

**AVON TOWN COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
JULY 2, 2007**

The Town Council met at 7:00 p.m. to participate in the Police Department promotion ceremony of the following: Kelly Walsh and Jeffrey Gilbert promoted to Sergeant, and Alex Monico promoted to Detective.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**II. PUBLIC HEARING - None**

**III. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING: June 4, 2007**

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council approve the June 4, 2007 minutes as read.

Mrs. Hornaday, Messrs Carlson, Shea and Woodford voted in favor. Mr. Zacchio abstained, absent from meeting.

**IV. COMMUNICATION FROM AUDIENCE - None**

**V. COMMUNICATION FROM COUNCIL**

Mrs. Hornaday reported she went to the Playground for all Kids, unfortunately it rained, but there were several resident families there and spoke with other residents since, and people have really appreciated the work and effort of those that made the playground possible.

Mr. Shea reported he was pleased, and would like to thank and compliment the Town Manager on the letters that were sent to the different groups for participating in the Memorial Day Parade. It is a great practice for us to continue, they deserve some recognition and thanks.

Mr. Woodford questioned the freedom of information request, is it just the copy they pay for, it seems like a lot of work. The Town Manager reported it is all governed by the State Statutes and the only thing that we can charge for is the copies. Mrs. Hornaday reported when people want information that they have every right to, we should ask them to come and they do the work of getting it out of the books, then asking to have it copied, rather than having some of our staff take their time to do it. She reported there is a lot of material, and she does not object to providing a space here for that person to work and find it, but we talked about this before, and when there is a great deal of work that has to be done, it takes a person from their job to do this work for this person. The Town Manager reported it is continuing we received more requests from the same person today, and he did what was suggested, he informed the person that we sent everything that we have copies of in our files, and encouraged them to come in and go through the files and sit down and review things. He also made the Town Attorney available to her, and if it becomes too much of an issue, she will have to deal with the cost aspect of it. The files that the Town Attorney may have, are available to her, as well. Chairman Carlson reported there is a cost in dealing with the Town Attorney, in dealing with the cost aspect, we will still be dealing with our costs. The Town Manager reported the Town Attorney will probably not charge us anything because it is a freedom of information request, but if it develops into something with a lot of work then he will contact us, and the Town Manager will in turn contact this person to see whether it is actually something that she needs to have. She is doing an academic study and writing a book.

Mr. Woodford reported he reviewed the new State Budget, and saw that the Town loses money, the Board of Education gains money. The Town Manager reported it all comes into the Town. Mr. Woodford reported his question is the \$374,000 is really education funds, what if the Town Council said we would like to have \$200,000 of that go to a tax reduction. The Town Manager reported the Board of Education does not have priority right to that money, that money belongs to the Town of Avon, it does not have to go to the education budget unless the ECS grant money is more than half of the education budget. The Board of Finance was asking similar questions last week, and it is their intent to leave it there, and if the Board of Education has a specific request that is an emergency request of some kind, they are more than willing to entertain it, look at it and evaluate it, and work with the Town Council.

The Town Manager reported next year we have the additional operational costs of the Avon High School addition and renovation, the initial indication show it is going to be about \$425,000, on top of what they would normally get in their budget to continue the existing operation. Fortunately the State budget that we are getting just about covers that, then next spring we can add that during preparation to the budget so that it can cushion somewhat the tax impact of that new school coming on line. The subsequent year we have the revaluation, and as in the past in 1987, 1999, 2003, the Board of Finance felt to ease the adjustment because of the revaluation, that they would appropriate a substantial amount of surplus or undesignated general fund balance to help mitigate that. Thus far the real estate prices are not dropping significantly in Avon, they have actually gone up very slightly, 2% or less, over the last year or so. Our current assessed value is at about 55% of market value, instead of 70% of market value, so we are looking at about a 5% adjustment, unless things change dramatically between now and October 1<sup>st</sup> of 2008. It is that 15%, if it holds constant, that is the target to work against in terms of using surplus to help mitigate that. One of the things we were counting on was the conveyance tax extended permanently, but it was not, it was continued again for another year. But that revenue will accrue, and will add extra revenues to the positive operating balance for the year which will then lapse into surplus and help boost that surplus. We have two years to get that surplus up high enough to help take care of that 15% differential between the assessed value and where we need to be.

