

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Avon was held in the Whitney Room of Village Hall, 74 Genesee Street, Avon, New York, on February 6, 2023.

Present: Thomas Freeman, Mayor  
 William Zhe, Trustee  
 Tim Batzel, Trustee  
 Amanda Hoffmann, Trustee  
 Patrick McCormick, Trustee

Staff: Ken Farrell, Supt. of Public Works  
 Paul Drozdziel, Planning Board Chairperson  
 Kelley Tonra, Planning Board  
 John Gibson, Planning Board  
 Marilyn Borkhuis, Planning Board

Visitors: Maureen Wheeler, Deputy Director-LivCo Economic Dev.  
 David Hoffmann, River Street  
 Edward Forsythe, Sackett Road

Mayor Freeman called the meeting to order at 5:30pm and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**LIVINGSTON COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT- Maureen Wheeler**

Ms. Wheeler attended the meeting to give an update to the Board on Grow LivCo, Visit LivCo plan and goals, and the Wayfinding Plan and Design Guidelines.

The Downtown Partnership is a community revitalization program that has been successful in creating and expanding businesses and renovating historical properties throughout the Villages of Livingston County. The Village of Avon contributes to this partnership annually which allows the Village access to a coordinator that works with the community leadership and businesses, incentives encouraging renovations and new business concepts, assistance with capturing grant funding along with the administration of those funds, and many training opportunities. Over the last 10 years, the Village has contributed \$39,500 (approximately \$4000 per year) in the partnership and has received an influx of over \$1.8 million in grant funding and an additional \$1.8 million in private investing for the Village. Ms. Wheeler then asked the Board’s consideration to increase the annual contribution to \$5000.00.

Upon a motion made by Trustee Zhe and seconded by Trustee Hoffmann, the Board agreed to increase the annual contribution to \$5000.00. The motion was carried by the following vote:

Thomas Freeman, Mayor	Voting	Yes
William Zhe, Trustee	Voting	Yes
Tim Batzel, Trustee	Voting	Yes
Amanda Hoffmann, Trustee	Voting	Yes
Patrick McCormick, Trustee	Voting	Yes

Ms. Wheeler continued the discussion by touching base on other departments housed under the Economic Development umbrella including the Industrial Development Agency, Local Development Corp, and Livingston County Tourism/Visit LivCo. She discussed the design guidelines that have been updated into a single comprehensive format to ensure a high-quality downtown image, and the Wayfinding Master Plan which visually connects the downtowns and destinations with signage that is uniform through each Village and improves navigation in the county. A cost estimate and phasing plan was shown that included a breakdown of estimates for sign types should the Village choose to take that route.

Ms. Wheeler also discussed the Dream-O-Vate Competition, which offers a business start up package to new business owners and help find a mix of businesses to help increase residential traffic, along with tourism, in our Villages.

Ms. Wheeler stated that some of the programs have extended outside of the downtown districts as well.

The Board thanked Ms. Wheeler for the updates, the literature, and the presentation. Another time will be set to continue discussion with the design guidelines and the Wayfinding plan.

**ST. PATRICK’S DAY PARADE- DAVID HOFFMANN:**

Mr. Hoffmann, a resident on River Street, attended the meeting in order to discuss with the Board the desire to have a St. Patrick’s Day Parade in the Village of Avon. This event was previously an event sponsored by Lifting Up Livingston, an organization dedicated to helping families affected by cancer. The group has taken a step back and there has been no parade since the cancellation of the parade that was supposed to be held in the Village before Covid-19 shut everything down in 2020. Mr. Hoffmann would like to ask permission to have a parade under the umbrella of the Avon Holiday Spectacular on March 18<sup>th</sup> 2023. The parade would hopefully become an annual event and encourage the “Spectacular” to encompass more holiday celebrations in the Village.

The Board was thrilled with this idea and unanimously voted to support the St. Patrick’s Day Parade in the Village on March 18<sup>th</sup>. It was also stated that he will need to speak to the police chief in order to make sure there will be coverage for the day, and the fire chief for use of the fire house if necessary.

