

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Avon was held in Conference Room B of the Village Hall, 74 Genesee Street, Avon, New York, on June 17, 2024.

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

Staff: Ken Farrell, DPW Supt.
David Piampiano, Fire Chief
Bob Alexander, Code Enforcement Officer
Christine Quinlan, Treasurer
Tim Ferrara, Officer in Charge
Jake Whiting, Village Attorney
Bill Davis, MRB

Visitors: Dan Cochrane- Ahrens Fox Committee
Richard Neth- Ahrens Fox Committee
Bruce Jones- Western NY Carriage Association
Mike Miron, resident
George Brown, resident
Jim Harrington, resident
Steve Praino, resident
Allison Hayes, resident
Sam Rugg, resident
Ellen Turner, resident
Bill Zhe, resident
Chuck Morgan, resident

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

PUBLIC HEARING- Local Law 1 of 2024- Spring St. speed change

Mayor Hayes welcomed all in attendance and began by asking for a motion to open the public hearing for Local Law #1 of 2024.

Upon a motion made by Deputy Mayor Hoffmann and seconded by Trustee McCormick, the Village Board opened the public hearing at 6pm as scheduled. The motion was carried by the following vote:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------|---------|
| Robert C Hayes, Mayor | Voting | No Vote |
| Amanda Hoffmann, Dep. Mayor | Voting | Yes |
| Tim Batzel, Trustee | Voting | Yes |
| Tom Cushing, Trustee | Voting | Yes |
| Patrick McCormick, Trustee | Voting | Yes |

Mayor Hayes read the following notice as it appeared in the Livingston County News:

Notice of Public Hearing

Please take notice that a public hearing will be held before the Village of Avon Board of Trustees on Monday June 17, 2024, at 6pm at the Village Hall, 74 Genesee Street, Avon, New York on the following matters:

A local law providing the following shall be added as (4) in Village Code § 60-6(A):

(4) The portion of Spring Street situated west of the intersection of Spring Street and Linden/River Streets (i.e. the Avon Driving Park).

The following shall be added as D in Village Code § 60-6:

D. Fifteen (15) miles per hour is hereby established as the maximum speed limit at which vehicles may proceed on or along highways as follows:

The portion of Spring Street situated west of the intersection of Spring Street and Linden/River Streets (i.e. the Avon Driving Park).

The proposed local law is available for review at the Village Hall located at 74 Genesee Street, Avon, New York, from 8:00a.m to 4:00p.m., 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: May 20th 2024.

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

Discussion was limited to findings provided by Supt. Farrell and the Mayor, who reported that under Vehicle Traffic Law section 1643, the minimum speed limit allowed in the Village is 25mph. There are exceptions to this, however, the entrance into the park is not one of them. This was confirmed by Attorney Whitting. That being said, the change to the speed limit would not be to 15mph but to 25mph if the Board chooses to move forward with the change.

There were no public comments in regard to the public hearing.

Upon a motion made by Trustee McCormick and seconded by Trustee Cushing, the Board closed the public hearing at 8:03pm. The motion was carried by the following vote:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------|---------|
| Robert C Hayes, Mayor | Voting | No Vote |
| Amanda Hoffmann, Dep. 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 adopted Local Law #1 of 2024 as follows:

LOCAL LAW #1 OF 2024

The following shall be added as (4) in Village Code § 60-6(A):

(4) The portion of Spring Street situated west of the intersection of Spring Street and Linden/River Streets (i.e. the Avon Driving Park).

The following shall be added as D. in Village Code § 60-6:

D. Twenty-five miles per hour is hereby established as the maximum speed limit at which vehicles may proceed on or along highways as follows:

The portion of Spring Street situated west of the intersection of Spring Street and Linden/River Streets (i.e. the Avon Driving Park).