Mr. Carlson reported he has two items. One, he attended on behalf of the Town the dedication of the Rails-to-Trails of a water fountain donated by the Farmington Valley Trails Association, to thank the Town of Avon for the support of the trail system. It was a very nice ceremony, and they thanked the Town for supporting the rails-to-trails system, which is now a 15.9 mile continuous trail system with more to come.

Mr. Carlson reported the second event he attended, and one of the reasons it happened in Town was because of the Town Manager. Hartford Hospital is building a cancer center in Avon Park North, a 15,000 square foot cancer center, continuation of the Cancer Center at Hartford Hospital. A lot of the work that went on behind the scenes to make that happen here in town, is due to the Town Manager and his Staff. For any of us who have had a loved one go through cancer - - - making a trip into Hartford and dealing with all of the things that go into that, then coming back out here at the end of a long day or two is tough. Being able to deal with it locally is really a great service, and he thanks them on the citizens' behalf in the Town of Avon and the Farmington Valley.

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

### **06/07-04 Review and Discussion: Draft Recreation Master Plan**

The Town Manager reported the Board of Education did not make a formal resolution on the Recreation Master Plan, there is no meeting in July, it will appear on their August Agenda.

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council table this item to the August meeting.

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

**06/07-08 Supplemental Appropriation: \$156,962; Board of Education, Gary Franz**

The Town Manager reported this is the continuation of the projects that came before the Town Council last August from the Board of Education that were unplanned, and required a supplemental appropriation which the Board of Finance made of \$156,962. The School Finance Director has been working on these over the past year with due diligence, by working with insurance companies, and with complications on one project in particular.

School Finance Director Franz reported there were a total of five projects we worked on during the year, we had: a boiler repair at Avon High School that came in under plan; a domestic hot water tank at Avon Middle School that came in over original estimates; Roaring Brook Elementary School underground fuel storage tank removal - the only project not completed at this point and requires a supplemental appropriation this evening; we also had Thompson Brook School compressor replacement - that originally was anticipated to be covered under warrantee as the school is relatively new, not decided as yet; finally Thompson Brook underground storage tank drainage, the tank itself was set below grade and was fully filled, causing water problems and water seeping into the tank, we consequently had a drainage system designed for that tied into the surrounding catch basins.

The project that is still at issue is the Roaring Brook Elementary School underground fuel oil tank removal. At the time the tank was taken out, we had to have it monitored by environmental consultants, and at the time of the testing they found contaminated soils from petroleum, the distinction though could not be made whether it was from the existing tank, because what we found was some old piping in the ground perhaps from a prior project that did have some oil containing substance in it. As a result before winter we had to backfill the area, and block it off then the request was to go back in, also informing the Environmental Protection Agency, the intent was in spring or early summer so it is before you this evening, to get some additional funding to finish the project, to remove all of the contaminated soil, once removed, backfill with clean fill, then have Enviro-science Test to install ground well monitoring systems with follow-up for a period of up to 8 quarters. This is to test whether or not there is petroleum contaminated water in the area because the water tables in the surrounding areas for residents who have underground wells, they must test wells now and retest after everything is complete for a period of 4 quarters which is a total of \$40,800 for testing.

He indicated the total appropriation from the Town for all projects was \$156,962, total expenditures year to date are \$138,335.75, a favorable variance of \$18,626.25. Additionally insurance reimbursements total \$14,792.13. The Thompson Brook School compressor was completed under plan by \$18,397, and Thompson Brook School underground fuel tank drainage project was completed under plan by \$5,200. The Avon Middle School domestic hot water tank project exceeded budget estimate by \$10,800, additionally Roaring Brook fuel oil tank removal project to date has exceeded the estimate, additional insurance reimbursement is undetermined at this time, we have requested an additional appropriation of \$15,881.62 from Undesignated Fund Balance. The Avon Board of Education approved the request to be submitted to the Town Council and Board of Finance.

Mr. Carlson reported he would like to make sure that any funds not used or reimbursed by whatever source will go back into the General Fund.

**a. Request for Transfer of Funds Between Projects: \$4,970.75**

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council favorably recommends that the Board of Finance amend the FY06/07 budget by transferring from Account #02-4859-53112, Capital Projects Fund (Facil & Equip), Board of Education CIP Facilities, TBS Underground Fuel Tank Pad

Repair, in the amount of \$4,970.55 to Account #02-4859-53103, Capital Projects Fund, Board of Education CIP Facilities Fund, RBS Underground Fuel Tank Removal, for the purpose of transferring available funds from projects completed under budget to offset expenditures for projects that were completed over original budget estimates.

