

**AVON TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 5, 2007**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. in the Selectmen's Chamber by Chairman Carlson. Members present: Mr. Shea and Mrs. Hornaday. Absent: Mr. Woodford and Zacchio.

II. PUBLIC HEARING:

06/07-57 7:30 p.m. Acceptance of Easements, David Road

The Notice of Public Hearing was read as follows:

**“TOWN OF AVON
LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the Town Council of the Town of Avon, Connecticut will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, April 5, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall, Selectmen's Chamber, 60 West Main Street, to consider the following:

Town consider and permit all interested persons to speak on the plan of the Town Council to accept three easements in connection with the redevelopment of David Road: 1) Emergency Access Easement, 2) Emergency Vehicle Turnaround Easement and 3) Fire Cistern Easement, as shown on a map entitled: “Map Showing Lot Line Adjustments Assessors Lots 2050011, 2050015, 2050021, 2050025, 2050029 formerly David Road and Assessors Lot 2360040 Frandel Drive Prepared for Andrew W. Mason Associates, Inc., Avon, CT dated September 28, 2006 with the latest revision being December 14, 2006.” Copy of said map is on file in the Town Clerk's Office and open to the public for inspection during normal business hours.

Dated At Avon, Connecticut this 27th day of March, 2007.

Philip K. Schenck, Jr.
Town Manager.”

The public hearing was closed at 9:31 p.m.

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council accept on behalf of the Town of Avon, three easements 1)Emergency Access Easement, 2) Emergency Vehicle Turnaround Easement and 3) Fire Cistern Easement, as recommended by the Town Planner for emergency access and future fire cistern, in connection with the redevelopment of David Road.

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

III. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING: March 1, 2007

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council approve the minutes of March 1, 2007 as read.

Mrs. Hornaday and Messrs Carlson and Shea voted in favor.

IV. COMMUNICATION FROM AUDIENCE

Nick Seminara updated the Town Council on the progress of the Playground For All Kids, a non-profit committee installing the playground at Buckingham. He reported all of the equipment was in before the winter, and actually since their last update, were able to add about \$25,000 additional features than had been stated, by additional donations - - some contractors that did not charge us and also from negotiations that went better. We added about 1,700 square feet of rubber surface beyond what we had already planned, for a lower maintenance issue for the Town and provide more handicapped accessibility. We also upgraded the pavilion. We are scheduling a grand opening for May 19th. The Recreation Director and other departments have been working on the parking lot and all of the site work has been done, and

paving should move pretty quickly as soon as contractors can get out there. We believe it came out nicer than we actually expected.

Chairman Carlson reported we really appreciate the work that you put into it, the whole community has put into it and your organization. He reported he has two questions – as a result of the changes, is there any need to go back to Planning & Zoning? Mr. Seminara reported no, it did not change the footprint of the program. It really is just upgrading surfacing, and upgrading the type of pavilion that we have. He further stated he would like to thank the Town Council for their support.

Chairman Carlson requested the Recreation Director give an update on the parking and driveway. The Recreation Director reported we had some advantages early on in the year because the snow was late in arriving. We are on schedule and the Engineering Department has really taken this over and are waiting on the awards of the State contracts for paving, and we essentially have to wait until the asphalt plants open. All of the material for the under drainage in the parking lot is on site, and Mr. Ferrigno did a lot more work on the parking lot site than we had originally anticipated and work that we were going to have to contract out. The parking lot is sitting there pretty much ready to go, as is the high school baseball field, lacross and softball fields.

V. COMMUNICATION FROM COUNCIL

Mr. Shea reported he would like to compliment Bruce Williams, Director of Public Works. He personally received resident phone calls about mail boxes that came down, he referred them to Public Works. Mr. Williams deserves a big compliment in that by the next day Mike Arnold from his department had visited the homes, spoken to the neighbors and in three cases the resolution was that everyone was happy.

Mr. Shea reported his second point of discussion is with the meeting on Monday, April 9th, as he drives around he does not see those sandwich boards out that are talking about the Public Hearing. The Town Manager reported we will get them out tomorrow.

Chairman Carlson reported three weeks ago he represented the Town at an Eagle Scout induction ceremony, for three young men. It was a terrific ceremony and we recognized them with proclamations, but it is something that the Town should be very proud of, the building was full of people, with relatives and others as well. Town departments ought to be commended because a couple of the projects that they were involved with involved Town departments and with the support of their staff.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

00/01-07 Status Report, Approve Mailer and set Special Town Council Meeting (April 23rd) Buildings 5 and 6 Renovations

Chairman Carlson reported this item is to approve the mailer and set a Special Town Council Meeting for April 23rd on the Buildings 5 and 6 renovations. Ms. Robinson reported we need to set the special meeting in order to vote to set the date for the Special Town Meeting and adjourn to referendum, this paperwork was prepared by Bond Counsel. The Board of Finance will meet the same night. Chairman Carlson reported May 14th will be the Town Meeting, June 14th will be the vote. Ms. Robinson reported also the mailer is in the packet, as reviewed by Bond Counsel, and the Bond Counsel felt it important that the Town Council approve the report as written. The Town Manager reported the Town Attorney did review the mailer along with the Bond Attorney

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council accept the Report of the Town Council as contained in the Brochure, and approve the mailing of the Brochure to Town residents.

