we do not get the bid figures in until afterwards, we will have to have a referendum either during the middle of the budgeting process or wait until late May or June. That brings up the issue of scheduling in terms of the proposed opening of the addition in

the fall of 2007. The biggest issues are scope, price and timetable of the project. If we cannot bring the project scope financially under the existing appropriations, a subsequent referendum will be needed. The original description of the project included the removal of the roof or portions thereof. The 1.5 million-dollar proposed reduction is a significant part of the roof. It does not include the portion over the gym but it does include the rest of the roof. It is our understanding from Mr. Gillette that we cannot eliminate the 1.5 million dollars. We have to determine what “portions” of the roof means. Mr. Gillette has said that 1.5 million is too much of an elimination because it would substantially change the scope of the project. We have not had a chance to meet with him.

Mr. Frey reported some of the roof still has plenty of life in it and may not have to be replaced. He reported the roof that was replaced on the building in the late 90's is not subject to replacement and is not part of this project at all. It is a 20-year roof and it has another 14 years to go.

Mr. Boos reported the roof would be bid in two different ways. The State has implemented a statute that in order to be eligible for state funding, new roofs have to have a pitch of 1/2 inch per foot. The present roof is 1/4 inch per foot. We went through this when we did Roaring Brook School and there was a substantial difference in price. The State has now said if we the town meets the criteria for a hardship, they will consider allowing the existing roof to remain at the current pitch. The roof that is subject to replacement has been on the building for 15 years, so the state will reduce the reimbursement by 25 percent because it is 5 years shy of the 20-year life span. We have drafted a letter requesting a waiver on 1/2 inch per foot to be sent to the State and we are optimistic that it will be approved. In order to change the pitch would involve architectural recommendations and reconfiguring the existing roof and plumbing which is beneath it and the cost would be somewhere around \$300,000 to \$400,000. The other option the town has is to wait five more years to replace the roof. The 1.5 million is based on a roof pitch of 1/2 inch per foot. One of the good things about the CM system is that we can look at each item such as architecture, heating, plumbing, and electrical individually. If they are not consistent, we can find out what is wrong with the bid, fix the documents, and re-bid that section so that we can correct it, save money, and not delay the construction and building process. We will have the advantage of knowing the cost of everything in the building as opposed to the traditional general contracting where we have one number and have no idea of how that is arranged internally by the general contractor. We submitted the documents to the state. They will review the documents to make sure everything is within code. We should get them back by mid March. We will then correct any comments they may have and the building official will sign off on the comments. Then the State will give us a letter authorizing us to go out to bid. We will have the numbers when the project is bid, which would be mid April at the earliest.

Chairman Carlson questioned if the bids come in way over what was anticipated, what would happen? The Town Manager reported if they were over in the alternate areas we would eliminate them. However, if they are in the base bids, we will have to go back to another referendum to get the funding.

Mr. Woodford questioned, based on the latest sheet, where are we with the figures? Mr. Frey reported the current figure is \$25,859,920 plus \$2,800,000, which would be the architect's fee's and soft costs for a total of \$28,659,920. That puts us about \$2,661,920 beyond what was budgeted.

Mr. Shea questioned if any of the items are going to show up on the Capital Budget five to ten years after this project is done? He stated he is concerned with elimination of things that include ductwork or piping. These are things that after the project is done some parents or teachers might come back and say these things have to be done. This process has put a lot of pressure on everyone and we just want to make sure that we talk a little about the cuts that have been made.

Mr. Boos reported that the documents for this project have been thoroughly reviewed and they do meet the letter of educational specifications. All of the capital improvements that were listed in the referendum will be bid and we will know what these things actually cost by a bid number. Whether an item gets eliminated or stays in, we will be able to make that decision, not based on an estimate but by actual cost.

Mr. Shea questioned if there is a need to look again at the contingency and escalation numbers which were established about one year ago and modified at the end of the summer. Mr. Boos reported that the figures carry an eight percent rate for construction cost increases. This budget allows ten- percent escalation on top of the eight percent.

The Town Manager questioned when the bids come in, how long are they good for? Mr. Shopis stated usually no longer than 30 and 60 days because contractors are susceptible to material increases in the market place that they cannot control. The Town Manager stated if the bids come in April 15th and we have to go through a referendum process, the timing to get all of that done will take at least 30, maybe even 60 days.

Mr. Woodford stated we should not look at the budget process in relationship to this. The Town Manager stated we do not want bids that are only good for 60 days because that will not allow us enough time. Mr. Woodford stated he wants to move ahead with a referendum. The timing between the two should not be an issue.