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

**b. Request for Transfer of Funds Between Projects: \$11,350.00**

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council favorably recommends that the Board of Finance amend the FY06/07 Budget by transferring from Account #02-4859-53100, Capital Projects Fund (Facil & Equip ), Board of Education CIP facilities, AHS Boiler #2 Leak, in the amount of \$11,350.

To Accounts:

#02-4859-53101 Cap. Proj. Fund (F&E), Board of Education CIP Facilities, AMS Hot Water Tank Replacement.	\$10,880.00
#02-4859-53103 Cap. Proj. Fund (F&E), Board of Education CIP Facilities, RBS Underground Fuel Tank Removal	\$ <u>470.00</u>
	\$ 11,350.00

for the purpose of transferring available funds from projects completed under budget to offset expenditures for projects that were completed over original budget estimates.

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

**c. Request for Use of Insurance Reimbursement Funds to Apply to Projects: \$14,792.13**

**Additional Supplemental Appropriation from Undesignated Fund Balance: \$15,881.62**

**Transfer of Appropriations: \$30,673.75**

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council favorably recommends to the Board of Finance an appropriation not exceed \$15,881.62 from General Fund, Other Financing Sources, Undesignated Fund Balance Account # 01-0390-43913, to amend the FY06/07 Budget and increase Revenue Account #01-0360-43612, General Fund, Other Local Revenues, Refunds & Reimbursements, in the amount of \$14,792.13 and transfer from General Fund, Other Financing Uses, Interfund Transfers Out Account #01-8700-58000 for a total of \$30,673.75 to Account #02-4859-53103 Capital Projects Fund (Facil & Equip), Board of Education CIP-Facilities, Underground Fuel Tank Removal and Capital Projects Fund (Facil & Equip), Other Financing Sources, Interfund Operating Transfers-In Account #02-0390-43918 in the amount of \$30,673.75 for the purpose of providing the additional funding required for the Roaring Brook Elementary School UST Project.

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

**d. Unplanned Capital Expenditures; \$18,626.25**

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council favorably recommends that the Board of Finance amend the FY06/07 budget by transferring:

From Accounts:

#02-4859-53111, Capital Projects Fund (Facil & Equip), Board of Education CIP Facilities, TBS Compressor Failure Chiller Unit, in the amount of	\$18,397.00
#02-4859-53112, Capital Projects Fund (Facil & Equip), Board of Education CIP Facilities, TBS Underground Fuel Tank Pad Repair, in the amount of	<u>229.25</u>

To Account:

#02-4859-53103, Capital Projects Fund (Facil & Equip), Board of Education CIP  
Facilities, RBS Underground Fuel Tank Removal,

in the amount of \$18,626.25

for the purpose of providing the additional funding required for the Roaring Brook  
Elementary School UST project.

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

## **VII NEW BUSINESS**

### **07/08-01 Review and Discussion: Request for Teacher Contract Presentation:**

#### **Florence Stahl**

Florence Stahl, Avon Taxpayers Association President, reported she sent an e-mail to the Town, and thanked the Town Manager for putting this issue on the agenda. She stated there are three major reasons for coming before you with regards to the Teachers Contract, (1) it has the most impact on the budget for years and years to come, (2) fiscal sustainability, we believe is a legitimate concern, (3) we will not get another chance to do this for three long years. First the impact – as you all know the school budget accounts for about 70% of the entire Avon budget, and salaries and benefits account for about 80% of the school budget. We believe that kind of impact deserves special attention, add a public hearing before being implemented. Just as our teachers merit respect for their professional abilities, taxpayers deserve respect for bearing the financial burden. All we want to do is bring the process out of the shadows and into the light. The Board of Education, the Superintendent of Schools, all the teachers and the Teachers Union, at a local, state and federal level, they all know the details of the contract once it is agreed upon. As it stands now, taxpayers are the last to know what has been agreed to, and even then have no clue as to the complete story, they are simply handed the bill. Remarkably, the law requires that the contract be submitted to the Town Council for approval. Why do I say remarkably? Because when it comes to collective bargaining in the public education sector, this is the only contract that permits Town Council review. It must have something to do with fiscal sustainability, which is the second reason. We are seeing the grand list growth diminishing as Avon matures, yet these kind of commitments, these iron clad commitments, keep escalating. Where will the money come from? Revaluation and continued home building will bring some relief, but the situation is ultimately unsustainable. People have a right to want to stay in their homes, and to retire with dignity. And finally this contract comes up for renewal every three years, now is our only chance to elevate the publics understanding of what to fund the lions share of their tax bills. We believe it is morally right and to be honest politically astute to engage tax payers in this discussion, and to provide them with details of the teachers union to the extent allowable with regard to confidentiality, to provide them with the details of the contract before Town Council action. Thank you. That is my statement.