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

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council schedule a Town Council Meeting for April 23, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. to sign a call of a Special Town Meeting.

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

Mr. Shea questioned how we will inspire activity for the June 14th referendum. The Town Manager reported we will have the mailer going out, it also will be mentioned at the budget public hearing, Monday night, it will also be mentioned at the Special Town Council Meeting. We have the newsletter going out to the community on the whole budget. He specifically talked to the reporter about this meeting to encourage attendance. The Town Manager reported whomever shows up to vote, the majority of the voters, yes or no, determines the outcome.

03/04-64 Status Report: Avon High School Building Committee: Traffic Circulation; Hank Frey.

Hank Frey, Chairman of the Avon High School Renovation/Addition Building Committee, reported the memo from the Assistant to the Town Manager and two final plans for the driveway show the exits onto West Avon Road. The project is going very well, aside from that. We are \$700,000 ahead of the budget at this point, which we expect to hold unless there are some real surprises. The plans show the existing driveway which will remain unchanged and the new driveway that is being built down by the firehouse. People understood it was going to be an in and out driveway, where you could go down West Avon Road and turn left, or come up West Avon Road and turn right. But there was a meeting a couple of weeks ago with the State DOT traffic expert, the Architect and Fire Chief DiPace were there, it was determined that for a number of reasons and if there is an emergency and firemen are trying to get to the firehouse, and they are coming down West Avon Road and there are people backed up trying to make that left turn in as traffic is going north, they will not be able to get to the firehouse as easily. The other was fire engines coming out, they might be obstructed, for whatever reason for better functioning of the firehouse. It has been determined that it can only be a right in lane north of the existing right of way. Where it really will function will be to provide a second entrance to the high school, if there ever really is a real emergency, at this point we will have two entrances. This is a mountable curb a fire truck, ambulance or anything could drive over it, a car probably could make the turn but it would be an illegal turn. The other plus is whenever traffic is exiting, there will be a lot less traffic at this because anyone heading north is going to come out this way and head north. Chairman Carlson questioned if in the morning people are dropping off their child, can they go in the main entrance left. Committee Chairman Frey reported yes the same as they do now. Chairman Carlson questioned then from the parking lots can they gain access to the new driveway going out. Committee Chairman Frey reported yes, it connects.

Mr. Shea reported when it was originally done, the thought was that it was going to be a all in and all out driveway, which is what we talked about with the Town and the community. Recognizing that Mr. Frey understands it a little better, could you just run it by us again, so that we can assess or evaluate the value of the driveway in light of the traffic, before it was viewed as something that was going to relieve some pressure from the main entrance and the main artery. Now it seems it will be more value for emergency services than it will be to alleviate traffic, not to negate the safety aspect of it, but we just have not had a lot of emergency issues there. Committee Chairman Frey reported it certainly will have a tremendous improvement when people leave the high school, because most of the people come from the north, and they are going to exit this right turn only out and up West Avon Road. According to the school officials about 75% of the traffic from cars is from the north. Mr. Shea reported we have spent a lot of money and a lot of discussion about that second entrance and what we have not done yet is widen the main entrance.

Committee Chairman Frey reported that is the other cost. The State is doing the widening of the road, there is going to be a left turning lane added at the current main entrance. Mr. Shea questioned what about a right turning lane from the south. Committee Chairman Frey reported no there will not be a right turning lane going in and the reason for that is, if you have a right turning lane coming up from the south, when the one light at the main entrance, this light would turn red the traffic would continue in the right

lane. There would not be a stop sign people would continue to enter into that driveway. The stop sign would be for traffic trying to come out such as busses, they would have to wait until the lane clears. Mr. Shea questioned whether the light would have a timer, such as most of the lights in town at 10:00 p.m. they go to yellow flashing. Committee Chairman Frey reported that would be up to the State, we will check on that. Mr. Shea reported those of us who come from the south in the morning would be in a backup situation in that area, so why would the State not consider a right turning lane. Committee Chairman Frey reported there will not be a right turning lane because it would block any exit from the school, there would never be a break, but with the light it will turn red and they are going to have to stop. Blythe Robinson reported they could after the light has been used for a while. The State is only doing as much widening as they can with the right of way that they have right now, they would have to move poles and acquire land in order to get a right hand lane in there, and the priority was the left hand turn. Mr. Shea reported he believes this is going to be a very difficult discussion after this project is over. From past experience he does not see that right lane turn happening, any time in the near future, based on the priority list and the debt, and the projects we have on hand. Therefore it begs the question if we are potentially going to address this issue, should it be addressed globally, maybe by the Town. Chairman Carlson reported people are only going to be able to go in left at the current entrance, the new will only be right out or right in.

Chairman Carlson reported the questions the Town's people have every right to ask us, the question is why did we not know this before hand, because putting this driveway in to begin with was fairly controversial because of the costs, many people said that is an item that could be eliminated to bring the cost down. The question, and he cannot answer that today, but it needs to be answered - why did we not know it before hand, why did we not get the State to weigh in? If the answer is the State changed its mind, that is at least an answer. Right now we do not have an answer. Committee Chairman Frey reported he is not sure who changed their mind, but someone came with a concern about firemen getting to the fire department.