The motion was carried by the following vote:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------|---------|
| Robert C Hayes, Mayor | Voting | No Vote |
| Amanda Hoffmann, Dep. Mayor | Voting | Yes |
| Tim Batzel, Trustee | Voting | Yes |
| Tom Cushing, Trustee | Voting | Yes |
| Patrick McCormick, Trustee | Voting | Yes |

Ahrens Fox Update, Dan Cochrane and Richard Neth:

Mr. Cochrane and Mr. Neth reviewed the back story of the Ahrens Fox Pumper, which was purchased in 1926. A committee was formed and has worked for over a year to “bring back the Fox”, which was in service in the Village from 1926 until 1959, after which it was decommissioned and sold, first to the Van Allen Scrap Yard and finally to the Canadian Automotive Museum in Oshawa, Ontario, where it remains today. A non-for-profit organization was created to raise funds to return this historical piece of equipment to the Avon community, for a fraction of its current estimated value from the museum. This organization will also raise funds to make the truck road ready for community events, for storage, and for use as an educational resource for future generations. The committee, through generous donations, has almost reached its goal of \$60,000 needed for transporting the truck and temporary storage once it is back in our community. Continuous fundraising will be needed for maintenance and a permanent storage/ display solution to provide for the long-term preservation of this treasure. Mr. Cochrane and Mr. Neth provided the Board with a letter asking for their consideration in donating to this project to help bring Ahrens Fox Fire Engine home. Deputy Mayor Hoffmann expressed the Board’s heartfelt congratulations on their work so far and the funds that they have raised, stating that it was truly impressive. Mayor Hayes and the Board will review the prospect of a donation, possibly coordinating their efforts with the Town of Avon.

TEMPLE STREET BLOCK PARTY, Mike Miron:

Mr. Miron attended the meeting in order to request to hold a block party from 5pm-11pm on Temple Street, Friday August 9, 2024. The neighbors have held the party in the past and they are not looking for police coverage during the night. They were hoping that they could close the street off with a roadblock from the DPW, stating that it would only impact a few of the neighbors' driveways. The fire department was all right with the event noting that, if necessary, they can move the roadblock to get down the street.

Upon a motion made by Trustee Cushing and seconded by Deputy Mayor Hoffmann, the Board gave approval to Mr. Miron for the neighborhood to hold a block party on Temple Street. It is understood that there will be no police coverage provided and the DPW will provide roadblocks. The motion was carried by the following vote:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------|---------|
| Robert C Hayes, Mayor | Voting | No Vote |
| Amanda Hoffmann, Dep. Mayor | Voting | Yes |
| Tim Batzel, Trustee | Voting | Yes |
| Tom Cushing, Trustee | Voting | Yes |
| Patrick McCormick, Trustee | Voting | Yes |

WETSERN NY COMBINED CARRIAGE ASSOCIATION, Bruce Jones:

Mr. Jones attended the Board meeting to introduce himself to the new members, including Mayor Hayes, and to review the plans for the WNYCCA 3rd Annual Avon Driving Park Pleasure Show, to be held July 26th- July 28th, 2024. Mr. Jones worked with the previous Board in securing the Pleasure Show as an annual event at the Driving Park holding classes throughout the weekend with ribbons and prizes awarded during the events, culminating in a parade through the Village. Participants ride through the village with their horses, carriages and dress for the event in traditional show wear and residents along the parade route are encouraged to tailgate! The route is the same as years past and will start at 9am. Mr. Jones has been in contact with Officer Ferrara for police participation for the parade and requested permission from the Board to hold the parade on July 28th.

Upon a motion made by Trustee McCormick and seconded by Deputy Mayor Hoffman, the Board granted permission for the Pleasure Show Parade to be held Sunday July 28th, 2024, at 9am. The motion was carried by the following vote:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------|---------|
| Robert C Hayes, Mayor | Voting | No Vote |
| Amanda Hoffmann, Dep. Mayor | Voting | Yes |
| Tim Batzel, Trustee | Voting | Yes |
| Tom Cushing, Trustee | Voting | Yes |
| Patrick McCormick, Trustee | Voting | Yes |

GEORGE BROWN, letter to the Village Board:

Before the meeting, Mr. Brown provided the Board with a letter referencing the Public Comment policy and the demeanor of a Board member at a previously held meeting. (letter attached). In the letter, and as part of his discussion, Mr. Brown stated that he recommends that the board adopt a less restrictive policy for public comment, and also suggested that the Board remain aware of civility due to the public who come to the meetings.