Chairman Carlson reported as a matter of record, the Teachers Contract will probably arrive here in the late fall, after undertaking negotiations. Since Mrs. Stahl has made a number of statements, we need to make sure that we have the facts correct here. He questioned the Town Manager, do we approve the other contracts in Town, such as Police Union or other bargaining units? The Town Manager reported yes. Chairman Carlson reported so this is not the only one that we deal with. He further reported he wanted to make clear that we approve all, not just this one. Mrs. Stahl reported she meant only one from the education section. Chairman Carlson reported he just wants to other make sure that we have all the facts here. The other comment is, as he understands this, as in our contracts when we negotiate, the duration is a negotiable item, two year, three year, four year, whatever. He reported we do not know what you are going to end up with, it could be two, three or four years. Mrs. Stahl reported she did not realize that, it has always been three. Chairman Carlson reported he remembers when it was two. It will come before us in October or November. It would be his thought process at that point, when we receive the contract, he will call for a financial impact statement, that outlines what the costs are to the Town

with this contract, why the Board of Education is recommending it, and why they think it is a fair contract. He does not think that there is a great deal of benefit getting into specifics, specifics can be disclosure, he has no issue with that. As a taxpayer, my biggest concern is what is the impact to me over the next one, two, three or four years, we will want to see the Board of Education Finance Director develop what is the total financial impact. You can take your teachers population you currently have, the ages and you can project it out over the duration of the contract, and do some approximation, do not count on retirements, or you can add new staff. When you come in with the contract to us, we would want to see that.

Mr. Shea reported he thinks we should have the impact statement. This does not reflect on the great job School Finance Director Franzi does, they do a great job of trying to analyze the data, if they could just trend it – this is what has happened in the past, some sort of natural trend on attrition, recognizing that there is going to be some differences involved. That still gives the Council and all of the citizens a fair assessment as to what the financial impact could be, especially if it is going to be a four year contract. Chairman Carlson reported when the contract is filed, it is filed here in the Town Offices prior to us discussing it. The Town Manager reported that is correct, it is delivered to the Town Clerk's office, and the Town Clerk 'posts it', then it is an open document.

Mr. Woodford reported we just got this tonight, quite frankly I am not familiar with every detail of what our responsibilities are regarding the contract. Chairman Carlson reported he is referring to an e-mail from the Town Attorney, regarding the whole matter of what can be disclosed.

**07/08-02      Review and Discussion: Dick Hines, CRCOG Regional Efforts; Capital Workforce Partners, Capital Region Economic Development Council, Supported Housing**

Chairman Carlson reported many of you do not know of the meriod of meetings that Mr. Richard Hines continues to attend on behalf of the Town of Avon. There are none of us here that have given or could give that amount of time, and Dick has served this Town in many capacities for many years, and continues to serve us. Thank you very much.

Mr. Hines reported the Town Manager and he talked numerous times about activities that he does and he tries to keep the Town Manager abreast of everything and Chairman Carlson also, so they can decide what gets passed onto the Town Council. Tonight his hope is to concentrate mainly on this homeless commission that he has been on for almost a year, up to now we had not reached a point where it was appropriate to do an update, and he will also cover other items briefly that he has been doing. In 2004, the City of Hartford initiated a study on homeless, because the homeless problem is costing a lot of money for them and State taxpayers and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese. The President of Bank of America headed up the organization, Lyle Ray from CRCOG and Mary Tomolonius from Canton was a member of that Committee. They came up with a report finally in August 2006 Mayor Perez said there are other big cities in this country who have ten year plans that help the homeless and he wants to do that. Mayor Perez picked Richard Ellis who formed this committee with 18 people on it. CRCOG appointed two people, one was Melody Curry, former State Legislator now Mayor of East Hartford and himself. Last year we were told in June that we were appointed, it took two months to get it approved as many questions were asked, finally Mr. Hines received an appointment to 2014. What he did not know at the time was that if you are a member of this 18 person commission, you are also going to be on two committees, out of the seven they formed. He ended up not only being on the Commission, two committees but also a sub committee, attending 15 to 20 meetings between June to the end of 2006. Each committee came up with a report, and put them all together and have been trying to finalize it and on June of this year we had a meeting and we approved the plan. We are pushing very hard to get Mayor Perez to approve this plan and get it in place, before other Mayors are appointed who may not

approve, and we start all over again. We had 140 people working on these seven committees, and they all had knowledge on the subject.

