

A special 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 April 29, 2024.

Present: Robert Hayes, Mayor
Amanda Hoffmann, Deputy Mayor
Tim Batzel, Trustee
Tom Cushing, Trustee
Patrick McCormick, Trustee

Visitors: Joyce Crane
George Brown
Kitty Bressington
Tina Faugh
Tina Zaludny
Jim Harrington
Ellen Turner
Deb Spratt
Al Beach
Channel 8
Dan DeBolt

Mayor Hayes called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Hayes read the following public notice:

Please take notice a special meeting has been scheduled for Monday, April 29, 2024, at 5 p.m. It is anticipated that a motion will occur to enter executive session. The meeting will take place at 74 Genesee St., Avon, New York.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Upon a motion made by Trustee McCormick and seconded by Trustee Cushing, the Board entered executive session at 5:00 p.m. and left Conference Room B for the Whitney room, in order to discuss the medical, financial, credit, or employment history of a particular person or corporation leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal, or removal of a particular person or corporation. Attorney Dan DeBolt was asked to remain. The motion was carried by the following vote:

Robert Hayes, Mayor	Voting	Yes
Amanda Hoffmann, Deputy Mayor	Voting	Yes
Tim Batzel, Trustee	Voting	Absent
Tom Cushing, Trustee	Voting	Yes
Patrick McCormick, Trustee	Voting	Yes

Trustee Batzel entered executive session at 5:05 p.m.

Upon a motion made by Trustee Cushing and seconded by Deputy Mayor Hoffmann, the Board exited executive session at 5:20 p.m., and returned to Conference Room B. The motion was carried by the following vote:

Robert Hayes, Mayor	Voting	Yes
Amanda Hoffmann, Deputy Mayor	Voting	Yes
Tim Batzel, Trustee	Voting	Yes
Tom Cushing, Trustee	Voting	Yes
Patrick McCormick, Trustee	Voting	Yes

Upon motion made by Trustee Cushing and seconded by Trustee McCormick, the Board opened the public session at 5:20 p.m. The motion was carried by the following vote:

Robert Hayes, Mayor	Voting	Yes
Amanda Hoffmann, Deputy Mayor	Voting	Yes
Tim Batzel, Trustee	Voting	Yes
Tom Cushing, Trustee	Voting	Yes
Patrick McCormick, Trustee	Voting	Yes

Upon a motion made by Deputy Mayor Hoffmann and seconded by Trustee Cushing, the Board voted to approve the resignation of Joseph Geer and authorize Mayor Hayes to execute the separation agreement. The motion was carried by the following vote:

Robert Hayes, Mayor	Voting	Yes
Amanda Hoffmann, Deputy Mayor	Voting	Yes
Tim Batzel, Trustee	Voting	Yes
Tom Cushing, Trustee	Voting	Yes
Patrick McCormick, Trustee	Voting	Yes

Mayor Hayes read the following statement:

Chief Geer has tendered his resignation, and the Village has accepted that resignation, which will become effective May 2nd. The Village will be reviewing potential candidates to fill the position, and in the meantime the Police Department will continue to be led by Officer Timothy Ferrara.

In order to avoid the need for litigation, the Village and Chief Geer have also agreed upon the amount Chief Geer will be paid for his accrued leave time, ensuring that the Village will not incur the costs and legal fees associated with potential litigation over the issue. Based upon the advice of counsel, the Village believes this agreement to be in the best interests of the Village and its residents.

With respect to speculation or questions about the reason for Chief Geer’s initial suspension, in order to preserve the integrity of pending investigations, the Village has been advised not to comment at this time. We fully understand the interest by the public and recognize the public’s right to know about the actions taken by the Village

government and the reasons for those actions. The Village appreciates the public's patience. However, the Village also must take care to ensure that a full and fair investigation has been done, to be certain that the facts reported are true, accurate, and as complete as possible. Additional information will be provided when any and all relevant investigations have been completed. I do not currently have a timeline for such investigations, but the Village will continue to act as expeditiously as possible.

Mayor Hayes opened the public comment period. Several visitors expressed concerns about staffing, the importance of the SRO positions, the impact on the budget, details of the investigation and when it will be completed. Mayor Hayes provided brief replies, noting there is an ongoing investigation, and on the advice of counsel must be limited to comments.

ADJOURNMENT:

Upon a motion made by Trustee Batzel and seconded by Trustee McCormick, the Board adjourned at 5:31 p.m. by a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Quinlan
Treasurer