**VOUCHERS and MANUAL CHECKS:**

Upon a motion made by Trustee Zhe, the vouchers and manual checks/electronic payments were approved for payment from the following funds:

#1-GENERAL FUND	\$16483.23
#4-SCHEDULE C	\$10546.32
#5-WATER	\$4235.26
#6-SEWER	\$14668.19
#TA00-TRUST & AGENCY	\$6396.52

#CD99- HUD GRANT	\$20000.00
TOTAL	\$72329.52

Electronic payments:

FED/NYS Taxes	p/r#23-02	\$13945.74
Nationwide Retirement	p/r#23-02	\$3201.50
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$17147.24</b>

The motion was seconded by Trustee McCormick and carried by the following vote:

Thomas Freeman, Mayor	Voting	Yes
William Zhe, Trustee	Voting	Yes
Tim Batzel, Trustee	Voting	Yes
Amanda Hoffmann, Trustee	Voting	Yes
Patrick McCormick, Trustee	Voting	Yes

**MRB UPDATE:**

Bill Davis of MRB was unable to attend but provided the following update to the Board electronically:

- Pebble Beach Pump Station- waiting on the pump station delivery.
- WWTP Disinfection- project went to DEC on January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Violation response letter sent to DEC. There has been no response as yet.
- New power pole for UV system, energizing of electrical service on hold until needed.
- Final budget and financing documents went back to EFC for closing of EFC loan.
- Received final copy of LeFeber easement for Valve Vault project.
- Valve Vault project was submitted to DOH. However, Supt. Farrell, Lead Water Operator Vanderbilt, and Corey Hurley of MRB, met with changes to the drawings so they will need to be updated and re-sent to DOH for review.
- Joint water tank study kick-off meeting scheduled for February 10<sup>th</sup> with the Village and Town.
- Has the hard copy map for the Pocket Park. Will look at the new driveway and turning radius. Will reach out to Kevin for the CADD file.

**DPW UPDATE:**

Supt. Farrell provided the following update to the Board:

**DPW Activity- Past Weeks:**

- Worked on the gazebo at the Driving Park. Moved off of concrete pad. Broke apart and put in a pipe for the water. Will continue cleaning it up in the next weeks.
- Fixed storm sewer behind Tops Plaza. Company installing drainage and hit 24” pipe. (Stake out was not done)
- Plowed snow and cleaned up the snow piles.
- Put millings down on the back road at Five Lot development.
- Restocked corn for deer harvest.
- Working on bleachers at the downs, removing sections to make bleachers the same height.
- Worked on equipment maintenance.

**WWTP:**

- Siewart Equipment installed a new lift pump (#1 pump). This is the last one to be replaced- all three pumps have been replaced.
- Reviewed UV plans with Lead Sewer Plant Operator Nick Kubinski and Operator Sam Rugg.

**Water:**

- Reviewed plans for Reservoir Road project with MRB.
- Read water meters and sent out the billing to residents for payment.

**Streetlights:**

- Centrica waiting on adapters for decorative poles.
- Met with Steve and Mike from Centrica about the pole in the back parking lot (Genesee Street). We found a spot to place it. It will be away from the Town of Avon's geothermal system.

**Next Two Weeks:**

- Continue working on gazebo at the Driving Park.
- Terry Tree to be here the week of the 13<sup>th</sup> for annual tree cleanup.

**TREASURER UPDATE:**

Treasurer Quinlan was unable to attend but provided the following update to the Board electronically:

***Ongoing***

- 2017 GVBA grant...contacted NYS certified MWBE electric vendor who is retired so Ken met with local electrical contractors w/quotes to be returned the week of 2/6...response back to Ken from one of the three NYS certified MWBE paving companies. Preparing MWBE paperwork for NYS review and approval.
- 2018 GVBA grant...working on grant paperwork for portable restrooms and paving including MWBE waiver for submission to NYS Ag for approval.
- 2019 GVBA grant ideas w/pricing discussed with GVBA at their 10/12 meeting. GVBA Board agreed to proceed with grant but not particular projects yet.
- The Board needs to determine additional use(s) of the ARPA funds.
- Awaiting response from National Grid re: leaning poles and streetlight bill charges.
- Continued review of IT policies w/Shawn Petti, Hurricane Technologies. Future Board approval.
- Response from NYS Retirement on 12/30/22 re: non-reported employee. Heather working on reporting salary & contributions as our former employee does want to retire from NYS.
- Working on budget timeline and budgets.