At this point he would like to state the things that we looked at on those seven committees: services, shelter assistance transitional housing, supportive and affordable housing, education training, employment, prevention, community awareness and coordinated response. He was on two committees the supportive and affordable housing and community awareness and coordinated response, to help sell this program out in the suburbs. To give you an idea, any night in the Greater Hartford area there are 681 people who are homeless, that includes about 60 children. In Hartford during 2006, in the Hartford/East Hartford area, emergency shelters housed 4,156 people, they turned away 7,800 due to the lack of space. In the winter they bring in extra beds. The only solution he has seen over the last couple of years looking on a national basis, is supportive housing. You just cannot put people in shelters, that does not solve anything, that is just getting them off the street. These people have problems, you have to give them housing, make them responsible people, give them training to have a job, they have addictions and other things, you have to work on those, and if you do not do that you are not going to help.

In the Farmington Valley situation, he and the Town Manager just attended the meeting of the Farmington Valley Collaborative of all of the Town Managers. Pat Wallace has been doing some study and she finds out the thing that she sees most with the homeless are mentally handicapped adults whose parents are taking care of them, and when they go, what happens? None of these shelters are able to take care of that.

He stated why are these people homeless, what is the main problem? This a good study, 5.1% have chemical addictions, drugs and drinking, 29% have mental illness, 10.4 % are victims of domestic violence and about 9% are homeless through a physical disability, but poverty is the main item, and if we did not have poverty we would not have any of this, and some of these are educated people. Actually 13% of the study showed the homeless had employment but they just did not make enough, there are a lot of reasons that go into it. Right now we know that 4,156 people are in shelters now, it is not working, we need supportive housing. We have talked with people in the suburbs, and he has spoken with Social Services Director Alan Rosenberg, and gone out and talked to people. And while there are very little homeless people here, we are on the verge of having a lot more, the people who could with any kind of economy change become homeless. There are single mothers with a situation where they pay for child care, transportation, their rent and prescription drugs, they do not have any kind of health plans, so when they get through paying bills, they have little money for their food and clothing.

Mr. Hines reported he has given a presentation to and received comments from the CRCOG Policy Board meeting a few months ago. He received complete support from everybody, as chief elected officials and town managers said yes they see it getting worse. At a meeting the other day, the Burlington First Selectman found 15 people living together out in the woods down by the water, and he had no idea of this situation. We may have some of that here as well, down by the river.

To give you an idea how much it costs, the study has been conducted that shows the average homeless person who never gets help, it costs over \$40,000 a year to the taxpayers. One of the biggest expenses is when they are in the hospital a couple of times a month, and they do not pay anything, in the cities if they did supportive housing the estimated cost is with all of the services about \$16,000 a person but we would be getting the people off of welfare and they can work in this area. In the suburbs we do not want to build a big apartment house for homeless, in Hartford they have some of those, but the best program they have is selective housing, they are scattered around, that is what we want to do out here. You want to put somebody in an apartment house and give them all the support, especially if there are children involved, you do not want to have them in a big building and say this is a home. It is working in Hartford, and he believes it would work out here. There have been studies around the country that when

you get into supportive housing the reduction in emergency room visits is 58%. 85% reduction in emergency detoxification services, 50% decrease in those going to prison, the rise in employment rate is going up, all have good statistics on how we could do this. Right now 54% of all homeless resources are directed to the shelters and transitional housing, only 12% is going to supportive permanent housing.

We are not directing our funds in the right direction, and we want to make this plan to make sure it is going to happen. How much money is it going to cost? We do not know. We may want to go out and raise money through the business community. We believe in this plan, we have got to make it happen. In 1982 we were one of the first states to get into supportive housing, and we had a review the other day from a Cooperative for Supportive Housing, and they are doing it and it is working. I have been working with the Reaching Homes Organization in Hartford and they are doing it. The State of Connecticut this year has supported it, another 200 units of affordable and supportive housing. We had a meeting two years ago over reaching our goal, Governor Roell sent someone there to support it, the White House was supporting it, supportive housing was the way to go. It is the only way we are going to solve it.