According to his letter, Mr. Brown feels that the public comment portion of the meeting does not fall in line with the Board's intended desire for accountability, transparency, and the engagement of the community with issues of the village, stating that in some instances, a response from the Board would be refreshing. Deputy Mayor Hoffmann stated that she understands Mr. Brown's take and holds back from responding at times because she wants to make sure she is providing correct information as any type of discussion has been challenging in recent months. However, she feels that there is a common goal between the public and the Board to open communication. Other members of the Board reiterated this, feeling that lately everything that is discussed by them is misconstrued and ends up as misinformation provided to the public on social media outlets.

Mayor Hayes asked Attorney Whiting his thoughts on the discussion. Attorney Whiting stated that in his opinion, the approach the Board has taken with public comment is generous, as state law does not even require the public to be allowed a comment period. He feels that the restrictions the Board has in place are reasonable while promoting efficient and productive meetings, and that the parameters that were established is fair for all and allows the Board to continue with the business at hand.

Mayor Hayes stated that we can soften the tone of the public comment policy, so it is more inviting. However, he wants to allow everyone who wishes to speak the same opportunity and time to do so. This is why a time limit has been assigned. He also does not want to see public comment be a time to berate and belittle the Board and hopes that we can move forward in a more productive manner. Finally, the Mayor reminded all that he has established office hours on the second and fourth Fridays of the month so that the public can meet with him in a more relaxed atmosphere where he can focus on a specific topic with residents.

VOUCHERS and MANUAL CHECKS:

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

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| #1-GENERAL FUND | \$139457.46 |
| #4-SCHEDULE C | \$31666.60 |
| #5-WATER | \$25244.71 |
| #6-SEWER | \$27028.25 |
| #TA00-TRUST & AGENCY | \$1158.57 |
| #HH44- STORMWATER PROJ. | \$2352.45 |
| TOTAL | \$226908.04 |

- Electronic payments/manual checks:

Paid electronically:

- Fed/NYS Taxes p/r 24-12 \$16351.33
- Nationwide Retirement p/r 24-12 \$2726.28

TOTAL: \$19077.61

Manual Check:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| - NYS Child Sup. Proc. Ctr. | Child Support | \$356.00 |
| TOTAL: | | \$356.00 |

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

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------|---------|
| Robert C Hayes, Mayor | Voting | No Vote |
| Amanda Hoffmann, Dep. Mayor | Voting | Yes |
| Tim Batzel, Trustee | Voting | Yes |
| Tom Cushing, Trustee | Voting | Yes |
| Patrick McCormick, Trustee | Voting | Yes |

DPW UPDATE:

Supt. Farrell provided the following update:

DPW Activity

1. Brush
2. Milled River St.
3. Shop & Equipment maintenance
4. Prepped River St. for paving
5. Ground stumps & top soiled
6. Swept streets
7. Cleared catch basins & water valve boxes (prep for leak detection)
8. Paved River St.
9. Weed whipped circle park & Driving Park
10. Moved skating rink to storage building

WWTP

1. Daily operations
2. Worked on VFD for secondary digester (variable frequency drive)
3. Sludge- ran, moved, hauled
4. Fixed fire hydrant @WWTP
5. Repaired effluent sampler
6. Cleaned Trickling Filter nozzles

Water

1. Daily operations
2. Stakeouts
3. Equipment maintenance
4. Flushing hydrants
5. Installed water meter on screener at WWTP

Misc./ Upcoming weeks

1. NYRWA- Steve Freeman arrived this afternoon. Started on leak detection.
2. Flush fire hydrants
3. Stump grind & Topsoil
 - ❖ Supt. Farrell requested the Board to review two quotes received for 2 transfer pumps for the water treatment plant- a coagulant pump and a chlorine pump).
1. Blue Book quote- \$2900.00 +freight