The Town Manager reported this right turn in and right turn out is something that the State of Connecticut State Traffic Commission, which governs this type of access and egress to the site, has become enamored with recently. He is not sure that no matter what effort we made that they would change their mind on this. They adopted this as a way to deal with traffic situations. Mr. Shea reported how do we handle these comments about the traffic from the south and the inability to make a right hand turn and a full access second entrance. The Town Manager reported we have to make a decision tonight as to whether to bring the Traffic Engineer here, and do a more detailed presentation. If you had traffic going in and out of both of these intersections, they are going to be crossing and you are going to have problems anyway. It all needs to be regulated by the lights, if you had two full exchanges you would need two sets of lights that would have to be computer controlled so that somebody taking a left hand turn out of one driveway does not meet up with somebody taking a right turn out of the other driveway. There is also internal circulation issues of people going in the main driveway, and trying to get to the drop off and so forth. Chairman Carlson questioned whether they are reworking their circulation pattern as a result of this decision. Ms. Robinson reported the circulation pattern will not change from what it is, but it will be handled with more signage, so that we keep moving the traffic in and off of West Avon Road, and the busses that are held up to make sure that you do not have any crossing issues. Committee Chairman Frey reported one of the benefits is when you get to the field hockey field, there is parking all along this driveway, so it takes care of some of the parking, and another as this road is being built we connected the septic system from the fire house to the city sewer system, which is another benefit.

Chairman Carlson questioned if we had known this ahead of time, would we have still proceeded with putting this driveway in, is the benefit still there for us? Committee Chairman Frey reported we did tell the taxpayers that we were going to put in a second driveway, which is what was voted on originally. You are going to find that with all the traffic being able to exit here, it might relieve some of the pressure from this intersection for anyone who drops off or whatever in the morning, it is just going to spread it out a bit, and

there is going to be more children there too so there is going to be more traffic. The Superintendent made a point that it is really only a period of about 15 minutes in the morning when there is a problem.

Mrs. Hornaday questioned with the driveway coming north, is that going to be a one way. Committee Chairman Frey reported coming north you can enter if you like, but the first driveway is the main driveway where you can also enter, so he does not see a lot of people going past the main driveway to get to the second driveway although it is closest to the parking, the secondary driveway will be right turn only in and out. He reported he heard someone say that this is destroying the field hockey field, it will not, but this does encroach on it by 30 feet, the fence and area needs to be shifted 30 feet to the right. Chairman Carlson questioned whether they have looked into the drainage of that field, it is wet to begin with, it is a lacross field, when you move it down to the south will that affect it more. Committee Chairman Frey reported it needs to be leveled obviously. Chairman Carlson reported the field as it is the water drains off the field, once you move that field 30 feet south, you have to go back and make sure that current mechanism for getting rid of the water works. Committee Chairman Frey reported as far as the drainage on the field, whatever needs to be done has got to be done properly. Mr. Shea reported it should be brought up to the landscape architect. Committee Chairman Frey reported he put a call into their office, regarding the fences that need to be moved further towards the current driveway, we worked with the landscape architect and that architect worked with the Town Engineer. Mr. Shea reported he would like the Town Manager to speak with the Town Engineer on the drainage. The Town Manager reported he will speak to them on the field regarding the drainage, to see whether they have signed off on it.

Committee Chairman Frey reported he spoke with the Architect about the cost to do the new driveway, and it is \$275,000, quite a bit of money. The Town Manager reported some of the early discussions talked about doing one or the other, so there was going to be costs associated with widening the whole existing driveway, including a traffic signal and everything else that was included in, which by putting in the secondary driveway, some of that was eliminated. He reported he does not have the figures on how much each one cost independently. But the traffic signal cost was assumed to be a Town cost initially, because we did not know about the widening and repaving of West Avon Road, and the cost at that time was close to \$100,000 or more just for the traffic signal. Committee Chairman Frey reported the light is estimated at \$250,000, it is basically a wash, we are getting the road but we are getting a little less of an entrance than what we expected.

Mr. Shea questioned whether they addressed the entrance at Country Club Road and West Avon Road. The Town Manager reported we had initiated a discussion on that before the high school project, and it has taken two years, it is now moved beyond the initial review stage and has now moved into the design phase. Mr. Shea questioned reported he just wondered if it could be done in coordination. The Town Manager reported we are now looking at 12 to 18 months before we have a project dedicated with money. The State will be doing this, but there will be right of way taking, it will be basically a much larger intersection with turning movements and signalization to go along with it. The problem will be somewhat on the Carmon Funeral Home side, property will have to be taken there, and some of these other locations. But it is in the works, but we are probably talking a year to two years before you see anything really change there.

06/07-25 Supplemental Appropriation: \$10,329.05; DUI Holiday Enforcement Grant

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council hereby recommends that the Board of Finance amend the FY06/07 Budget by increasing:

REVENUES

General Fund, Intergovernmental, Holiday DUI Enforcement, Account #01-0330-43371 in the amount of \$10,329.05 and increasing:

APPROPRIATIONS

General Fund, Patrol Services, Overtime, Account #01-2107-51015 in the amount of \$10,329.05 for the purpose of funding Police overtime for the DUI Enforcement Program.