At this point what we want to do is to move ahead, this plan will hopefully be approved by the City Council, and it is going to focus on people who are chronically homeless, get them off, so we can reduce the costs, streamline the access to the existing services, mainly with better communications, and concentrate on recent programs that offer measurable results which we do not have right now. We are talking about seven goals to improve services, education training employment, very important, and the Capital region is working on getting people off welfare and training and we want to do the same thing here. Work on prevention, greater community awareness, which is what he is doing tonight. Now the next steps of the commission is to implement this plan to Mayor Perez and the City Council, get them to approve, we hope this happens in the next month. Then form a planning committee with the following responsibilities: develop implementation entity, develop a govern structure, raise one year operating funds, publicize the plan, cooperate in the organization of project homeless and connect in Hartford, align the commission to the implementation plan, and the Hartford Continual Care, we do not want to duplicate services. If there are things going on that are good, we want to build on them.

Mr. Hines reported he does not know the next step but his goal tonight was to bring you up to speed on what is going on. If any of you would like to be involved in it, to replace me, I would be very happy because it is going to take quite a bit of work in the coming future. I think it is important, and I would like to see us do it. But I think we can make some improvements and we ought to be working on it, otherwise it is going to get worse and worse. The projections for the future, are worse than we have now.

Mrs. Hornaday reported it may be that it was an idea whose time had not yet come, because she does remember maybe 10 years ago, there was really a major push in our Town for the supportive housing, and on the part of some of the faith communities and other individuals and they were meetings and they could not quite get it going. But if this is something that is being projected as a need, and with the Social Services Director and the rest maybe we need to expand beyond CRCOG. Mr. Hines reported he spoke before CRCOG, one of the things that he suggested was CRCOG form four or five regional efforts, and Avon would be the Farmington Valley Collaborative, Avon, Burlington, Canton, East Granby, Granby, Simsbury, Farmington. We could form together, we are already doing our Social Services on a regional basis. There may be some towns that have a better place for some of this housing, because of bus service. He thinks it was generally agreed the way to go, that we would try to do this on a regional basis, and let CRCOG do it.

Chairman Carlson questioned his appointment to 2010, 2014, we ought to start thinking about people to the various committees, it does not necessarily have to be a member of this board. Mr. Hines reported



regarding CRCOG, the chief elected official is an automatic on the policy board or executive committee and he can be an officer. He reported he is now the alternate, in fact when he was on the board and was on the nominating committee, one of the things he did before he got off was to get Mr. Carlson appointed to the Executive Committee, that is where most of the effort goes. But to be on this homeless committee, he was appointed as a CRCOG representative, they do have people at large, but he is one of the few people from the suburbs, or is not someone actively working in there on that effort in the Greater Hartford area. Of all of the committees that he is on, the CRCOG Representative is probably the biggest one, and the person he thought that would be good to go to CRCOG would be Mr. Shea. His thinking in general on this area is good, he is young, and has experience in all areas. Mr. Hines indicated that he will stay on through 2007 or 2008 because he has made a commitment on the homeless issue.

Mr. Hines reported some of the other things that he is on in the CRCOG - - - alternate to the Policy Board, Executive Committee, and Community Development for the first time which he was asked to do because of his interest in support of affordable housing. Steven Kushner, Town Planner, attended a couple of those meetings with him, and Mr. Kushner gave a presentation on transfer rights of development, there are several planners on that committee. CRCOG founded a 501C program because we cannot get grants, because we are political, this allows us to get some grants, so we are going to work on that. Mr. Hines is a member of the Board of Directors, on the Economic Development Council, with five members from CRCOG policy boards who were appointed to that. That organization has really expanded and he has attended for CRCOG one or two meetings a month, for Metro Hartford Alliance it is every month plus planning sessions, an off site meeting in Mystic for two days with five break out sessions which he attended, with two meetings since, and he signed up for two more committee meetings on July 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>, to finalize all of this for the end of the year. CRCOG and Metro Hartford Alliance are very similar, with similar assets. Metro Hartford Alliance is making some real progress, and they will be worthwhile to join in with, they have helped us with Flexite, and will continue to. The Capital Workforce Partner is another program that used to be the chief elected official attending, they could not get quorums, so they changed the by-laws so that you could have a person elected by the Town Council, which he is a member. He attends two meetings a year with chief elected officials, the work that they are doing is really quite amazing, their budget now is around \$18,000,000, mainly federal grants, they only spend about 2.5 million to operate the program with the staff, transportation, they do a lot of work on training.

