

Avon Village/Town Joint Meeting
Monday, February 13, 2012

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The Joint Meeting of the Village Board of Trustees and the Avon Town Board was held at the Avon Village Hall, 74 Genesee Street, Avon, New York on Monday, February 13, 2012.

Present: Thomas Freeman, Mayor
Mark McKeown, Deputy Mayor
William Zhe, Trustee
Robert Hayes, Trustee (Entered at 8:00 p.m.)
Timmy Batzel, Trustee

David LeFeber, Town Supervisor
Thomas Mairs, Deputy Supervisor
James Blye, Councilman
Richard Steen, Councilman
Robert Ayers, Councilman

Visitors: Henry Hanson
Dick Ash
Santo Viola
Pat Rountree

Mayor Freeman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

SRO AGREEMENT:

The Board reviewed the three year agreement between Avon Central School District, the Town of Avon and the Village of Avon. The Boards agreed that it is in the best interests of the residents of the Town and Village, and the students and staff of the District to have a fulltime police officer available to provide security and necessary law enforcement services at the Avon Central School. The Town and Village agree to share the cost of providing a “School Resource Officer”, or “SRO”

The Board talked about when the SRO Program was first started it was called the Dare Program. Mayor Freeman discussed the current SRO Officer.

Supervisor LeFeber stated that originally we got a \$125,000 grant for the program. I would like to have Bruce Amey and the Officers come to an upcoming Town Board meeting.

A motion was made by Trustee McKeown and seconded by Trustee Batzel to approve the SRO Agreement contingent upon the Attorney’s review and interpretation of the agreement. The motion was carried by the following vote:

Thomas Freeman, Mayor	Voting	Yes
Mark McKeown, Trustee	Voting	Yes
William Zhe, Trustee	Voting	Yes
Timmy Batzel, Trustee	Voting	Yes
Robert Hayes, Trustee	Absent	

On a motion by Deputy Supervisor Mairs and seconded by Councilman Ayers the SRO Agreement was approved contingent upon the Attorney's review of the agreement. The motion was carried by the following vote:

David LeFeber, Supervisor	Voting	Yes
Thomas Mairs, Deputy Supervisor	Voting	Yes
James Blye, Councilman	Voting	Yes
Richard Steen, Councilman	Voting	Yes
Robert Ayers, Councilman	Voting	Yes

ASSESSMENT EXEMPTION, RPTL S485-N:

Attorney Whiting drafted a local law to implement the commercial/mixed use exemption provided for in that recently enacted statute.

If the Board does want to implement that exemption regimen, there are a couple of discretionary areas that the statute leaves to the municipalities:

1. Method of appointment of the Commercial/Mixed Use Incentive Board. Section 2.B.
2. Size and composition of that Board. Section 2.B.
3. Threshold investment that creates eligibility for the exemption. Section 4.B.II.

If the Board is interested in pursuing this concept which is likely to stimulate investment in commercial and mixed-use properties, the Board must decide whether they would like to follow the usual appointment sequence with this new Board, how many and what type of Board members will serve, and whether you want to increase or decrease the investment threshold from \$10,000.00. An increase in that amount will result in fewer applications being considered, while a decrease in that amount would tend to increase the number of applications.

Livingston County is the only county in NYS that allows this. If the landlord invests a certain amount of money into the property then the property will be frozen for eight years.

The following shall determine the computation of the tax exemption:

<u>Year of Exemption</u>	<u>Percentage of Exemption</u>
1 through 8	80% of exemption base
10	60% of exemption base
11	40% of exemption base
12	20% of exemption base

It encourages investing in our store front property. Mayor Freeman reported that he met with Tami Snyder, Bruce Amey and Supervisor LeFeber regarding this. It would all be in the Village. We also talked about a super block, which would take in Wadsworth Avenue. We would love to have people invest in their property and it might be helpful to have a program in place.

Councilman Mairs questioned taking it to the four corners in East Avon.

Mayor Freeman stated that the Village is in the running for this 485-N Exemption Program because we secured the Block City Grant. West Main Street has been our focus and we need to entice investors. First the Village needs to adopt this.

Councilman Blye questioned starting the project before they are qualified.

Mayor Freeman assured Councilman Blye that we would get an interpretation of this.

POLE BRIDGE/ROUTE 5 & 20 INTERSECTION:

Mayor Freeman reported that the speed limit coming from the East has been an ongoing topic which makes it impossible to get off Pole Bridge Road. It would take the State to change it. Is it something that maybe the Town and Village could do together?

Councilman Ayers- Single lanes slow traffic down, that is their way of thinking.

Supervisor LeFeber – Has there been an increase in accidents up there?

Mayor Freeman - No. Should we continue to promote it and send letters?

Councilman Ayers – It’s worth a try. I suggest sending a letter to the County Traffic Safety Board.

Supervisor LeFeber – We could do a joint letter between the Town and Village.

Mayor Freeman – We should invite the new State Representatives down here to talk to us and answer some questions.

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Supervisor LeFeber - We'll copy the state in on the joint speed limit letter.

HENRY HANSON & DICK ASH DEVELOPMENT SITE PRESENTATION:

Pat Rountree entered the meeting to discuss the possibility of annexing the former Denton parcel, (24.56 acres) immediately to the north where the railroad would go. The Village of Avon came in second place for Project Wave. One of the reasons we heard was because the property was too small. Project Wave would have had to reengineer the building to go with the Avon site. If all property was in one municipality, (24.56 acres) it would help to expedite any future projects that should take an interest in the Industrial Park.

The 24.56 acres is all shovel ready and has had all the necessary testing. We would like to get everything preapproved with everything we can. The Department of Agricultural from Albany is coming out on Friday to see that the park is shovel ready.