2. Ti-Sales quote- \$3110.00

Upon a motion made by Deputy Mayor Hoffmann and seconded by Trustee McCormick, the Board accepted the quote from Ti-Sales at the recommendation of Supt. Farrell. The motion was carried by the following vote:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------|---------|
| Robert C Hayes, Mayor | Voting | No Vote |
| Amanda Hoffmann, Dep. Mayor | Voting | Yes |
| Tim Batzel, Trustee | Voting | Yes |
| Tom Cushing, Trustee | Voting | Yes |
| Patrick McCormick, Trustee | Voting | Yes |

- ❖ Supt. Farrell discussed the coagulant used at the plant and asked the Board to review the quotes to purchase 21000lbs.

1. ASI- \$0.99/lb
2. Slack- \$1.80/lb

Upon a motion made by Trustee McCormick and seconded by Trustee Cushing, the Board accepted the ASI quote at the recommendation of Supt. Farrell. The motion was carried by the following vote:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------|---------|
| Robert C Hayes, Mayor | Voting | No Vote |
| Amanda Hoffmann, Dep. Mayor | Voting | Yes |
| Tim Batzel, Trustee | Voting | Yes |
| Tom Cushing, Trustee | Voting | Yes |
| Patrick McCormick, Trustee | Voting | Yes |

- ❖ Supt. Farrell received a water hook up request for a new home on West Lake Road in Geneseo from Mr. William Noyes, a resident on Clinton Street.

Upon a motion made by Deputy Mayor Hoffmann and seconded by Trustee McCormick, the Board authorized Supt. Farrell to begin the application process for the new hook up on West Lake Road in Geneseo. The motion was carried by the following vote:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------|---------|
| Robert C Hayes, Mayor | Voting | No Vote |
| Amanda Hoffmann, Dep. Mayor | Voting | Yes |
| Tim Batzel, Trustee | Voting | Yes |
| Tom Cushing, Trustee | Voting | Yes |
| Patrick McCormick, Trustee | Voting | Yes |

MRB UPDATE:

Bill Davis provided the following update to the Board:

WWTP Disinfection Project:

- GC waiting on UV equipment due for delivery July/August. Substantial completion to be extended per review with consultant John Barrett to 9/30/2024 following request from Blue Heron.
- EC is waiting on the generator for the UV system, which is due for delivery in October.

- EFC contacted re: site visit (using Critical Path Solutions as a sub-consultant) and document collection as discussed at the last meeting. That meeting still needs to be scheduled with John Barrett.

Pebble Beach Pump Station:

- Pumps are operating at 1400 gpm per spec. CP Ward took down old structures and is working on chemical lines and restoration.
- Final Punch list provided to CP Ward. Restoration needs some improvement, and a number of miscellaneous items need to be completed before close out.

Joint Water Tank Project:

- Village, MRB, and BPD working on NYS EFC requested “missing items”- A/E procurement last item and is in process.
- Draft of IMA for capital cost share between the Village and Town has been provided to the Village and BPD for review. Next step is for the Village to provide the Town and Town attorney with the latest draft for their review. We will need both the Town and EFC to review and approve the IMA.

Triphammer Road Water Main Project:

- MRB authorized to complete a study of the water transmission main replacement along with a new water main per the request of the Town of Geneseo. Study will show justification for project and provide cost estimate. Study could be further utilized in the future for a Preliminary Engineering Report to seek funding.
- Study to also look at potential interconnection between Geneseo and Avon.
- Site visit occurred 5/16 with Village, Town of Geneseo to review project and to walk watermain locations and evaluate potential alignments. Discussion re: “in house” work occurred. MRB to price project both ways (in house and bid).
- MRB to provide schedule for completion of study.

Water/Sewer Income Survey:

- Village proceeding with survey to include sewer and water.
- Jay Grasso provided up-charge for Town of Avon water customers to town. The Town may not authorize. Income survey will remain a significant potential benefit for the Wastewater project and also Village water projects.