It was the consensus of the Town Council to send Mr. Hines a letter of appreciation in recognition of his going above and beyond working on behalf of the Town of Avon on the various CRCOG committees, and a copy be sent to CRCOG.

**07/08-03 Supplemental Appropriation: \$19,325, Avon High School Air Conditioning**  
**Units: Gary Franzi**

School Finance Director Franzi reported we have a request for a supplemental appropriation for an emergency repair. We had the major heat and recovery air conditioning unit of the high school gymnasium fail, early May. This system contains three major compressors, there are two separate circuits. Last year one of the major compressors was replaced by Trane and we had it covered under warranty. That same compressor failed a year later, and in the process of failing it caused the other two running to overheat, which contaminates the fluid for those two and they failed at the same time. The request this evening, because the one that is a year old is covered under warrantee and has been taken care of, the emergency request this evening is for replacement of the other two compressors, the major air conditioning unit for the Avon High School in the amount of \$19,325. The system that is there is about 11 years old. Chairman Carlson questioned whether the Board of Education has a line item in your operating budget for mechanical replacements on an annual basis, building up in essence a sinking fund for such. School Finance Director Franzi reported not a specific line item as such, we have a general maintenance account, under General Office, but last year in our capital plan that we had presented to the

Town we had laid out a complete inventory of all of the roof top units at all of the schools. In the capital plan we had requested a contingency of approximately \$27,000 over the next five years, to begin to replace some of these units that are going to be failing on some of the schools because of their ages, even though we have preventive maintenance on this equipment. We have hired a full time HVAC mechanic on our maintenance staff, which saved us several thousand dollars to date, but we still get these failures because of the age of this equipment. We did have it in our capital plan this year, but again because of all of the pending projects and priorities, we did not get that appropriated to us. Chairman Carlson reported he is speaking beyond the age fact - - - which is substantial because the plant continues to expand, refrigerators in the cafeterias, and all of the other mechanical items that you have in there. It is in some way not unlike, police vehicles, and they are not in the capital items, they are in our operating budget because we know we have to replace them every year, and if we do not replace them then we end up replacing a number of them in one year. He would say that it belongs in the operating budget, not in the capital budget where frankly it is susceptible to our ability to pull it out or the Board of Finance's ability. It should be built into your operating budget, and a sinking fund be developed to offset these things so that we do not have to deal with these special appropriations. He understands this will increase your operating budget at a time when nobody wants that, but one way or the other you pay for it. Mr. Zacchio reported he agrees this should be done.

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council favorably recommends to the Board of Finance an appropriation not to exceed \$19,325 from Account #01-0390-43913 General Fund, Other Financing Sources, Undesignated Fund Balance to Account #01-9401-52185 General Fund, Board of Education, General Service, for the purpose of replacement of the compressors for the AHS Gymnasium that are not covered under warranty.

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

**07/08-04 Acceptance of Gift: \$7,500; Avon Education Foundation Grant: Gary Franzi**

School Finance Director Franzi reported the funds will be used to create personalized fitness programs for students in grades 4-10, and give the parents and teachers the opportunity to have and review personal fitness data/scores at school or at home. Mr. Shea questioned when the new gymnasium opens, hopefully you will be able to provide physical education for the children up to 12<sup>th</sup> grade. If it does go to grade 12, would this be expanded from grade 4 to grade 12. School Finance Director Franzi reported that would be the plan. Mrs. Hornaday questioned she has observed that on occasion we get these grants and other gifts from groups and then it becomes a part of the operational budget in a couple of years. She would like to know is this a one time deal, or is it going to become, now the gift, and suddenly it is in the budget, is it like that this is going to become a part of the needed program, that happens and not just with the Board of Education. School Finance Director Franzi reported we addressed that topic any number of times, other proposals, a simple answer is that we have to watch it, wait and see if the grant program works to improve physical fitness, and if it is a viable tool, then we may put it in as an item to the budget, but that is down the road.

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council accept on behalf of the Town of Avon a gift grant in amount \$7,500 from the Avon Education Foundation to be used by the Avon Board of Education, Athletic Department, to begin to create personalized fitness programs for improvement in the overall health for students in Grades 4-10, by the purchase of a server, software staff training and a network license.

