

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Avon was held in Conference Room B of Village Hall, 74 Genesee Street, Avon, New York, on March 25, 2024.

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

Staff: Ken Farrell, DPW Supt.
 David Piampiano, Fire Chief
 Bob Alexander, Code Enforcement Officer
 Christine Quinlan, Treasurer
 Rob Hayes, Mayor-Elect

Visitors: News Channel 8
 13 Wham News
 ATTACHED

Mayor Freeman called the meeting to order at 6:00pm and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Freeman welcomed the public, along with newly elected officials to the Board: Mayor-elect Robert C. Hayes, and incoming Trustee Thomas Cushing.

At the start of the meeting, Deputy Mayor William Zhe read the following statement to the public:

“As most of you know, the Village Board suspended Chief Geer without pay on March 20, 2024. This suspension occurred following a presentation of evidence by the FBI on March 20. The Village was unaware of any issues until it was served with a subpoena on February 1, 2024. As this is an ongoing investigation, the Village Board is not going to comment any further on this matter tonight. The Village Board will also not be answering any questions posed regarding the investigation.”

The Board moved on with regular business.

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	\$32488.86
#4-SCHEDULE C	\$28378.66
#5-WATER	\$6765.52
#6-SEWER	\$14449.89

#TA00-TRUST & AGENCY	\$255.20
#HH44-STORMWATER PROJECTS	\$120739.10
TOTAL	\$203077.23

Electronic payments:

Fed/NYS Taxes	p/r 24-05	\$14283.74
Nationwide Retirement	p/r 24-05	\$2749.88
Fed/NYS Taxes	p/r 24-06	\$15540.23
Nationwide Retirement	p/r 24-06	\$2853.01
TOTAL:		\$35426.86

Manual Checks:

NYS Child Sup. Proc. Ctr	Child Support p/r24-05	\$356.00
NYS Child Sup. Proc. Ctr	Child Support p/r24-06	\$356.00
TOTAL:		\$712.00

The motion was seconded by Trustee Hoffmann 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

LITTLE LEAGUE PARADE- William Crandall

Mr. Crandall attended to request the opportunity to hold their annual opening day parade for the Little League. He stated that it would be held April 27th, 2024, at 10am and would follow the same route as previous years. The mayor thanked Mr. Crandall for coming and the Board unanimously agreed that the parade is an exciting start to the season for the kids. Arrangements should be finalized with the Police Department.

INCOME SURVEY- Jay Grasso, G&G Municipal Consulting

Mr. Grasso attended the meeting to discuss the income survey proposal for the Village. He explained an income survey, describing the methods by which they gather information from residents in regard to household incomes. The information provided is used to help municipalities apply for grant funding that they may not otherwise qualify for because of household incomes being incorrectly reported due to unresponsiveness from members of the community during the census. Mr. Grasso’s team go door to door, to get the appropriate information. He said that people are very communicative once they discover that it will help the Village qualify for grant funding and low interest loans. He feels that the return on the investment for the Village is huge if the Village can apply and be awarded millions of dollars in grand funding. Bill David of MRB pointed out that the Village has qualified for hardship loans in the past and it has only been recently that the data has been skewed due to the recent census.

Treasurer Quinlan reached out to MRB for a second quote, and Labella responded stating that they were not interested, and recommended G&G Municipal.

Upon a motion made by Trustee Hoffmann and seconded by Trustee McCormick, the Board accepted the income survey proposal provided by G&G Municipal Consulting in the amount of \$26990.00 plus postage. This includes data collection and a Median Household Income Report to be used for EFC/WIIA and other applications for approximately 1550 residents. This will also include an LMI report and will also include information on approximately 12-20 households outside of the Village that we service as well. 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

DPW UPDATE:

Supt. Farrell provided the following update to the Board:

DPW Activity –

1. St. Agnes Pre K classes did the annual tour at the DPW, about 30 children, plus parent visited.
2. The new John Deere tractor delivered found a leak around the oil pan, Landpro assessed the leak and will be replacing oil pan gasket this week.
3. Ran street sweeper.
4. Installed water line & hydrants at portable horse stall barn.
5. Cut trees on the Erie Attica greenway.
6. Brush picked up.
7. Filled potholes.
8. Set up & cleaned up after St. Patrick’s parade.
9. Put up additional No Parking signs on Genesee St.in Business district.
10. Took large flowerpots to Chases greenhouse to get prepared.
11. Salted a few times and plowed snow.