Wastewater Treatment Plant (SPDES renewal & Improvement Project):

- MRB and Village WWTP staff working on requirements for NY2A SPDES application documents so DEC can complete review and renewal of SPDES permit. MRB reviewed info and Village to send final package to DEC.
- DEC provided comments on Preliminary Engineering Report (PER). Responses and additional info requested to be implemented into the report by DEC/EFC. Additional treatment options were requested to be evaluated. Due to potential SPDES change, MRB suggesting that the Village consider an EPG (Engineering Planning Grant). Grant could be used to address additional report info requested by DEC/EFC.

Pretreatment Program and Significant Industrial Users:

- Kraft has installed a full-size pilot pretreatment system (DAF treatment). MRB and Village have provided comments and has requested additional information.
- Pilot system in place and running. Commented on needing a sampling protocol and results for the Village and MRB to review.
- Supt. Farrell is working on scheduling a site visit.

- Bill Davis suggested the Board to consider sending a letter to them to inform them that violations may come down per their SIU permit. MRB will help with the drafting of that letter.

LCSWA Regional Water Project:

- Meeting held 5/31. Called by LCWSA to review opportunity for LCWSA to upsize a portion of their system for a potential future inter-connection between the Village/Town and LCWSA (near Fratelli's). Cost is estimated at \$1.8 million.
- Benefit to Village and Town- potential inter-connection as opposed to expanding the Water Treatment Plant.
- Benefit to Town-potential inter-connection which could allow the need for the East Avon elevated water storage tank.
- LCWSA is asking for a letter of interest/support. Mayor Hayes provided the Board with a copy of the letter of interest that was sent to Mr. Molino, sharing that the letter expresses an interest in the project that LCSWA is pursuing but does not commit us to anything.

TREASURER UPDATE:

Treasurer Quinlan provided the following update to the Board:

- Tax collection ongoing.
- Submitted GTSC Buckle Up reimbursement and progress report on 6/13.
- 2018 GVBA grant final report and pics submitted on 6/17.
- Requested time extension for PTNY grant (signage) on 6/17.
- Submitted Discovery grant invoices for payment to Liv Co DA office on 6/17.
- Audit proposal deadline is 6/28/2024.
- Received and opened bids for our Five Arch Bridge Phase 1 Repair project on 6/13/2024. The Board did not award the bid at the meeting.

CODE DEPARTMENT UPDATE:

Code Officer Alexander offered the following update to the Board:

- Mr. Alexander has had 70 calls since May 1st that he has addressed and pointed out that members of the public who come to the meetings asking questions about property maintenance, building standards and code compliance questions have not reached out to him for any discussion. He offered his cell phone number to the public, reminding all in attendance that he is in the office on Tuesdays and Fridays from 10am until 2pm. He stressed that it would be more beneficial for any code compliance questions or concerns to be asked of him and reiterated that a complaint form should be filled out in order for him to investigate a potential issue.
- Provided an update on permits issued including but not limited to the following:
 - 4 inground pools
 - 2 above ground pools
 - 3 terraces
 - 2 interior remodel/alterations
 - 2 additions
 - 2 fences
 - 4 roof complete
 - 1 new home

- Is currently working on 3 properties that are not compliant with proper permits and is hoping to have that taken care of by the next meeting.

POLICE UPDATE:

Officer in Charge Ferrara updated the Board on the following:

- 79 calls of service since the last meeting.
- DOT check was held on 6/6. 12 tickets were issued.
- Upcoming DOT checks will be held in July and August.

FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE:

The following update was provided by Chief Piampiano:

- Officer meeting to be held on 6/18.
- Drills continue weekly.
- Senior Bash is upcoming Friday night.
- Calling hours will be held on Friday for Edward Forsythe. A small reception will be held in the Hall after.
- Working on finalizing specs for the new truck.
- Quint annual inspection complete.
- Fire department physicals will be held at the Hall on July 13th.
- OSHA question and answer period has been extended to at least the end of July. It is possible the extension will go into October.