***New***

- 1099-NEC forms mailed on 1/30.
- Final budget & financing documents for disinfection project to NYS EFC on 1/30.
- NYS HTFC pocket park reimbursement for \$80K received on 1/17. Library portion of \$20K reimbursement in 2/6 vouchers for Board approval.
- NYS DEC tree grant reimbursement for \$50K received on 1/31.
- Filed FEMA AFG Covid final grant reports on 1/31.

- Filed for reimbursement on 2/2 from Liv Co DSS for juvenile detention transports.
- Meeting with Lindsay Yoder, Bero Architecture, on 2/20 at 5:30 p.m. @ Five Arch Bridge.
- Jake following up with Wendy Sisson, Esq., on GVBA/Village agreement.
- Fence at Pocket Park to be installed in early March.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE:**

Clerk Randall provided the Letters of Intent given by the potential candidates for the Fire Department Election, which will be held Thursday April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Letters received were as follows:

1. Fire Chief- David Piampiano
2. Assistant Fire Chief- Dan Snyder
3. Second Assistant Fire Chief- Brian Strozewski

Upon a motion made by Trustee Hoffmann and seconded by Trustee Zhe, the Board accepted the Letters of Intent as submitted. The motion was carried by the following vote:

Thomas Freeman, Mayor	Voting	Yes
William Zhe, Trustee	Voting	Yes
Tim Batzel, Trustee	Voting	Yes
Amanda Hoffmann, Trustee	Voting	Yes
Patrick McCormick, Trustee	Voting	Yes

**CLERK UPDATE:**

The following items are updates from Clerk Randall:

- Deer Committee- Week 4- 5 of 6 sites were harvesting. Sites spent 19 hours harvesting during 6 sits. 1 deer was taken. 2 shots were taken, and all bolts/arrows were recovered. 23 deer were observed over the three days (average of 8 per day). Deer was kept by participant.  
Week 5- 5 of 6 sites were harvesting. Sites spent 19.75 hours harvesting during 7 sits. 4 deer were taken. 5 shots were taken, and all bolts/arrows were recovered. 42 deer were observed over the 4 days (average of 11 per day). Two of the 4 deer were donated. 1 deer was not recovered and was consumed by coyotes.  
To Date: 12 deer have been harvested, 15 shots have been taken (2 misses, 1 non-lethal hit) for an 80% success rate of shots taken. 160 deer observed over the 15 dates for an average of 11 deer per date (83 hours of participation.) Of the 19 participants, 8 have successfully harvested a deer. 2 participants have harvested multiple deer. Reports have been provided by Scott Gage.
- Provided- yearend report from the Fire Department for review. For questions, please contact Chief Strozewski.
- Provided- Minutes from the Livingston County Traffic Safety Board from the November 2022 meeting.
- Provided- Avon Chamber minutes.
- Provided- Livingston County Planning Board agenda- Thursday February 9<sup>th</sup> at 7pm
- Officer Ferrara has been working about half of the hours at the school for the second SRO contracted position.

- **Important Dates:**

- Town Board will be using Conf. Room B/Whitney Room for their Board meetings starting Thursday February 9<sup>th</sup>, and continue through Thursday April 27<sup>th</sup>.

**MINUTES:**

Upon a motion made by Trustee Hoffmann and seconded by Trustee McCormick, the minutes from the January 9<sup>th</sup> 2023, meeting were approved as submitted. The motion was carried by the following vote:

Thomas Freeman, Mayor	Voting	Yes
William Zhe, Trustee	Voting	Abstain
Tim Batzel, Trustee	Voting	Abstain
Amanda Hoffmann, Trustee	Voting	Yes
Patrick McCormick, Trustee	Voting	Yes

Upon a motion made by Trustee Batzel and seconded by Trustee Hoffmann, the minutes from the January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 meeting were approved as submitted. The motion was carried by the following vote:

Thomas Freeman, Mayor	Voting	Abstain
William Zhe, Trustee	Voting	Yes
Tim Batzel, Trustee	Voting	Yes
Amanda Hoffmann, Trustee	Voting	Yes
Patrick McCormick, Trustee	Voting	Yes