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

06/07-41 Adoption of Resolution Establishing Youth Services Advisory Board: Alan Rosenberg

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council approve a draft resolution for the Adoption of Resolution Establishing Youth Services Advisory Board, as follows,

“TOWN OF AVON

RESOLUTIONS PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
AVON YOUTH SERVICE BUREAU AND YOUTH SERVICE ADVISORY BOARD

Be it resolved that the Town Council of the Town of Avon in accordance with the provisions of Chapter Four, Section 4.3.2(b) of the Avon Town Charter, that:

SECTION I

- A. There is hereby established an Avon Youth Service Bureau (“Bureau”).
- B. The Bureau shall be an agency of the Town, created for the purposed of evaluation, planning, coordination and implementation of prevention, intervention and treatment services for delinquent, pre-delinquent, pregnant, parenting and troubled youth, and for the provision of opportunities for youth to develop positively and to function as responsible members of their communities.

The Bureau may provide, but shall not be limited to the delivery of, the following services: (1) Individual and group counseling; (2) parent training and family therapy; (3) work placement and employment counseling; (4) alternative and special educational opportunities; (5) recreational and youth enrichment programs; (6) outreach programs to insure participation and planning by the entire community for the development of regional and community-based youth services; (7) preventive programs, including youth pregnancy, youth suicide, violence, alcohol and drug prevention; and (8) programs that develop positive youth involvement.

- C. The Town Department of Social Services shall serve as the Bureau.

SECTION II

- A. There is hereby established a Youth Service Bureau Advisory Board (“Advisory Board”)
- B. The Advisory Board shall advise and make recommendations on overall policy and program direction for the Bureau.
- C. The Advisory Board shall consist of at least seven members who shall serve without compensation. The composition of the Advisory Board shall be in accordance with Section 10-19m-2(b) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, and shall comply with the minority representation requirements of Connecticut General Statutes SS 9-167a, as they may be amended. Members of the Advisory Board shall be responsible to and shall be appointed by the Town Council. Members of the Advisory Board may be removed from the Board for good cause by the Town Council in accordance with the Town Charter.
- D. All appointments to the Advisory Board shall be for two years terms, except that the first appointments upon the Board’s creation shall expire December 31, 2007. Appointments made to fill any vacancy in the membership of the Advisory Board shall be made for the remaining portion of the unexpired term.
- E. Within 30 days after appointment, the Advisory Board shall meet and elect from its membership a chairperson and other appropriate officers. The Advisory Board may create subcommittees as appropriate. Meetings of the Advisory Board may be held on an as-needed basis. The Advisory Board shall submit minutes of its meetings to the Office of the Town Clerk.”

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

VII. NEW BUSINESS**06/07-58 Avon Community Recreational Neighborhood (ACORN): Request for Town Council to Accept Funds to be Donated for Lighting and Artificial Turf at Avon High School.**

Chairman Carlson reported since he is an abutting neighbor, he will abstain from any discussion. Mr. Shea reported it is important to say, he respects the Chairman's decision to abstain, but thinks that the Chairman has approached this in an open minded very fair way, and if the Chairman chooses to participate he would not feel as though that would be inappropriate. But he is to do what is comfortable. He has always acted in the best interest of the Town, in the best interest of the school, you have never taken a personal position here, and he just feels whatever the Chairman is comfortable with. Chairman Carlson reported he will moderate the meeting.

Mr. McDonald presented the 'ACORN (Avon Community Recreational Neighborhood Inc) presentation of plan to light and turf a multi sport field at Avon High School', as attached and made a part of these minutes.

Don McDonald, ACORN, reported he will go through the material to answer some of the questions expressed regarding this project. He took over this fundraising project with the help of an accountant and a lawyer as board members, to raise funds to be used to install lights and artificial turf for one multi-sport field at Avon High School. He would like the endorsement of the Town Council to start fundraising for this activity for the purposes of lighting and turfing the field.

Mr. McDonald reported the plan includes installing a lighted synthetic turf field at the high school, not a new concept or idea, planning goes back multiple years. From March 2004 in the Athletic Department Plan, September 2005 Kaestle Boos Associates prepared a site grading plan for Avon High School Building Committee. January 2006 MUSCO developed a plan for lighting which diminishes glare nearly 50% over other technologies. November 14, 2006 presentation to Avon Board of Education regarding AHS lighted turf field to a presentation to Town Council regarding lighted turf field. December 2006 formal meeting by school and town officials and contiguous neighbors to Avon High School. Six families attended, three were opposed with concerns other than lighting. March 5, 2007 meeting for potential reformation of ACORN purpose of raising funds to light and turf field at AHS - officers approved. March 15, 2007 preliminary draft of "Avon Recreation Master Plan with Item #1 Items for Master Plan, Early Action Items: Avon High School -lighting of field eventual design pricing for synthetic turf, high need for lighted and eventually turfed field – all phases to be funded by others".