WWT & Plant

1. Hauled sludge.
2. Daily operation of plant
3. Completed annual flow report for DEC, signed and sent. (Boards packets)
4. Working on SPDES RFI draft, we met with Aaron Bissel from MRB to review.
5. Marked out manholes from Plant to Railroad (north trunk)
6. Request from Nick Kubinski to attend training class- NY Rural Water Training Workshop held May 20th through May 22, 2024 in the amount of \$870 which includes the conference and transportation. This train is continuing education for his license renewal.

Upon a motion made by Trustee Zhe and seconded by Trustee Hoffmann, the Board approved the conference request by Nick Kubinski. 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

Water

1. Worked on check valve for lagoon pump.
2. Stake outs.
3. Started removing some equipment out of the old pump station in preparation for tear down. Tear down to start this week.
4. Worked on water leak on Spring St. & Genesee St. both were joints leaking.

WATER WORKS COMMITTEE WATER RATE RECOMMENDATION 2024:

The following letter was presented to the Village Board for discussion and approval:

Avon Town Board
 David LeFeber, Supervisor
 23 Genesee Street
 Avon, NY 14414

Avon Village Board
 Thomas Freeman, Mayor
 74 Genesee Street
 Avon, NY 14414

Dear Supervisor LeFeber and Mayor Freeman,

At the March 13, 2024, meeting of the Avon Water Works Committee the committee recommended that a water rate of \$2.27 per 1000 gallons be adopted as the wholesale water rate to both the town and village for 2024. This rate includes the most recent projection for expenses as provided by Ken Farrell as well as projected consumption figures for the coming year. Copies of the most recent Schedule C as well as other supporting documentation were provided to those members in attendance.

The committee approved the appointment of Kevin McCormick whose term expires on April 26, 2024 (Louie Lee’s term).

Please contact us if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Kim McDowell

Kim McDowell, Recording Clerk
 Avon Water Works Committee

Upon a motion made by Trustee Batzel and seconded by Trustee McCormick, the Board voted to accept the recommendation of the Water Works Committee and keep the rate at \$2.27 per 1000 gallons as the wholesale water rate for 2024. 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

The Town Board will review at their next meeting on March 28th, 2024.

NEW HIRE APPOINTMENT- RILEY STELLA:

Upon a motion made by Trustee Hoffmann and seconded by Trustee Zhe, based on the recommendation of Supt. Farrell, the Village Board appointed Riley Stella to the open Laborer position effective April 1st, 2024, at an hourly rate of \$25.59 per union contract. He will follow the probationary time period as provided in the SEIU 200 United contract. 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

MRB UPDATE:

Bill Davis provided the following update:

- WWTP Disinfection-continues.
- Pebble Beach Pump Station- new check valves are on order. The general contractor is proceeding with the deconstruction of the old building.
- Joint Tank- meeting to be organized by Bill Davis.
- Triphammer Road update: Meeting with Town of Geneseo went well. Mr. Davis provided the Board with a proposal for conducting a technical analysis of the replacement of the Village’s existing Triphammer water main. (This line was installed in 1926.) This will include possible alternatives for the replacement of the Triphammer line. Projected cost estimates will be provided for alternatives presented. Once complete, this study will provide the framework for a future project to improve the water system in the area of Triphammer Road, which is currently serviced by a Village water transmission line. This report could then be updated and enhanced to include needed requirements for funding and used to pursue grants for projects. (see proposal attached)

Upon a motion made by Trustee Hoffmann and seconded by Trustee Batzel, the Board agreed to move forward with the proposal in the amount of \$12800.00 and authorized Deputy Mayor Zhe to execute the documents. 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

TREASURER UPDATE:

Treasurer Quinlan did not attend but provided the Board with the following update:

Ongoing

- Gathering ideas for 2019 GVBA grant. Met onsite with GVBA to discuss arena footing.
- The Board needs to determine additional use(s) of the ARPA funds.
- IT policies to be adopted at annual meeting.
- Heather working on reporting salary & contributions as our former employee does want to retire from NYS.
- Attorney Whiting responded to NYPA re: outstanding invoice. No response from NYPA.
- Organizing sign purchase for Erie-Attica. Hitch rails are completed.
- 2018 GVBA grant reimbursement request to be made after contract is executed.
- National Grid’s approval to install arms in process.