CLERK UPDATE:

The following items are updates from Clerk Randall:

- Provided- Excellus proposed rate changes for 2025 to be approved by NYS Dept. of Financial Services. Trustee Batzel wondered if we should look into a consortium, possibly combining with other villages.
- Trustee McCormick will be doing the court audit with Clerk Cullinan on the 20th.
- Change Board Meeting dates in July to Monday July 8th and Monday July 22nd to accommodate vacations.

Upon a motion made by Trustee McCormick and seconded by Trustee Cushing, the Board approved changing the meeting dates to the second and fourth Mondays in July. The motion was carried by the following vote:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------|---------|
| Robert C Hayes, Mayor | Voting | No Vote |
| Amanda Hoffmann, Dep. Mayor | Voting | Yes |
| Tim Batzel, Trustee | Voting | Yes |
| Tom Cushing, Trustee | Voting | Yes |
| Patrick McCormick, Trustee | Voting | Yes |

Important Dates:

- **BOARD MEETINGS-** July 8th and July 22nd.
- **Primary Election-** June 25th, 2024. Hall will be open at 5am for election inspectors. Elections run from 6am-9pm.
- **Closed On July 4th, 2024-** 4th of July

MINUTES:

Upon a motion made by Trustee McCormick and seconded by Trustee Cushing, the Board approved the minutes from the June 3rd, 2024, meeting. The motion was carried by the following vote:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------|---------|
| Robert C. Hayes, Mayor | Voting | Yes |
| Amanda Hoffmann, Dep. Mayor | Voting | Abstain |
| Tim Batzel, Trustee | Voting | Yes |
| Tom Cushing, Trustee | Voting | Yes |
| Patrick McCormick, Trustee | Voting | Yes |

TRUSTEE UPDATE:

- Fire Department updated Rules and Regs (bylaws) discussion was led by Deputy Mayor Hoffmann. A draft was passed out for the Board's review, along with Attorney Whiting. These new regs would take place of the current regs in code and would be subject to a public hearing before adoption. The department will continue to provide updates as they move forward toward completion.

- IMA draft- discussed the Joint Tank project and the IMA for the capital cost share between the Town and the Village. Both the Board and Attorney Whiting are satisfied with the agreement. It was also provided to BPD, who agreed that the draft looked good.

Upon a motion made by Deputy Mayor Hoffmann and seconded by Trustee McCormick, the Board agreed to send the IMA to the Town for review. The motion was carried by the following vote:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------|---------|
| Robert C Hayes, Mayor | Voting | No Vote |
| Amanda Hoffmann, Dep. Mayor | Voting | Yes |
| Tim Batzel, Trustee | Voting | Yes |
| Tom Cushing, Trustee | Voting | Yes |
| Patrick McCormick, Trustee | Voting | Yes |

- Liv. Co. First Impressions Grant Award- The Village has been awarded \$5000 for projects to be determined. The Board must accept the grant and provide a scope of work to Liv. Co. Economic Development when the project has been decided.

Upon a motion made by Deputy Mayor Hoffmann and seconded by Trustee McCormick the Board accepted and authorized Mayor Hayes to execute the grant award documents. The motion was carried by the following vote:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------|---------|
| Robert C Hayes, Mayor | Voting | No Vote |
| Amanda Hoffmann, Dep. Mayor | Voting | Yes |
| Tim Batzel, Trustee | Voting | Yes |
| Tom Cushing, Trustee | Voting | Yes |
| Patrick McCormick, Trustee | Voting | Yes |

Upon a motion made by Trustee McCormick and seconded by Deputy Mayor Hoffmann, the Board approved the NYS GFOA Western Summer Seminar for Treasurer Quinlan held on 7/18/ The motion was carried by the following vote:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------|---------|
| Robert C Hayes, Mayor | Voting | No Vote |
| Amanda Hoffmann, Dep. 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 approved the NYCOM Community Revitalization Conference for Mayor Hayes July 10-11th.