Mayor Freeman – Water and sewer is our ace in the hole along with power, rail and infrastructure.

Supervisor LeFeber – We would go through the public hearing process which would be a joint public hearing. I think it would be a good idea if some viable company would be interested in the land to help shorten the process.

All Board members were in agreement and thought it would be a good idea to get it done now.

Pat Rountree –The rail line might have to be extended.

Mr. Hanson stated that he'll have his attorney contact the town attorney to do what it takes to start the process.

Pat Rountree announced that the Town is moving ahead to extend Interstate Drive. An extension is being added to an existing building and that will move traffic to the rear of the building. This will be occurring this year. Two other companies have shown interest in extending Interstate Drive.

Mr. Rountree informed the Village Board that they would be receiving a letter from the County to consider joining the "Villages" program. Lima, Geneseo, Mt. Morris, Nunda & Dansville each made an annual commitment of \$3750 and joined the program in June, 2010. Those communities have seen a return on their investment of as little as 10 times their original investment to nearly 100 times their investment.

Once the letter is received if the Village is interested Mr. Rountree would be happy to speak to the Village Trustees and answer any questions on why Avon should consider joining the Villages program.

Mayor Freeman updated the visitors on the Erie Attica Trail. The trail is being developed with federal, state and Village funds, to make a one mile long connection to the Genesee Valley Greenway. We are hoping to develop a park like setting to encourage Village of Avon residents to walk up the existing sidewalks on Horseshoe Boulevard and head across National Grid's 115 kV Golah-N. Lakeville 116 line on the Greenway. The Village is requesting easement rights for a 12' wide blacktop sidewalk across the corridor north of the ponds. Picnic tables would be proposed on both sides of the National Grid owned land.

Mayor Freeman thinks that the adjacent property may have been re-parceled and therefore, there may be an existing easement that would have been transferred. As of now, this has not been resolved.

Pat Rountree expressed an interest and informed the Mayor and Board members he would investigate the situation with Niagara Mohawk.

IMPROVEMENTS TO DOWNTOWN PARKING AREA:

Mayor Freeman updated the Boards with the meeting last week with Karen Blanke. Two years ago the Village bought land from Brian Zamiara and several years ago bought property from the Varlan sisters. It leaves a section of land in the middle that the Town and Village would like to purchase for more parking.

Mrs. Blanke stated she would like to help with safety and lighting issues. A few years ago she were offered \$3,000 for the land.

Trustee McKeown – There have been other ongoing conversations on who maintains the property. We've tried to get easements from time to time so there are other issues that need to be settled other then parking.

Mayor Freeman suggested offering the same amount that was paid to Zamiara and then get easements from other store owners so it could be fixed up and business could have entrances from the rear. It would be much cleaner.

SAFETY INSPECTION PERSONNEL:

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Upon a motion made by Trustee Batzel, the Board went into executive session at 7:50 p.m. to discuss personnel matters. Trustee Zhe seconded the motion and the Board exited executive session at 8:20 p.m.

COUNTY SEWER AGREEMENT:

The Mayor informed the Town Board that since May of 1996 there had never been a rate increase in the County Sewer Agreement. They currently pay \$1.03 per thousand gallons. Taking into account inflation and other contingencies the Board felt the rate should be increased.

They are underpaying what they should be paying. Mayor Freeman asked the Town Board for their input on what was a good way to handle this? Is there a way to phase it in?

It was suggested that Board members sit down with the County and discuss it. We need to understand how they bill those people and when there's a rate change, how will those people be affected.

WEBSITE:

Currently, the Village and Town each pay about \$900-\$1000 annually for website hosting, updates and URL renewal from DESIGN FM. Other proposals were received from:

- Root Design Works, LLC
- Genesee Valley Web Marketing
- Virtual Towns & Schools

The Village has not had any concerns with FM Design.

Supervisor LeFeber – We are content with FM Design. Asking for bids was not solicited by the Village Board or the Town Board.

STORAGE:

The Village Board discussed the lack of storage at the Village facility and that currently we are storing records down at the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

The Town Board was in unanimous agreement to offer space at the Town building to allow the Village to store their records at their site.

Supervisor LeFeber suggested that Councilman Ayers and Councilman Steen work with Clerk Baker on this.

OPEN ITEMS:

Councilman Mairs – Good meeting.

Trustee Zhe – We should do this on a regular basis.

Supervisor LeFeber – Good meeting.

Councilman Blye – Good meeting.

Trustee McKeown – Good meeting.

Councilman Ayers - Good meeting.

Trustee Batzel – Thank you and we should do this on a regular meeting basis.

Councilman Steen – I appreciate the fact that I’m associated with the Town and look forward to working with the Village in the future.

The Town Board left the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Trustee Zhe requested approval to buy ten more Christmas banners. That will be the end of buying banners. If we buy now we would get them at a sale price.

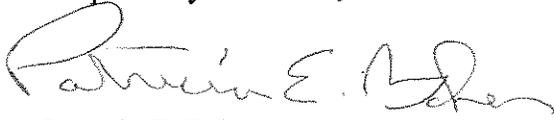
A motion was made by Trustee McKeown and seconded by Trustee Batzel to purchase ten more banners. The motion was carried by the following vote:

Thomas Freeman, Mayor	Voting	Yes
Mark McKeown, Trustee	Voting	Yes
William Zhe, Trustee	Voting	Yes
Timmy Batzel, Trustee	Voting	Yes
Robert Hayes, Trustee	Voting	Yes

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The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Patricia E. Baker". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Patricia E. Baker
Village Clerk