**PUBLIC HEARING- INCOME EXEMPTIONS LIMITS LL#1 & #2 of 2023**

Upon a motion made by Trustee McCormick and seconded by Trustee Hoffmann, the Board opened the public hearing at 7pm. The motion was carried by the following vote:

Thomas Freeman, Mayor	Voting	Yes
William Zhe, Trustee	Voting	Yes
Tim Batzel, Trustee	Voting	Yes
Amanda Hoffmann, Trustee	Voting	Yes
Patrick McCormick, Trustee	Voting	Yes

Trustee Zhe read the following notice, published in the Livingston County News as required:

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that a public hearing will be held before the Board of Trustees of the Village of Avon on Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 7pm at the Village Hall, 74 Genesee Street, Avon, New York on the following matter:

A local law providing partial exemptions from real property taxes to certain eligible senior citizens, and a local law providing partial exemptions from real property taxes to persons with disabilities who have limited incomes, both to remain in line with the Exemption Limits approved by the Livingston County Board of Supervisors.

Proposed Local Law Nos. 1 and 2 of 2023 will be available for review at the Village Hall located at 74 Genesee Street, Avon, NY, from 8:00 am to 4pm, Monday through Friday. The Board of Trustees will, at the aforesaid time and place hear all persons in support of this local law or objection thereto. Persons may appear in person or by agent or attorney.

Dated: January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023

By Order of the Board of Trustees  
of the Village of Avon  
Heather Randall, Village Clerk

The Board opened the discussion to the public and reviewed the following proposed local laws:

**Village Of Avon  
Local Law #1 of 2023**

**A LOCAL LAW PROVIDING A PARTIAL EXEMPTION  
FROM REAL PROPERTY TAXES TO CERTAIN ELIGIBLE SENIOR CITIZENS**

Be it enacted by the Village of Avon Board of Trustees of the Village of Avon as follows:

**Section 1.** The intent of this Local Law is to adopt a real property tax exemption for certain qualifying senior citizens in accordance with New York State Real Property Tax Law §467.

**Section 2.** Real property owned by one or more persons, each of whom is sixty-five (65) years of age or over, or real property owned by husband and wife or siblings, one of whom is sixty-five years of age or over, and used as the legal residence of such person(s), shall be exempt from taxation up to a maximum of 50% of the assessed valuation provided the owner(s) meet the qualifications set forth in section 3 below.

The partial exemption to be granted hereunder shall be determined by the income of the owner or the combined income of the owners of the property for the income tax year immediately preceding the date of making application. Any such income may not be offset by medical and prescription drug expenses actually paid by owner(s) which were not reimbursed or paid for by insurance.

**Section 3.** To be eligible for the exemption authorized by Real Property Tax Law §467 and implemented by this Local Law, the maximum income of such owner(s) shall not exceed \$28,000.00. Any such person(s) having a higher income shall be eligible for an exemption in accordance with the following schedule:

<u>ANNUAL INCOME</u>	<u>RESIDENTIAL EXEMPTION</u>
\$0.00 - \$28,000.00	50%
\$28,000.01 - \$28,999.99	45%
\$29,000.00 - \$29,999.99	40%
\$30,000.00 - \$30,999.99	35%
\$31,000.00 - \$31,899.99	30%

\$31,900.00 - \$32,799.99	25%
\$32,800.00 - \$33,699.99	20%
\$33,700.00 - \$34,599.99	15%
\$34,600.00 - \$35,499.99	10%
\$35,500.00 - \$36,399.99	5%

**Section 4.** This Local Law supersedes all resolutions and Local Laws previously adopted by the Village of Avon Board of Trustees to implement a partial real property tax exemption for certain eligible sixty-five (65) years of age or older.

**Section 5.** This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon its filing in the Office of the Secretary of State.

**Village of Avon  
Local Law #2 of 2023**

**A LOCAL LAW PROVIDING A PARTIAL EXEMPTION FROM REAL PROPERTY TAXES TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES WHO HAVE LIMITED INCOME**

Be it enacted by the Village Board of Trustees of the Village of Avon as follows:

**Section 1.** The intent of this Local Law is to adopt a real property tax exemption for persons with disabilities who have a limited income in accordance with New York State Real Property Tax Law §459-c.