The motion was carried by the following vote:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------|---------|
| Robert C Hayes, Mayor | Voting | No Vote |
| Amanda Hoffmann, Dep. Mayor | Voting | Yes |
| Tim Batzel, Trustee | Voting | Yes |
| Tom Cushing, Trustee | Voting | Yes |
| Patrick McCormick, Trustee | Voting | Yes |

Mayor Hayes asked members of the Board if they had any updates. There were none.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Upon a motion made by Trustee Cushing and seconded by Trustee McCormick the Board entered executive session at 8:05pm in order to discuss contractual obligations. The motion was carried by the following vote:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------|---------|
| Robert C Hayes, Mayor | Voting | No Vote |
| Amanda Hoffmann, Dep. Mayor | Voting | Yes |
| Tim Batzel, Trustee | Voting | Yes |
| Tom Cushing, Trustee | Voting | Yes |
| Patrick McCormick, Trustee | Voting | Yes |

Upon a motion made by Trustee McCormick and seconded by Deputy Mayor Hoffmann, the Board exited executive session at 9:10pm. The motion was carried by the following vote:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------|---------|
| Robert C Hayes, Mayor | Voting | No Vote |
| Amanda Hoffmann, Dep. Mayor | Voting | Yes |
| Tim Batzel, Trustee | Voting | Yes |
| Tom Cushing, Trustee | Voting | Yes |
| Patrick McCormick, Trustee | Voting | Yes |

There was no action taken.

ADJOURNMENT:

Upon a motion made by Trustee Batzel, and seconded by Deputy Mayor Hoffmann, the Board adjourned at 9:15pm by a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Heather Randall
Village Clerk

June 10, 2024

Village Board
Village of Avon
74 Genesee Street
Avon, New York 14414

RE: Public Comment Policy and demeanor of Board member on June 3, 2024

Village Board:

The purpose of this letter is to address two issues: the Board's Public Comment Policy, and the demeanor of an individual Board member at the Board meeting on June 3, 2024.

I recommend that the Board adopt a less restrictive and more interactive Public Comment Policy. I also recommend that the Board be cognizant of the civility due to members of the public.

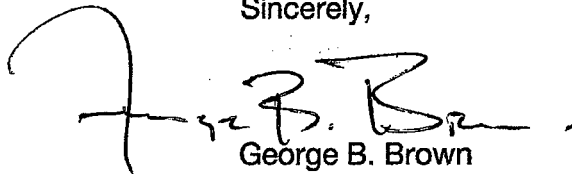
The Public Comment Policy could more aptly be titled "The Democracy in Three Minutes Policy." The public is allowed three minutes - "strictly enforced" - to make their statements or pose their questions; the Board, ignoring the opportunity for community interaction, remains mute; the gravity of the public comments requires that the Board "has the opportunity to thoughtfully reflect on what has been said." After this "reflection," responses are at the discretion of the Board; any responses will be in a private email or text message.

This policy contradicts three goals of this Board, which took office on April 1, 2024: accountability, transparency, and a desire to engage the community in the issues confronting the village. The public comment portion of the Board meetings is the precise opportunity for the public and the Board to engage in the interaction alluded to since April 1, 2024. Instead, the public speaks, and the Board remains silent. It is reasonable that there are members of the Board who could respond to the vast majority of the public's questions and comments; indeed, it would be refreshing to hear a response or opinion from the Board on any issue. The public speaks in the public forum; the Board can reciprocate with a response in the same public forum, and the public at-large is informed on the issue.

If it responds to questions or comments, the Board is reminded of the civility due to members of the public. During the public comment portion of the Board meeting on June 3, 2024, an individual Board member responded with anger, sarcasm, and ridicule to questions asked by a member of the public. This conduct was unbecoming a public official. The Public Comment Policy admonishes the public to "conduct themselves in a civil manner." The public expects the Board to adhere to its own policy.

A final comment on these issues. In a letter to residents dated May 2024, the Mayor proposes "Coffee Hours with the Mayor," an effort to "foster an engaged and collaborative community." While commendable, this effort contrasts with the disengagement fostered between the public and the Board at the Board meetings. The dichotomy is obvious. I recommend that the Board reconcile the two policies to realize the goal of engaging the public in the issues confronting this village.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George B. Brown". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "G" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

George B. Brown