Mr. Shea questioned the Recreation Director as to whether there is a preliminary plan draft of the Avon Recreation Master Plan that is being shown to people. The Recreation Director reported there was an outline that we had done that he, Jeff Sundblade, Bob Meyers and Peggy Rell sat down with the Architect and said as a result of all of our research on the items, these are the items that we want to see in the draft master plan. Mr. McDonald reported it is right in the presentation materials. Chairman Carlson questioned whether it was done under the direction of the Town Council, and whether a draft of the plan has been completed. The Recreation Director reported no, it is in the working stage now, that was an outline of what we had summarized to bring a draft to the Town Council. The Town Manager reported the Town Council will be getting it May 3rd. Chairman Carlson directed to the Recreation Director that the Town Council asked the Committee to develop a plan, and the draft of the plan has been made to the public prior to coming back to the Town Council. The Recreation Director reported in defense of the Committee, the outline that we worked on, it is not a finished document, and the draft of this is coming to the Town Council. The question he anticipated from the November meeting was where did this fit in the master plan, it was indicated that this was going to be in the master plan, obviously the master plan is an outline of what we were commissioned to put into place. The rejection of anything that is on there is an ongoing process.

Mr. Shea reported what he sees is a summary here and a draft proposal of what is going to happen in each school. After waiting for this for 3 or 4 years, he thought we might see the draft at the same time it was exposed to the people. The Recreation Director reported the copy given out was merely an outline. Chairman Carlson reported when a plan is released, draft or otherwise, and in this case a volunteering committee bases some of their assumptions upon what is in that plan, and it is not fair to the voluntary committee because that plan may come into the Town Council and we say no - - - we disagree with it and we are not accepting it. That is his issue of concern here, that from a process standpoint the cart got before the horse.

Mr. McDonald reported at the March 20, 2007, Avon Board of Education meeting – ACORN presentation to Board of Education for vote on ACORN plan – project approximately \$1.2 million, approximately \$225,000 for lights, \$850,000 artificial turf and \$125,000 for field improvements – formal vote was unanimously favorable. This plan calls for all funding to be provided by ACORN, the project is to be completed in two phases, phase one is installation of the lights, phase two is the installation of a multi-sport turf field, use of the field will be determined by the Avon School System.

Mr. MacDonald reported this brings us to today, April 5th, once we got the endorsement from the Board of Education we called to be put on the Town Council agenda. He wrote out the plan details and the benefits of the plan, to present to the Town Council as to what we are asking the Town Council to endorse. As of today the average cost of this project is approximately \$1 million, \$200,000 for lights and \$800,000 for artificial turf based on updated numbers, past numbers had \$125,000 for some stands and booths which is part of the renovations currently going on. The plan calls for all funding to be provided by ACORN the project is being completed in two phases, phase one is the installation of the lights, and phase two is the installation of the multi purpose field, use of the field by the public school system. He reported we will be utilizing 4 light poles, 2 light poles face the school and 2 face toward West Avon Road, however all four lights are directed down at the field so that there is limited light spillover. He reported because the lights are facing down, you can take a light meter on these lights, and actually stand behind the lights and notice that there is no disbursement hitting you, you know the lights are on but there is no light spilling over. The lights are energy efficient, reducing the operating costs 50% versus other technology and the lights and bulbs are guaranteed for 25 years, eliminating all maintenance costs for 25 years.

Mr. Shea questioned whether that is contractual, the guarantee of 25 years. Mr. McDonald reported yes. Chairman Carlson reported that would have to go to bid, it does specify MUSCO, but it would have to go to bid. The Town Manager reported yes, unless you waive the purchasing regulations, the issue is if the money is donated to the Town, and the Town is the recipient it becomes a capital project and the Town would be administering it in conjunction with the Board of Education so the Town would be using its purchasing policy.

Mr. McDonald reported the turf plan will be put out to competitive bid, among providers contacted for the original design and bid information, as well as potentially others, there are a fair amount of companies that can deliver synthetic turf. The synthetic turf technology has improved dramatically over the last decade, it is an extremely grass like now - it is safe, offers increased usage, and is suitable for all sports.

Mr. Shea questioned, is it fair to say that if members of the Town Council wanted to see turf like this they could go to Simsbury high school. Mr. McDonald reported he went there and talked to them about it, obviously the person in athletics, and walked on it, and ours would be very similar to the Simsbury field. Chairman Carlson questioned whether they hold field events on this turf. Mr. Jeff Sundblade reported he does not know, it is something he will have to research.

Mr. McDonald reported the use plan, might also contain community use of the lights around the track. Chairman Carlson reported the Board of Education administers that, and they would need to come up with

a comprehensive plan. Mr. Shea reported that is something that needs to be discussed. The Recreation Director reported that area of the track is already lit, and would not require any changes to the proposed lighting. Chairman Carlson reported there is no mention of track mets but you mention the other sports. Mt. McDonald reported it is not an intentional oversight, he mentioned all field sports, but again the question would be if we cannot do all of the field sports there, can we do a night track team or other running sports there. Mr. Shea reported the track mets are started with a gun going off, everyone should be aware of that.