**Section 2.** Real property owned by a person with disabilities whose income is limited by reason of such disabilities, and used as the legal residence of such person, shall be exempt from taxation up to a maximum of 50% of the assessed valuation provided the owner meets the qualifications set forth in Section 3 below.

The partial exemption to be granted hereunder shall be determined by the income of the owner for the income tax year immediately preceding the date of making application. Any such income may not be offset by medical and prescription drug expenses actually paid by owner which were not reimbursed or paid for by insurance.

**Section 3.** To be eligible for the exemption authorized by Real Property Tax Law §459-c and implemented by this Local Law, the maximum income of such person shall not exceed \$28,000.00. Any such person having a higher income shall be eligible for an exemption in accordance with the following schedule

<u>ANNUAL INCOME</u>	<u>RESIDENTIAL EXEMPTION</u>
\$0.00 - \$28,000.00	50%
\$28,000.01 - \$28,999.99	45%
\$29,000.00 - \$29,999.99	40%
\$30,000.00 - \$30,999.99	35%
\$31,000.00 - \$31,899.99	30%



\$31,900.00 - \$32,799.99	25%
\$32,800.00 - \$33,699.99	20%
\$33,700.00 - \$34,599.99	15%
\$34,600.00 - \$35,499.99	10%
\$35,500.00 - \$36,399.99	5%

**Section 4.** This Local Law supersedes all resolutions and Local Laws previously adopted by the Village of Avon Board of Trustees to implement a partial real property tax exemption for certain eligible persons with disabilities.

**Section 5.** This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon its filing in the Office of the Secretary of State.

There was no public comment.

Upon a motion made by Trustee Zhe and seconded by Trustee McCormick, the Board closed the public hearing at 7:30pm. The motion was carried by the following vote:

Thomas Freeman, Mayor	Voting	Yes
William Zhe, Trustee	Voting	Yes
Tim Batzel, Trustee	Voting	Yes
Amanda Hoffmann, Trustee	Voting	Yes
Patrick McCormick, Trustee	Voting	Yes

Upon a motion made by Trustee Zhe and seconded by Trustee Hoffmann, the Board adopted Local Law Nos. 1 and 2 of 2023 as presented. The motion was carried by the following vote:

Thomas Freeman, Mayor	Voting	Yes
William Zhe, Trustee	Voting	Yes
Tim Batzel, Trustee	Voting	Yes
Amanda Hoffmann, Trustee	Voting	Yes
Patrick McCormick, Trustee	Voting	Yes

**TRUSTEE UPDATE:**

🚩 Mayor Freeman discussed the information he has received in regard to continuing to move forward with new horse events for the Driving Park. He has been in contact with Patty Bruno for requirements and recommendations to continue to move forward with the NY Sire Stakes racing event to be held on July 9<sup>th</sup>. The track survey has been done and sent to the Trotting Association. A committee has been formed to handle a bulk of the work which includes Sandy Stoddard, Maureen Kingston, and Bonnie Davis. Ideas were discussed for concessions and other activities- maybe a band or a food truck? The Mayor then asked for the Board’s consideration in creating a budget in the amount of \$5000 for required track improvements and race needs. There will be opportunity for reimbursement repairs and admin fees through NYS.

Upon a motion made by Trustee Hoffmann and seconded by Trustee Batzel, the Board agreed to create a budget in the amount of \$5000.00 for track improvements and race needs. The motion was carried by the following vote:

Thomas Freeman, Mayor	Voting	Yes
William Zhe, Trustee	Voting	Yes
Tim Batzel, Trustee	Voting	Yes
Amanda Hoffmann, Trustee	Voting	Yes
Patrick McCormick, Trustee	Voting	Yes

Patty Bruno will be calling to discuss requirements, deadlines, and more details in the next few days.

- ✚ The Board rescheduled interviews for a buildings department employee. The new date will be February 22<sup>nd</sup> beginning at 6pm. Clerk Randall will reach out to the candidates to set up the new times.
- ✚ Mayor Freeman and Trustee Zhe will be attending a Mayor’s Forum on February 8<sup>th</sup> in Geneseo with guest speaker Jason Molino.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Upon a motion made by Trustee McCormick and seconded by Trustee Zhe, the Board adjourned at 7:35pm. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Heather Randall  
Village Clerk