The Town Manager questioned how much time is needed after April 15th to get a referendum in place to get the documents? The Town Clerk stated we could have the Town Meeting May 1st, and we could have a referendum 30 days later.

Mr. Shopis stated if you push out the bid date, you will also push out the start date and the finish date. These two things will increase the cost of the project significantly because we will be going through the second winter instead of only one winter. The school will also have areas that will be out of use for longer periods of time. Originally, the start date was spring of this year. Now we are looking at a summer start date.

The Town Manager questioned how many days are needed to evaluate the bids, give recommendations, and have a final price so we can go to referendum? Mr. Boos reported we would be ready within two weeks after receiving all of the bids. The Town Clerk stated that would bring us to a May 15th, Town Meeting because you still need approval from the Town Council and Board of Finance. The Town Manager stated the worse case scenario for a referendum would be June 15.

Mr. Shea stated concerns with the issue of escalation from September 2007-finish date to January 2008-finish date. I understand the space issues, the issues of the building being used, but, from a cost standpoint, how will this work? Mr. Boos reported the scenario is basically quite simple. If we begin construction in late May or early June, there is a very good chance that the steel will arrive in the fall and the masonry enclosure of the major spaces will be completed prior by snowfall. That will allow you to beat winter conditions. As long as the masonry block is up, you will not have to cocoon the building, which will allow the workmen to progress rather rapidly. The first winter is the most important. If we do not get started until July, you will not have that opportunity. In order to keep things moving along, the building will have to be cocooned, which is expensive.

Mr. Shea questioned whether we would have enough time to get the project started and can it be rushed in order to be completed by the finish date of September 2007. Mr. Boos reported this process does not lend itself to being rushed. Mr. Shea stated it appears that we are going to be over budget, so this would not be perceived as being a fast track project. Mr. Boos stated, "No. Fast tracking is something that you would elect to go with by bidding the concrete and site work earlier than everything else. This means, when you sign a contract for concrete and site work, that you are going to have to be comfortable that the final bids at a level that will be within the appropriations." What was talked about with the Building Committee and brainstorming with the Board of Education is that, if the project can be realistically completed, within the appropriations, maybe some deferments, then you can start the project and get it moving. That, of course, would be a decision to be made by the Town. Then these deferments can then be looked at as subject for an additional referendum. They would not be deferments that would cause the building not to function as intended.

Mr. Shea reported these might be deferments that substantially change the scope of the referendum, or change the approval process. Therefore, there are townspeople that will say we started this project knowing full well that we would have to come back for more money.

Mr. Zacchio stated it is like handcuffing the community saying you have to do because we are three quarters of the way done and we need more money to finish. He also stated it is fast tracking with the idea that you can eliminate some of the process and deferments but you will have to pay for them at some point and will have to go to referendum for the money.

Mrs. Hornaday stated that nothing should be started until we know definitely that we will have the money to finish the project. She also questioned how the roof would be installed. She questioned if drains will be installed in different locations on the roof, in addition to the existing ones. Mr. Boos reported the existing drainage pattern works very well. The roof was replaced 15 years ago and there is no sign of distress in the roof whatsoever. That roof happens to be a ballasted roof which means you are allowed to walk up there so we can take a lot of the dead roof off and then increase the insulation value without having any thoughts of snow being an issue. The roof drains well --- there is no reason to add new ones. Mrs. Hornaday stated it may be better to do the whole roof now rather than having to come back in five to seven years to do just a portion.

It was consensus of the Town Council to await the bids before moving ahead with construction or another referendum.

05/06-33 Review and Discussion: Scope of 2006 Avon Day

The Recreation Director reported for Mr. Del Gallo, there was a lot of time and effort put into the planning of Avon Day this year. We have had a number of meetings over the last couple of months. The Committee voted to combine our efforts with the Avon Fire Department. We would like to plan a two-day event, which would take place Friday night, September 15, 2006 and all day Saturday, September 16, 2006. The Fire Department would run the activities on Friday night. The Fire Chief reported the lack of success with a carnival in the past, but saw how successful Avon Day was last year and thought that we might want to get involved in it and expand to both Friday night and Saturday. We could have music on both nights and have some non-profit organizations do the food on both days so that they can make some money. We also talked about having one large tent so everyone can be in the same area. We would like to involve more people, involve more organizations, and possibly make some decent money. We are talking about having Bingo on both days and not that much of the commercial end of it, such as rides.