Mrs. Hornaday questioned before we go on, she would like to say that one of the most wonderful things about this community is residents like Mr. McDonald, all taking part as ACORN, that are willing to spend your time and effort to work on something that you think is going to be a benefit to the community, and if you hear anything that seems like it is negative, she is not, but she tends to look far out. One question that she would like to ask Mr. Sundblade is how many uses are on that field right now. Mr. Sundblade reported right now we have in fall the football team play 15 home games, in the spring we have girls lacross play their home games of probably about 20 games. Mrs. Hornaday reported the reason she is asking this question is that one of the problems for the Board of Education consistently has been the maintenance of the field, because of the amount of play on it. Mrs. Hornaday reported the initial proposal is for the lights, but to continue with the same surfaces that are on there now by continuing with the grass surface. Mr. McDonald reported yes until phase 2, part of the plan shows they must be disciplined in not using it more than they do now, until the turf is installed. Mrs. Hornaday reported that is a huge maintenance cost right now, so if we are going to be talking about 20 night games, obviously that decreases the number of day games, but just to make certain that is in the equation of what is to be done. Mr. McDonald reported this has been a big point of discussion, that discipline utilization plan becomes a very important part for the integrity of the field as a lighted grass field, some games that would have been played during the day would be played at night, but not increase the usage. It could not withstand it. But if this is successful all people would be able to use it involved in sports, at the high school, and also to expand it out to youth organizations, taking that field and cutting it into thirds, where youth soccer has six teams. The soccer people have discussed it is a disadvantage that they always play on grass, whereas competitive games are usually on turf, and the turf field has unlimited use. When completed you can use the turf field for all sports, other than javelin. The use as a soccer field however will be a few yards shorter than recommended, 67 yards versus 70 yards, however still within the approved size guidelines for regulation high school soccer. Mr. Carlson questioned whether State games could be played there. Mr. McDonald reported he believes for state finals they would not choose to play on this field.

Mr. McDonald reported we have fields in town, such as Sperry Park, Fisher Meadows, Alsop, those are named after families, although those were donated lands, a sizeable donation might be a consideration for a small plaque. Just ideas, we are not sure anybody is prepared to say what is good or not, but traditional funding sources will not get there. We are going to need 6 figure donations from individuals and he is not aware of anybody who is going to make that kind, but it has happened in other communities around here, and people have suggested at our preliminary meetings that they may be able to get large personal donations.

Mr. McDonald reported the percentage of the student body playing sports has decreased significantly, at the high school participation rate has decreased from close to 70% a few years ago to just over half today with a downward trend in place currently. Chairman Carlson questioned of Mr. Sundblade why, what does your analysis tell you? Mr. Sundblade reported the number of children has increased, but we have not been able to keep up with expanding programs we have. We have not been able to flush out some of them. For example in tennis, we still have a varsity, girls softball varsity, and as the number of children grow, we have nearly 1,000 now, we are maxing out in all the sports that we have, and we are looking at some point, as part of the plan to expand. Chairman Carlson questioned how lighting and turfing this field expand the number of sports. Mr. Sundblade reported just by getting facilities that we have available to us, we just do not have the field space that we need for all of these teams. Chairman Carlson reported we still

have not heard how we are expanding the number of sports. Chairman Carlson questioned what types of teams and sports are you anticipating as a result of being able to have this turf field. Mr. Sundblade reported we would not have additional teams in those areas, and again we are maxed out on those teams because of maintenance. Again if the school were to get even bigger than it presently is, we might be at some point be an option to have even two J V teams, and again we would need the space to accommodate that.

Mr. Shea reported it could also be said, with football for example, the numbers of students participating in football is growing, it is fair to say that socially this would bring more people to the games thereby it could help increase the number of children that play football. Chairman Carlson reported if you go to the public and say that this would help to get more children playing sports, he would like to see more children playing sports. We need to be careful that we do not set an expectation that says, we have funding in place for coaches, and everything else that goes with it, because you do not. Be really careful because the expectation has to be set carefully. Mr. Sundblade reported each year we try to chip away at that by adding teams in order to give students the opportunity to participate, but budgets prevail. Mr. McDonald reported one answer to Chairman Carlson's question is another thing that can be done is to expand an inch of rope around it to expand the area. Chairman Carlson reported he understands it would make the field more available to you, but having just a field means you also have to have the coaches and the funding that goes with that.

Mrs. Hornaday questioned we were told that the field would be good for ten years, that it is a ten year project, what would be the anticipated cost of repair then at the end of the ten years. We just, through the budget process, had to do replacement on the track. Is this complete replacement or is it a repair situation. Mr. McDonald reported it is guaranteed for ten years, so anything that needs to be done in ten years costs zero, after the ten years different companies have shown different experience activity of quantifiable data, so that you cannot anticipate spending.

Mr. Shea reported he thinks the light issue is an easy thing to get over, he believes it is going to be about security, litter, noise, activity level and the violation of not only their back yard but their front yard and from the people on West Avon Road.

Mr. Sundblade reported he will take responsibility obviously, the buck stops with him for the athletic events. We have done portable lights for five or six years now and it never dawned on him that there were problems because he never heard anything, and it is probably his fault that he did not reach out to the neighbors and ask them. Regardless of whether this progress goes forward, he has to think that the Booster Club is going to want to continue to fund our "fall sports center". Going forward in October he is going to have added security, there is going to be somebody parked at Sudbury Way to make sure that there is no entrance over there other than the residents there, we are going to police the area the next day, these are the types of things that were raised at the neighborhood meeting. Again he believes we can address a good portion of this.