New

- Tentative budget presented to Board. Available to the public tomorrow. Budget public hearing on April 1st with budget adoption on April 15th.
- Five Arch Bridge project pre-bid meeting tomorrow at 2 p.m. onsite, with bid opening next Tues., April 2nd.
- Working on water/sewer relevies.

FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE:

Chief Piampiano provided the following update to the Board:

- Meeting 4/7 to discuss Eclipse Events with police and DPW. The department will be crewed up and ready for traffic control and any emergencies that may arise.
- Continue with drills and truck checks.
- Provided to the Board an application for a new social member of the Pumper Company- Rick Doudt- for approval.

Upon a motion made by Trustee Batzel and seconded by Trustee McCormick, the Board accepted the membership application to the Pumper Company as social member from Rick Doudt. 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 Update: Week 12: 5 sites were harvesting, sites spent 16 hours harvesting during 5 sits. 2 deer were taken, and 2 shots were taken. 1 bolt was recovered and 1 was lost in the snow. 30 deer were observed for an average of 15 per day.

- Provided- Copy of request letter from Library for the 2024-2025 Library Contribution.
- Provided- copy of the letter from the Arbor Day Foundation designating the Village as a Tree City USA for 2023- the third year in a row.
- Received a request letter from the Avon Central School district who wishes to donate the Native American Statue, currently at the football field, to the Village of Avon. Deputy Mayor Zhe stated that if accepted, the statue would be put into the driving park by the Historical Society Kiosk.

Upon a motion made by Trustee Zhe and seconded by Trustee McCormick, the Board accepted the donation of the statue for the park. 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

- Provided- email from Kelly Ivey re: Kraft celebrating their 110-year anniversary. They are planning a family celebration day on April 27th, 2024, and would like to see if the police and fire departments would like to participate.
- Provided- copy of expiring appointments for the organizational meeting on April 1st, 2024. We received an email from Marnie Baker, whose term on the Parks commission expires this year, requesting to not be reappointed.
- Provided- copy of letter regarding Community Project Funding Process for fiscal year 2025- an invitation to municipalities to organize requests for potential projects.
- Provided- info on GTSC (governor’s traffic safety committee) 2025 traffic safety grant application period.
- Fire Department voter list provided- Election to be held 4/4/2024.

Important Dates:

- **Board Meetings-** April 1, 2024- New Board- Organizational Meeting and Public Hearing for the Budget at 6:30pm. April 15, 2024- Budget adoption.
- Delinquent water/sewer letters sent to residents, due to the office by March 28, 2024 in order to avoid being relevied on their Village Taxes in June.
- Village closed on Friday 3/29/2024 for Good Friday.

MINUTES:

Upon a motion made by Trustee Hoffmann and seconded by Trustee McCormick, the minutes from the March 4th, 2024 meeting were approved as submitted. The minutes for the March 20th, 2024 were also approved 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

CODE UPDATE:

Fire Marshal Alexander provided a brief update on St. Agnes Schools and several Certificates of Compliance issued.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mayor Freeman opened the floor to public comments.

- Kitty Bressington- would like to see the new mayor establish office hours.

ADJOURNMENT:

Before the adjournment, Mayor Freeman asked if there was anyone on the Village Board that had any outstanding business. Trustee Hoffmann took a moment to express her gratitude to both Mayor Freeman and Deputy Mayor Zhe for their guidance on the Board and is looking forward to working with the new members. Mayor-elect Hayes thanked Mayor Freeman and Deputy Mayor Zhe for their many years of service including the revitalization of downtown and the continued growth and success of the Village.

Mayor Freeman took the opportunity to thank all of the Village of Avon, including the members of staff both past and present. Not a dry eye was left in the house, and the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:02pm for the final time, with the bang of his gavel and a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Heather Randall
Village Clerk