

REGULAR MEETING – APRIL 24, 2017

Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call: Commissioner Mahon, Mayor Magrini
Commissioner Gorman (by conference call)**

Borough Clerk reads the following statement:

This is a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Borough of Avon-By-The-Sea and notice of time, date and place has been transmitted to the area newspapers, Avon Board of Education, Avon Public Library and the Avon Post Office in compliance with the rules and regulations of the Open Public Meetings Law.

Fire Exits are located in the direction I am indicating. In case of fire, you will be notified by an alarm bell. If so notified, please move in a calm, orderly manner to the nearest smoke free exit. Thank you.

Motion by Magrini seconded by Gorman that the minutes of the meeting of April 10, 2017 be approved as written.

The Vote:

Aye: All

No: None

Motion by Mahon seconded by Magrini that the Public Hearing on the 2017 budget be opened.

The Vote:

Aye: All

No: None

Statements from Commissioner Mahon, CFO John Antonides and Auditor Robert Hulsart.

Comm. Mahon, Dir. of Finance – this evening’s public hearing on the 2017 proposed budget is intended to provide background information on the budget development process and it’s implication for the taxpayers. Present tonight is our C.F.O. John Antonides and our auditor, Robert Hulsart. They worked closely with us in preparing this budget. They will provide an overview of the proposed budget and answer any questions you may have.

Comm. Mahon – total general appropriations for the 2017 budget is \$5,399,341.00. Revenue includes \$171,000 from surplus, \$1,212,551 from misc. sources including state aid grants and local fees and \$105,000 from receipt of delinquent taxes with remaining \$3,910,796.00 to be raised in property taxes. The total increase of amount to be raised by taxes is \$28,314.62 more than the amount raised in 2016. Because of an increase in ratables the tax rate will result in a slight decrease from 0.4242 to 0.4266 per \$100 tax increase in the proposed municipal budget for 2017. This is not a significant decrease but it is important to note that, what is significant, is that the rate is going south instead of north. The average 2017 assessment for Avon is \$846,000, which is about the same as the assessment for 2016 which was \$844,000. This results in a slight decrease in taxes for municipal purposes. It is important to note that the total assessment for Avon has increased which has a positive effect on taxpayers.

Comm. Mahon – In the presenting this budget, we believe it represents a concerted effort of the Borough to continue to provide the services our community deserves while at the same time reflecting a reasonable cost for those services.

John Antonides, CFO – The Borough of Avon’s budget consists of 3 budget items: Current Operating Budget, the Water/Sewer Utility Budget & the Beach Utility Budget. The water/sewer & beach utilities have no effect on the Municipal tax rate. Water/Sewer is offset by user fees, which are not changing, and the beach utility is offset by beach badge sales. Couple challenges related to this 2017 budget – the biggest one was the final payment from our Sandy debt. This is the 5th and final year that we have this in the budget.

Bob Hulsart, Auditor – the only thing I would add is that in this day and age, if you can hold the line on the budget, you are doing well.

Mayor asks if anyone has any questions or comments on the 2017 budget?

Someone asked how much the final payment for Sandy is? \$272,879 plus interest in the amount of \$1,858.15.

Motion by Mahon seconded by Magrini that the public hearing on the 2017 budget be closed.

The Vote:

Aye: All

No: None

RESOLUTION offered by Mahon seconded by Magrini that,

WHEREAS, the 2017 budget requires \$3,910,790.00 to be raised in property taxes, and

WHEREAS, a summary of said budget was published in the March 30, 2017 edition of The Coast Star, and

WHEREAS, full copies of said budget are available in the office of the Borough Clerk, and

WHEREAS, a public hearing of said budget has been conducted,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the Borough of Avon-By-The-Sea that it hereby adopts the 2017 Municipal Budget in the amount of \$5,399,341.00.

The Vote:

Aye: All

No: None

RESOLUTION offered by Mahon seconded by Magrini that Edward Kerwin is hereby appointed as Public Defender for a one year term at a rate of \$225.00 per session, effective January 1, 2017.

The Vote:

Aye: All

No: None

Motion by Magrini seconded by Mahon that the bills in the amount of \$560,179.75 be approved for payment.

The Vote:

Aye: All

No: None

Mayor asks if anyone would like to be heard?

Mayor announces:

This past Sat. a beach sweep was done by Clean Ocean Action. Thank you to them.

Wolves from Howling Woods Farms are coming on Mon., May 15th at 3:15 pm at Avon Marina.

Thurs., May 4th Sylvan Lake Commissioner doing annual Vic's pizza delivery for fund raiser.

Facebook page created called avonbythesea-history. If anybody is on facebook, people are posting great old pictures of the town.

Discussion regarding boardwalk benches and plaques. Mayor suggests sending letter to people with plaques to see if they are still interested in having one and paying token fee, \$50, pay it once, but stipulate going forward that if the boardwalk is destroyed again, they're done. You don't have lifetime rights to that bench. But after Sandy, the message was that we would replace the plaques. Depending on response, may put 2 plaques on a bench.

Motion by Magrini seconded by Mahon that we contact people who have plaques to see if they are still interested and have them send application and \$50. Give 21 days.

The Vote:

Aye: All

No: None

Motion by Magrini seconded by Mahon that the Commissioners enter into an executive session to discuss attorney/client issue.

The Vote:

Aye: All

No: None

Motion by Mahon seconded by Magrini that being there is no further business, the meeting is adjourned.

The Vote:

Aye: All

No: None

John B. Magrini, Mayor

Robert Mahon, Commissioner

Francis E. Gorman, Commissioner

**Timothy M. Gallagher, RMC
Borough Clerk**