The Recreation Director reported the plans are to continue with a concert and fireworks Saturday night. With the Town's approval we would also like to sell beer and wine, which would help in restaurant sales and draw more people to the event. The beer and wine vendor will be responsible for the liquor liability.

Mr. Zacchio stated that Avon Day has been such a huge success with families, so the introduction of beer and wine might be an issue.

The Chairman reported the town is working with the Board of Education on programs regarding the use of alcohol and by authorizing someone else to sell alcohol is like going 180 degrees in the opposite direction, against all that we have been trying to accomplish.

The Recreation Director reported that Mr. Del Gallo met with UNICO, who will be working on the entertainment, and approaching businesses to raise funds. Fireworks are expensive so this year maybe we can do things a little differently and possibly get a better price. The fund raiser committee might want to consider trying to raise some funds by approaching individuals in the community that have shown an interest in contributing.

The Recreation Director reported the budget amount for Avon Day 2006 is \$33,210. They have \$5,993 balance from last year, to start with. Donations from the corporate sector are \$15,010 and the committee will raise as much as possible through fund raising. The Committee Chairman would like the assurance of the Town Council that the Town of Avon will support any shortage of funds for the two-day event this year.

The Town Manager reported we may end up approaching \$20,000 from the town’s budget account which is not reflected in either Mr. Del Gallo’s proposed budget or the proposed FY 06/07 proposed Town budget. Avon Day has been a success for the community but we need some form of guidance from the Town Council on the budgetary impact of that expansion.

It was the general consensus of the Town Council that Avon Day is family oriented and the sale of alcohol would not be permitted.

05/06-42 Appointments:

- Plainville Area PACTV Advisory Council (2R)**
- NCC Mental Health Board**
- Inland Wetlands Commission (2R)**
- Natural Resources Commission**

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council table appointments to the Plainville Area PACTV Advisory Council (2R) to the next meeting.

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

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council table appointment of NCC Mental Health Board to the next meeting.

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

Inland Wetlands Commission

-On a motion made by Mr. Woodford seconded by Mrs. Hornaday, it was voted unanimously to appoint Cliff Thier to a four-year term.

-On a motion made by Mr. Woodford, seconded by Mrs. Hornaday, it was voted unanimously to appoint Diane Carney to fill an un-expired term –two-years.

Natural Resources Commission

-On a motion made by Mr. Woodford, seconded by Mrs. Hornaday, it was voted unanimously to appoint Edward Borkoski to a four-year term.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

05/06-47 Review, Discussion and Recommendations to Avon Comprehensive Plan of Development: Steve Kushner

The Town Planner presented a draft of the Plan of Conservation and Development. He reported the Planning & Zoning Commission has been working on this for about a year and a half and has scheduled a public hearing for March 9, 2006. He reported the State law has changed to require that the Planning & Zoning Commission provide the Town Council, as the chief governing authority, an opportunity to make formal comments to the Planning & Zoning Commission prior to the hearing. The general functions of the guide is to provide information on land use regulations for transportation, public services, recreation, open space, natural resources, and housing. This is a blueprint of conservation and development and that is why we chose the pictures for the cover of the report. The community over the next 15 years will remain very similar to what it is now. It will be a little bigger, a little more land uses, a little more open space preserve, but the character of the community will remain basically the same.

Mrs. Hornaday questioned if the Planning & Zoning Commission is planning on a definite sewer plan for the town or are we going to continue on an as needed basis. The Town Planner reported the town is working on a sewer design for areas in town that will need sewers in the future. As areas are developed, it may be possible to bring sewers to the problem areas also.

The Town Manager reported it is already set up that way but we are also looking at existing residential areas that are on septic systems that may not have the space to replace the existing system when it fails or it may be cost prohibitive. This plan will take into account both undeveloped and developed areas.

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council support the Plan of Conservation and Development, as presented in the draft, and a letter be sent to the Planning & Zoning Commission indicating such support.

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

05/06-48 Review, Discussion and Approval: Joint (Farmington/Avon) Expanded Dial-a-Ride Grant Program: Alan Rosenberg

The Director of Social Services reported the State of Connecticut, Department of Transportation has initiated a new funding program for dial-a-ride services with the following goals:

1. Provide a uniform funding source available to all municipalities in the state.
2. Provide new transportation services to enhance access to the community for seniors and People with disabilities where transportation services do not exist.
3. Expand transportation services to enhance access to the community in areas where transportation is already available.
4. Encourage efficient use of scarce resources through coordination.