Mr. Shea reported it is not just Sudbury, it is Foxcroft, the people in back of the high school, as we have built out, you can now see those houses. That is now going to be hard for anyone to violate the space of some of the people in the back of the school too. He believes Mrs. Hornaday's point is a valid point, 1.2 million is an aggressive number, on the other hand it is difficult to raise 1.2 million and have somebody say no we do not want it. He too would not be in favor of naming the field, but he would say that he would think when you are talking about this kind of effort and this kind of commitment and this kind of undertaking, there is compromises to be made, and he does know how we would go about that. But it is something to talk about, if you raise enough money. He questioned whether the booster club are involved in this. Mr. McDonald reported the Booster Club is involved in this, they actually have set aside and earmarked a fair amount of funds for this project. Since the ACORN meeting there have been a couple of conversations with some individuals that may or may not be willing to give some money, but the Booster

Club is a big part of this, also they do the \$5,000 a year, and sometimes it is more and sometimes less than that, the Boosters have paid that in the past so that they would commit those funds also. And we can see that 10's of thousands might be possible through the Boosters Club.

Mr. Shea reported he is going to move along here, he would not be in favor of any track mets there for the very purpose of how the track met is conducted, he would assume you would have to use a starters gun, and he does not know whether that is going to be conducive to the good neighbor issue, but he will leave that to people that are going to really live and work through that. He is having trouble grasping that we are going to raise 1.2 million dollars, and we are only going to use this for 30 to 40 nights. Chairman Carlson reported either way it is still a lot of money. Mr. Shea reported either way we would accept the check, but is having trouble grasping, and it is critical when you talk to the neighbors, that is going to only be 30 to 40 nights a year for varsity events. Mr. McDonald reported he would pass an ordinance stating that is what it is, just those nights a year. Mr. Shea questioned whether that is with the coordination of the Athletic Department.

The Recreation Director reported there are two issues, one is the night issue, and certainly we have a sensitivity to that as we did with Sperry Park, which has worked. The artificially turfed field has another issue, which is not just the luxury of having one but to playability in all conditions, which Mr. McDonald had referred to. One of the real problems in the use area, is the playability of the field in relatively adverse conditions or shortly thereafter. Those are where the youth sport would benefit, not so much for a night game, although there could be an occasional night game when it fits into the schedule. But the usability of the facility because there is not down time, so the longer term plan should be the usability of the facility.

Mrs. Hornaday reported for whatever reason it has entered her mind, the lights and bulbs are guaranteed for 25 years, is there is an hour usage guaranteed for the 25 years. You can burn the lights all the time. The Recreation Director reported his understanding is that at the end of 25 years, they come in and replace every bulb.

Chairman Carlson questioned what the current design is on these bleachers, not a part of this. AHS Building Committee Chairman Frey reported the existing bleachers will remain, a new set is going to be placed where the existing tower is, the tower is going to be removed. We do not know what the plan for a snack bar and so forth is once that is removed, the Board of Education has approved that plan. Chairman Carlson questioned whether that could change at all with any of this. Committee Chairman Frey reported everything going on is outside of that area. Ms. Robinson reported there is net increase in seats of 208.

Mrs. Hornaday reported she does think that because it says here clearly, that the use of the fields will be under the purview of the Board of Education, is that we would have an understanding with them, in terms of the hours that we have discussed here and the rest of it. If we could avoid an ordinance, to just have an understanding with the Board of Education that it is expected, that these hours that have been suggested by this group, that it would not exceed that. Chairman Carlson reported he has a question of the Town Manager, as he read that in there, and Mr. McDonald made the suggestion of passing an ordinance, is it our purview to do so though if they have control of the field, which they do. The Town Manager reported they have operational control, but there is also the aspect of going through Planning & Zoning, and Planning & Zoning may decide that they want a put some restrictions on its use, and so forth as well, and they have the authority, regulatory wise, to do this. The Town can also write a letter to the Board of Education, you could also only accept the gift under certain conditions, and those conditions would relate to it.

Mrs. Hornaday reported she understands ACORN's enthusiasm about all of this. She comes from the land of big football, and where she went to high school had a stadium the size of Yale Bowl, it was very well lighted and had everything. It is for young people, it is kind of an exciting and a fun thing, a nice night for a date and all of that. She can see all of the things that you said in terms of the social aspects for the

young people, in addition to those who are playing the sports, and that you are wanting a nice thing for the young people of this Town, and she appreciates their enthusiasm for that even though she seems to be asking a lot of questions. Because the long term, that is what we really have to always be thinking about, was is this going to mean to us as a community, and financially obviously in the long term.

Chairman Carlson reported the next step is for us to vote now on this. The Town Manager reported what is being asked for formally is if the money is raised would you be willing to accept it, obviously if Mr. Carlson is recusing himself, you have only two members and we do not have a majority of the Town Council that can vote on it. Then perhaps we would need to go back through an explanation for the other two members who were not here. Chairman Carlson reported his suggestion would be to give the information packages to them. Mr. Shea reported he would suggest, he shares your concern that this is a big outstanding plan, and we want everybody here so that they get a good feel for what is going to happen, but we are meeting on the 23rd, and he is in favor. He would suggest that his and Mrs. Hornaday's questions may be very limited, that they return with a little more detail on what we asked about, perhaps meet with the neighbors, however ACORN would want to enhance this. But it really would only be fair to have the entire Council here, at least four members.

Mr. McDonald reported we used protocols, we went to Board of Education first, then to the Town Council, next to go to Planning & Zoning Commission with those two things done. His understanding is and there certainly would be a lot of issues on use and work, and such, he would suspect that with the Board of Education and Town Council endorsement, that Planning & Zoning Commission would be open to discussing whatever the real issues were: on why this does not work, this is what you need to do to make it work. He reported we would be glad to come in on the 23rd.

