

Borough of Avon-By-The-Sea
Regular Meeting Minutes – July 12, 2021

Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Mayor Bonanno, Commissioner Mahon, Commissioner Magrini
Kerry McGuigan, Administrator, was also present

Borough Clerk reads the following statement:

This is a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Borough of Avon-By-The-Sea being held at the Avon Marina, 2 Main Street, Avon 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.

Workshop

Boardwalk, beach, and pool summer activities – The borough has entertainment now on the boardwalk. They were unfortunately unable to get Rag Time, but they were able to get Nicole and Denise for August, the tot dances with Erich the DJ, and Full of It. The pool has been busy with families coming on the two night it is open. The pool is 120 plus years old and will need overhauling soon in order to make repairs. This will not be happening for another couple of years, but it is something for the borough to keep in mind with costs and will the borough be able to financially cover the costs based on the sales of badges for the pool.

Borough wide revaluation – Tim Anfuso, Tax Assessor, stated that this is something that has to be done as the borough is past due on doing evaluations and it is being mandated by the county and approved by the state that Avon conduct one now. Letters have gone out from Professional Property Appraisers to inform residents that they will be starting some time next week. Mr. Anfuso explained what the appraisers would and would not be looking for during the revaluation. Homeowners will also have an option to do a virtual appraisal. The borough will send out a message via constant contact and post it on the website.

5G utility access – Small cell 5G service will be being installed in the borough. The borough has no say in the matter as it required by all that it be allowed so the town does not have an option. Verizon is already looking to get in. The size of the boxes are about the size of a small refrigerator. The borough is looking into how it can be installed without it being an eyesore.

Mayor Bonanno stated he had received an email from the county in reference to September 11, 2021. This is the 20th anniversary of the attack, and they would like to get as many people as they can to be at the beach with candles or flashlights. He does not have any more information on it and will let residents know the details once he receives them.

Regular Meeting

The Municipal Clerk announced that Ordinances 2021-22, 23, 24, 25 have been removed from the original agenda.

Municipal Clerk asked if anyone has any questions about agenda items only. There were no questions or comments from the public.

Consent Agenda

Municipal Clerk states “All matters listed below are considered to be routine in nature and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion on these items. If any discussion is desired by the governing body, that particular item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be considered separately”.

Municipal Clerk asks if any member of the governing body wish to remove any of the items from the consent agenda to discuss individually.

Resolution 91 – Public Assistance Director

The Board of Commissioners hereby appoint Kerry McGuigan as the Public Assistance Director, term to expire March 23, 2025.

Resolution 92 – Refunding Tax Overpayment

The Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the refund of the overpayment of a 2021 property tax payment to the following:

Block 22 Lot 11.02 Trident Abstract Title Agency \$971.45

Resolution 93 – Approving Special Events Permits

The following Special Events applications are hereby approved by the Board of Commissioners:

Avon Volunteer Fire Department to hold a fundraiser/cookout on August 7, 2021

Resolution 94 – Approving Fire Company Social Affairs Permit

The following Social Affairs Permit applications are hereby approved by the Board of Commissioners:

Avon Fire Department to serve alcohol, specifically beer and wine, for their fundraiser/cookout on August 7, 2021

Resolution 95 – Approving Blue Light Permit

The Board of Commissioners hereby approve an application for a Blue Light Permit for Melissa A. Emmons, Volunteer First Aid Squad Member, and Mayor Bonanno is authorized to sign same.

Approval of minutes from the June 28, 2021, Meeting

Approving the payment of bills in the amount of \$291,903.82

Municipal Clerk asks if anyone has any questions regarding the consent agenda items.

Commissioner Mahon made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Commissioner Magrini.

Aye: Mayor Bonanno, Commissioner Mahon, Commissioner Magrini

Nay: N/A

Department Head Reports

Any questions may be addressed during the public comment portion of the meeting.

Chief Christopher Garrity, Police Department – His department has answered 917 calls which is a 16% increase from the last meeting, 126 traffic stops which doubled from the last meeting, 97 radar details, 88 ordinance violations which is triple the amount from the last meeting, 11 DMV, 17 phone calls of a suspicious nature and made 7 arrests.

The Chief reminded everyone there are still vehicle thefts happening in the borough and surrounding towns. He urged residents to please lock their car doors, take their key fobs with them, and do not leave things of value in your vehicles.

The Chief thanked Scott and the DPW department on putting up the extra 25 MPH signs and the portable No U-turns signs. The borough had one car pop up happen since the last meeting and the department only received a two hour notice about it.

Karl Klug, Superintendent, Water Department – Everything is ok, nothing to report.

Scott Hauselt, Superintendent, Department of Public Works – There are two baby eagles on the cell tower and the oyster catchers’ eggs have also hatched. The babies are too small to move right now so they can not rake that portion of the beach. Once they get a little older, the nest can be moved to an area of the beach that does not get raked and is for wildlife.

If people are noticing black stains in the bathrooms at the beach, there was a defect in the epoxy that caused them. The bathrooms are thoroughly cleaned daily and touched up throughout the day.

Mark Rohmeyer, Borough Engineer, T&M Associates – The work on First and Second Ave. from Washington Ave. to Shark River will begin this week. Weather permitting, they hope to be done within 11 business days. This is to replace pipes and tidal valves. Residents in that area will be notified by the contractor and while there will be no thru traffic allowed, residents will still be able to come and go from their homes with very little inconvenience.

Sheila Watson, MLS Library Director, Avon Public Library – Bea Murday day will be held on July 21st with a bench being dedicated at the library honoring all the work she did for the borough. She has resumed Story Time on the boardwalk and will be having a book fair August 6th and 7th at the Pavilion on the boardwalk.

Barry Cooke, Borough Attorney – Nothing to report.

Municipal Clerk asks if anyone from the public would like to be heard.

Marie Kenny, 207 Norwood Ave., asked about what type of financial position the pool is in from last summer to this. Commissioner Mahon stated that the pool is supposed to be self-sufficient, and the town did not make enough last year which is why the rates were raised this year. Kerry Mcguigan stated that the town is not making enough this year even with the higher rates. At some point the borough will have to see about repairs and possibly replacing the pool. It may depend on if the borough finds it cost productive but will not happen for a few years. She also asked about the 5G and how many other companies can put the boxes around town. Barry Cooke stated that he believes four companies total will want to put them up.

Mary Lou Farmer, 121 Lakeside Ave., asked if the ordinance regarding no construction on Saturdays during the summer pertained to landscapers as well. It does not.

Executive Session

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Commissioners of the Borough of Avon-By-The-Sea have determined that in accordance with the provisions of NJSA 10:4-12b, enter in to closed session pending, ongoing or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation, including attorney-client privilege. The public will be informed of the discussion within forty-five days of the conclusion (NJSA 10:4-13)

Commissioner Mahon made a motion to go into executive session, seconded by Mayor Bonanno.

Aye: Mayor Bonanno, Commissioner Mahon, Commissioner Magrini

Nay: N/A

Executive session ended; regular meeting resumed.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Thea Kratochvil

Acting Municipal Clerk

Avon-By-The-Sea