Request for Proposals have been issued and applications are due by February 24, 2006. Some key program facts are as follows:

-New Services – The intent of the new program is to provide new funds above and beyond those currently being spent by the town.

-Local Match – If a municipality is already providing transportation for seniors and persons with disabilities, those existing funds can be used towards the matching requirement.

-Coordination Effort – The legislation requires the community to assess opportunities for coordinating with other communities or agencies.

He reported the Connecticut Dept. of Transportation timetable is to grant awards by April 1st, and the new funding will be available in FY 2006/07. Avon's potential award would be \$24,910. No new Town funding would be required because our current Dial-A-Ride budget exceeds the amount required for the local match. Farmington's potential award of \$33,286, combined with Avon's would provide a total of \$58,196 to be used for operating expenses to provide new and enhanced services. Also, a coordinated grant proposal would be strongly preferred by the Connecticut Department of Transportation in its grant selection criteria.

He also reported specific areas to be explored will be the potential for: more group shuttle trips to major area shopping destinations, expansion of available service destinations, expansion of hours of availability, transportation to regional events involving multiple senior centers, and enhancement of general service to allow more availability for medical appointments. The Town of Farmington would act as the coordinating entity in submitting the application, in which case Avon would then assign its grant apportionment, upon award. Farmington would also have the primary responsibilities for quarterly, financial, and annual reports.

The Town Manager reported we are not buying equipment or hiring employees. This is on a contractual basis. If we do not get funded three years down the road or the funding declines, we can adjust the service levels for the budget, but it relieves the need that we have of growing numbers and growing desires for the standard services. Mrs. Hornaday voiced concerns regarding seniors not being able to use this transportation to go to activities in Canton because Canton will not be involved with our grant. The Director of Social Services stated that would not be a problem.

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council authorizes the Department of Social Services to enter into a joint Farmington/Avon expanded Dial-A-Ride Grant Program.

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

05/06-49 Grant Acceptance and Supplemental Appropriation:

- a. Bulletproof Vest Program (BVP) Grant and Supplemental Appropriation: \$4,365

RESOLUTION – TOWN COUNCIL

RESOLVED: That the Town Council hereby recommends that the Board of Finance amend the FY 05/06 Budget by increasing:

REVENUES

General Fund, Intergovernmental, Bulletproof Vest Partnership Act, Account # 01-0330-43322 in the amount of \$4,365 and increasing:

APPROPRIATIONS

General Fund, Patrol Services, Uniforms, Account # 01-2107-52238 in the amount of \$4,365 for the purpose of recording a grant from the department of Justice for purchasing bulletproof vests.

- b. Law Enforcement Block Grant: \$2,500

RESOLUTION – TOWN COUNCIL

RESOLVED: That the Town Council hereby recommends that the Board of Finance amend the FY 05/06 Budget by increasing:

REVENUES

General Fund, Intergovernmental, Law Enforcement Block Grant, Account # 01-0330-43373 in the amount of \$2,500 and increasing:

APPROPRIATIONS

General Fund, Administrative Services, Other Equipment, Account # 01-2101-53319 in the amount of \$2,500 for the purpose of upgrading a computer system.

05/06-50 Review, Discussion and Request for Balance of Funding \$3,926.25; Chair Replacement, Community Room Senior Center: Glenn Marston

The Director of Recreation and Parks discussed the replacement of 115 padded chairs at the Senior Center/Community Room, which are 18 years old, stained and damaged. He reported the Town Council appropriated the first \$1,500 in the General Fund budget to initiate an effort for groups that use the facility to voluntarily donate to the purchase of the replacements. We sent a letter to all of those groups and Diane Carney of the Avon Arts Association made follow-up calls. The cost to purchase 125 chairs is \$11,601.25. To date, we have collected \$7,675 and remain short \$3,926.25 on the cost of 125 chairs. The current cost per chair is \$92.81 delivered. We are requesting some guidance as to what to do next. We are also asking that we be authorized to get quotes from three distributors, rather than go out to bid, since we will be specifying the chair manufacturer. The Town Manager stated we have a provision in the purchasing regulations that allow for replacement of specified kinds.

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council approve the expenditure of \$3,926.25 from Contingency for chair

replacement in the Community Room at the Senior Center and authorize the Director of Recreation & Parks to get quotes from three distributors.