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council table this item to the April 23, 2007 meeting.

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

06/07-59 Appeal of Decision Not to Replace Mailbox Post: George McCannon III, 571 Country Club Road.

Chairman Carlson reported the appeal is no longer necessary, but we still have the issue - - do we want to raise the dollar amounts? The Town Manager reported he would recommend that it be raised, both the Director of Public Works, Bruce Williams, and he went out yesterday afternoon and met with George McCannon, and after looking at the situation, Mr. McCannon agreed that his post was rotten. He agreed the Town did not have to pay for it. But we should update the policy as it has not been updated since 1997. Chairman Carlson reported it was \$60, we should move it to \$85.

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

RESOLVED: That Town Council Policy No. 15, Mailboxes Damaged by Town Snowplows, under Section C. be revised, effective April 5, 2007, to read as follows:

“If a mailbox is struck by a Town snowplow, the Town will reimburse the owner an amount not to exceed \$65.00 for the post and an amount not to exceed \$20.00 for the box for a total of \$85.00 at the discretion of the Director of Public Works. Payment will not include cost of other than materials and will not cover the cost of decorative wood or metal post, or decorative boxes.”

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

06/07-60 Approval: Assessment Services Agreement Town of Canton

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council authorize the Town Manager to sign on behalf of the Town of Avon the Assessment Services Agreement with the Town of Canton, to provide independent contractor basic services of Avon's Assessor and limited clerical support for

personal property and motor vehicle processing to Canton, from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008, subject to earlier termination as set forth in the agreement, in consideration for services Canton shall pay \$47,280 to Avon, plus mileage reimbursement at \$0.485 per mile, postage and reasonable supply costs.

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

06/07-61 Appointment: Water Pollution Control Authority

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council appoint Michael Farrell to serve on the Water Pollution Control Authority for a term to expire December 31, 2010.

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

06/07-62 Approval for Application to State of Connecticut for \$102,083 LoCIP Grant

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council authorize the Town Manager to apply and sign, on behalf of the Town of Avon, the LoCIP Authorization/Expenditure Form, for grant funds in amount \$102,083 as reimbursement for FY2006/2007 capital expenditures, road overlay projects.

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

06/07-63 Approval: Dial-a-Ride Contract Extension

The Town Manager reported this is an extension of the contract, we have had no problems with the provider, but next year, if this is approved it will be four years, and time to go out to bid.

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council authorize on behalf of the Town of Avon a one year extension of the contract with Town and Managed Transportation Service, Inc., for dial-a-ride services for Avon residents for FY2007/2008, in amount \$ 53,178.00, as recommended by the Director of Social Services.

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

06/07-64 Approval: Social Services Agreement – Town of Canton

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council approve the renewal and authorize the Town Manager to sign on behalf of the Town of Avon, the Agreement to provide contractual Social Services to the Town of Canton for July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008, in amount \$17,138.00, a 3.5% increase, for services rendered.

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

VIII. TOWN MANAGERS REPORT/MISCELLANEOUS

Chairman Carlson reported before we begin the Town Manager report, he would like to cite Ms. Robinson on the outstanding job she did on the report on purchasing, very helpful and he actually cited it to the Board of Finance Chairman yesterday in discussion, showing what we are doing to control costs.

The Town Manager reported just a reminder on the new voting machine demonstration. That is going to be something that will be new for the whole community, that should be announced to the public, we will work on that. The machine demonstration is September 18, 2007 at the Senior Center from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Chairman Carlson reported we could put some signage up, about the new voting machine demonstration.

The Town Manager reported there is a report on the regional dial-a-ride program, we did meet with Canton on the Senior Services Coordinator. That did not work out, but he would like to have had it work

out. The expectations there, and the amount of money to fill the expectations just did not match up. To be honest Canton is doing a lot more than we are in some cases, with the senior activities.

The Town Manager reported we are going to be instituting a discretionary spending freeze, and he wanted the Town Council to know before we put that into effect. We are running over on the hydrants area and in the CRRRA/Trash hauling from the Landfill. We may not have enough money in other accounts throughout the budget to make up those deficits in those particular areas, so we are going to try to put a freeze on here next week.

The Town Manager reported we are doing some multi-town training, the memo is included in the packet. Five Avon employees will participate in the 'Foundations of Supervision in the Public Sector' at the University of Connecticut, Center for Continuing Studies, Certificate Program, along with employees from Farmington, Granby and Simsbury, on May 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd.

We did get another letter, by the Chamber this time, from the businesses on Darling Drive about that connector, he has not heard anything directly from any of the businesses since he sent that letter back to them saying that it had been delayed for a year.

The Town Manager reported we have a budget update, we have been working on the handout for the Monday night meeting, the Board of Finance Chairman came in with a number of changes, and we are working on completing them. In terms of the budget, he does not know where Mr. Harrison is going to come in at, but he is looking at something around the 3% mark, which is roughly \$1 million. The Town Manager reported he has come up with some revenues and they are looking at making some further adjustments, so that we will be able to get there.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Litigation/Negotiation - None

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

ATTEST:

Caroline B. LaMonica
Clerk