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

Mr. Woodford reported to Mr. Franzi, this is not associated with this item, but the gate to the track area is always open, and someday that track may be ruined by someone driving their car on it instead of just parking down there, it is totally unsupervised.

**07/08-05      Resignation: Inland Wetlands Commission: Conrad Nurge (R2009)**

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council accept with regret the resignation of Conrad Nurge from the Inland Wetlands Commission.

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

**07/08-06      Appointment: Inland Wetlands Commission (R2009)**

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council table this item to the next meeting.

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

**07/08-07      Authorization to Accept Police and Youth Program Grant**

On a motion made by Mr. Zacchio, 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 Police and Youth Program Grant paperwork from the State of Connecticut, Office of Policy and Management in the amount of \$7,523, as presented.

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

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

The Town Manager reported we have not received notification yet of your NIMS training program which needs to be completed. The Town Manager reported he will resend it, for those who do not complete it by a specific date we can set up a training session. Ms. Robinson reported it takes about 2 hours or so if you really sit there. Mr. Shea suggested we do it some night or on a Saturday. Mr. Carlson reported he would like to do it on his computer.

The Town Manager reported we have a number of capital projects, Ms. Robinson will give us an update on those, the High School, Deercliff and Buildings 5 and 6. Ms. Robinson reported the movers came right after school let out, followed by a swarm of contractors, they have a lot of work to get done before school starts in the fall, so that we can use the gym, followed by the cafeteria around Thanksgiving, so they are really on a rush to do that. They are relocating the field hockey field fencing and we will be able to save the trees. They are continuing to look at the pitch of the field to make sure that is resolved. We are not sure the sidewalk will be done following the road work which is supposed to happen by the State, resurfacing 167, the State has not given us a date when they are going to do that and our work needs to follow theirs. We are pressing on this because we want the new paving if it is going to done, to be done before school starts, and not severely impact the traffic problem. Mr. Shea reported he asked about the trees and the pitch of the field, therefore he is thankful to hear about the trees, and for the pitch being addressed.

Ms. Robinson reported Deercliff started last week, with delivery of materials and getting signs in place, and she has not gotten as many calls about the project, as she anticipated. They are taking down some trees today and tomorrow, and the blasting will start after that, but we are closing the road during the day. Mr. Shea reported one of the neighbors called him to say that the tree work that was done today – they did an outstanding job. They were surprised that the Town could do as good if not better than an outside service. Mr. Woodford questioned what happened with the pond up there. The Town Manager reported the pond is owned by Arnold Chase, and he is looking at mucking it out, and build a boat house and some other accessory structures on it. The pond was lowered through the dam, he is also looking at repairing, replacing and doing work on the dam. They did that to take the water out so that they could

do borings so that they could determine what the base of the pond was. It was his understanding it would be empty for two to three weeks, then they would go ahead and refill it, Buck and Buck is the engineering firm doing the borings. It has been probably three weeks now, he would expect unless there some other significant issues that they will be raising the dam again and we will start to see water back in the pond.

Ms. Robinson reported on the building 5/6 project, we executed the contract with Enterprise today. The Town Manager reported we are encouraging cleaning out and everything as part of the process. Ms. Robinson reported that is moving ahead, and hopefully it will all go well. We are working to relocate all meetings of the elected boards and commissions. We plan for the Town Council meetings to be primarily at the Library, except for the three months when the Library has already scheduled their rooms. The August, September and December meetings will be at the Senior Center. We have a schedule planned for all of the others and are working to get a press release out, e-mails also to get the word out to as many people as possible. Chairman Carlson reported he would suggest to the Town Manager that we use the Board of Education distribution list, for distributing that notice, this would be good for all of the Town's people to know where these meetings are. Ms. Robinson reported the signage will direct people to the new areas, the construction will start on July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Mr. Woodford questioned the status on the car wash proposed on Route 44. The Town Manager reported he called and basically they anticipated that they would be starting work on it within the next 30 to 45 days, that was two to three weeks ago. He would expect this summer that we are going to get some action on it. Mr. Woodford noted they mowed the lawn.

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

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council go into Executive Session at 9:05 p.m., to discuss land negotiations.

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

Present: Town Manager, Assistant to the Town Manager and Town Council Clerk.

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council come out of Executive Session at 9:10 p.m.

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

#### **X. ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

**Attest:**

**Caroline B. LaMonica**  
Clerk