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

05/06-51 Road Acceptance: King Richard Court Extension

The report from Deputy Town Engineer stated all necessary legal instruments to convey title to the road and storm drainage have been submitted. The Engineering Department has inspected this road during all phases of construction and found it to be constructed in accordance with Town of Avon standards for road construction. He recommends acceptance of this road (distance of 0.05 miles) into the Town road system.

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council accepts King Richard Court Extension into the Town Road System. based on the recommendations of the Deputy Town Engineer.

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

05/06-52 Approval/Acceptance: Facilities Cleaning Bids

The Director of Public Works reported our current cost is \$0.9074 per square foot, not including building 7. The cost for the next three fiscal years will decrease even with the addition of building 7, which has 3,952 square feet. We recommend the contract be awarded to the lowest responsible bidders for the next three fiscal years as follows:

Facilities Service Group was the Low Bidder for Building 5 for FY 06/07 and Building 1, 2, 6, 7, Senior Center, Police Gym and Countryside Park for FY 06/07, 07/08, and 08/09.

Pritchard Industries was the Low Bidder for Building 5 for FY 07/08 - 08/09 and Fire Stations 1,2,3,4, Public Library, Public Works and Police Building for FY 06/07, 07/08, and 08/09.

The bid results for janitorial services are as follows:	FY 2006/2007	\$73,824.76
	FY 2007/2008	74,829.20
	FY 2008/2009	76,250.08

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council award the bid for janitorial services, as outlined above.

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

05/06-53 Review and Discussion: CRCOG Natural Hazard Mitigation Planning Grant

The Town Manager reported that as part of our joint work with the Capitol Region Council of Governments we have been asked to participate in the joint Hazard Mitigation Planning Grant process at CRCOG. We currently participate with CRCOG in the Regional Consolidated LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Committee). Participation in the Hazard Mitigation Planning Program is a natural extension of work we are already doing with the Capitol Regional Council of Governments.

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council authorize the Town to participate jointly with CRCOG, in the Natural Hazard Mitigation Planning Grant.

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

VIII. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT/MISCELLANEOUS

The Town Manager reported we have a draft legislative piece and some other background material on speed coverage on Route 44. It as a pilot program for automated photography of speeders. We need an indication from the Town Council that we support this system to be done jointly with West Hartford. They will administer everything. We would have to adopt an ordinance if the legislation past. It would be a pilot program for at least a year. The DOT is not outwardly supportive of it. They are supportive from a staff

standpoint. Mr. Shea questioned how the system works. The Town Manager stated as a vehicle goes through a certain area, a radar picture will be taken of the speeder and the owner of the vehicle will receive the fine. There is a cost for these units, which is between \$50,000 to \$100,000 each. We will have to sign a contract. We are hoping the fines will pay for the cost of the unit. It has been successful in other states. Mr. Shea questioned who would send the notices out? The Town Manager reported we would contract with the company that we purchase the equipment from. They set up the equipment and operate it. The Town of West Hartford will handle the administrative end of it, but our police officers will be reviewing the data and send it out to be processed. West Hartford already has a Public Hearing Officer in case someone appeals it. The State of Connecticut has not implemented it because of the issues of the driver versus the owner and concerns of the legal issues. If this study program were put into the legislature in the form of a statute, it would take care of those particular issues.

Mr. Carlson questioned how many cars travel that mountain every day? The Town Manager reported about 30 thousand. He reported it is a mobile unit and can be put at different locations on a monthly basis. Use of the mobile unit would only be permitted on Avon Mountain or Nod Road between the towns of Avon and West Hartford, until legislation is passed. There will also be signs posted for forty days prior to using the mobile unit. Mrs. Hornaday stated that there are towns that meet a good part of the annual budget based on fines collected from speeders.

The Town Manager reported the State does have data to show that this system does reduce accidents when it is in place. He also stated, according to DOT, fifty percent of the accidents that have happened on Avon Mountain have been speed related and the rest mechanically related.

Chairman Carlson stated when we met with the State a couple months ago, they spoke of putting in a bridge, which we think is not a good solution to the problem. If we can stop people from speeding, a lot of the problems would be eliminated. I would advocate having the State come in and give a presentation and answer some of these questions so we can decide whether to move forward or not. Mrs. Hornaday stated the people really want something done, so we have the responsibility to work on this.

Mr. Shea stated he would be in favor of having someone from the State come out and gives us a presentation and answer some of the questions people may have. regarding this system. He also advised that it be publicized in the Hartford Courant. The Town Manager reported an informational meeting will take place next month.

The Town Manager reported the Fire Department is asking for an analysis of two locations for two different types of facilities. We are not sure if this can be entirely done in house because we are not sure what has to be in each building. They gave us a list but we should take a look at hiring a consultant to help us and then come back with recommendations that can be incorporated into next years Capital Improvement Program in the fall. There will be lots for sale in the Quail Ridge Subdivision and we do not want to miss out on being able to buy what we need.

Mr. Shea stated it sounds like we are going to spend a lot of money to find out they want to have both the training facility and the firehouse on Lovely Street and be able to bring other towns in to use it. This will be a very busy area and there will be a lot of neighbors against this.

The Town Manager reported there are different options. We can combine the training and the fire station on Lovely Street on four acres. We can also have the fire station on Lovely Street on 2 acres and the training center at the landfill on 2 acres and bring in a water line. You may feel there is only a \$500,000 dollar difference in cost, in terms on combining them versus separating them, but because of the impact on the neighborhood, it might be worth the extra money to locate the training center up at the landfill. The question is, do you want an analysis of these so that you know the cost implications of combining or separating the two? It would probably be good to separate the two but, if the cost is prohibitive to do so, we will need to know what our options are.

Mr. Woodford stated he did not think the training center would have a major impact on the area and questioned if we really know what the training center is all about. It may not be as an intensive operation as we envision. Mr. Shea reported the one in Simsbury has programs and there is a lot of activity there. I do not understand the plan completely but we have a very enthusiastic Fire Department and I assume it would be used for training them.

The Town Manager stated we can move ahead now and get started in the process of finding out how much it will cost to hire someone that will help work us through this. Next year we can put funds in the budget to do some conceptual things. We may want to look at the land if it becomes available and then we can decide whether we want two acres or four acres.

Mr. Woodford stated he thinks the Capital Budget will be strained for the next three to seven years with the High School. Mrs. Hornaday stated we may need the firehouse first and the landfill may be more suitable for the Training center because it can be more buffered. It will not be as visible from the road. Also does the State Fire Marshall have someone that can come out and help us with the preliminaries? The Town Manager reported the State does not have any type of assistance program.

The Town Council stated we are in favor of splitting the two projects because we own the land at the landfill which would be more appropriate for the training facility, but we do not want to lose the land on Lovely Street, which would be a good area for the fire house. We should move ahead to purchase the land on Lovely Street when it becomes available.

The Town Manager reported the Junior Women's Club has donated \$1,600 to the Police Department. The Police Department wants to do a child safety guide that they want to do on a joint basis.

The Town Manager reported the Sprint Tower has been installed. Parts of it are running, parts are not yet. The pine trees are in, the fencing is in, and they started paying for it in November. AT&T has expressed an interest in it. The money will be going into the General Fund. It will be in the budget information.

Mr. Shea suggested we write a letter to Verizon letting them know that a Sprint Tower has been installed.

The Town Manager reported we would like to recruit inside for the Police Chief. There has been a change in the last month when Mark Rinaldo got a slot at the FBI Academy. I told you that the two lieutenants were not interested. Since then, we had a review panel and we brought in six or seven people who expressed an interest in going to the FBI Academy. The Acting Chief has instituted a couple of these programs. Tonight he is at the Talcott Mountain Science Center with the State of Connecticut. They are holding two public hearing for residents on Route 44 and Pine Tree Lane because of the widening project. He is really out into the community, and I want to move ahead in-house with the three candidates that we have and see where it comes out, as long as the Council agrees. It was the general consensus of the Town Council to move ahead with the interviews.

He further reported we will set up a panel with members of the Town Council, a Town Manager, and a Police Chief. I have also had the Director of Human Resources review all the sergeants on up, in order to develop a leadership program to build up the leadership capacity within the department. We have moved people up into the sergeants' position but have not had time to train these people and get them involved in the things I think they need to be involved with. There are only two people with degrees and we need to get others involved in getting their degrees as well as getting them involved with training at the FBI Academy. We are also building the depth within the department and it will serve us well as we go forward in the next five to ten years in terms of building the leadership capacity.

Mrs. Hornaday stated with the Board of Education, people are hired but must receive certain degrees within a window of time. This might be a good idea for the Town to do. Mr. Carlson stated we should develop a

plan. The Town Manager stated that, in the letter of employment, we could state that they are expected to obtain a particular degree within a specified time.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Litigation/Negotiation -None

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Attest:

**Caroline B. LaMonica
Town Clerk**