

**Regular Meeting
Avon Town Board
March 12, 2026**

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Avon was held March 12, 2026, with a start time of 6:00 P.M. at the Avon Opera Block/Town Hall, 23 Genesee St, Avon, NY 14414.

Supervisor LeFeber called the meeting to order and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Supervisor	David LeFeber
	Deputy Supervisor	Thomas Mairs
	Councilman	Paul Drozdziel
	Councilman	Malachy Coyne
	Councilman	Collin Hayes
	Town Clerk	Faye Beshures

OTHERS: Attorney Jim Campbell, Dave Willard MRB, and Superintendent of Highway/Water Tom Crye

ATTENDEES FROM SIGN-IN SHEET: Jim Harrington, Ellen Turner, Erik Anderson (Carson Power), Emily Thomas (Carson Power), Cindy Kellen, Liam Coyne (Traffic & Safety), Bob Westfall, and Tim Walsh (DEC)

RESOLUTION 49-2026

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 26, MINUTES

On motion of Councilman Hayes seconded by Councilman Drozdziel the following resolution was ADOPTED – Aye – LeFeber, Drozdziel, Coyne, Hayes Nay – 0 Absent – 0 Abstain – Mairs

RESOLVED, that the minutes of February 26, 2026 be approved as presented and request they be published to the Town of Avon’s website at www.avon-ny.gov.

DISCUSSION – CARSONPOWER BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE

Erik Anderson and Emily Thomas from CarsonPower appeared before the Board to present literature and visual materials regarding their proposed battery energy storage project. Their presentation included images depicting the proposed battery units and the landscaping plan for the site.

During the presentation, Mr. Anderson and Ms. Thomas showed the Board images of the proposed infrastructure associated with the project. The images included a number of utility poles that would accompany the installation, with a total of fourteen poles proposed. This prompted discussion among Board members regarding whether the utilities could be installed underground or completed in an alternative manner.

Board members and attendees asked numerous questions and expressed concerns regarding community safety should the proposed battery storage facility be approved. Mr. Anderson and Ms. Thomas indicated that they did not have all the answers requested at this time but stated they would obtain the necessary information and present it at the special joint meeting scheduled for Monday, March 16th with the Town Board, Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals.

DISCUSSION OF TRAFFIC & SAFETY ON 5 & 20

Tim Walsh from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Liam Coyne from the Traffic & Safety Board addressed the Town Board regarding traffic safety concerns along U.S. Route 5 & 20 between the Dutch Hollow Convenience Store and the DEC property.

Discussion focused on several possible safety improvements, including reducing the speed limit from 55 mph to 40 mph, installing additional roadway signage, and potentially adding a turning lane into the DEC entrance.

Mr. Walsh and Mr. Coyne explained that the Town Board and the owner of the Dutch Hollow Convenience Store are working together to prepare an application to submit to the State requesting consideration of these traffic safety improvements.

Supervisor LeFeber suggested strengthening the application by gathering additional support. This may include obtaining signatures from customers of the Dutch Hollow Convenience Store, a resolution from the Town Board, a letter of support from the DEC, and possibly a letter from Twin Cedars. Supervisor LeFeber also indicated he would be contacting Megan Crowe in Albany regarding the matter.

It is hoped that the necessary materials will be assembled within the next two weeks so the application can be presented to the Traffic & Safety Board in April.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

JIM CAMPBELL – ATTORNEY

Attorney Jim Campbell updated the Board on the following:

- Attorney Campbell reported that a joint meeting of the Town Board, Planning Board, and Zoning Board of Appeals is scheduled for Monday the 16th. One of the primary agenda items was expected to be the CNY Feeds project; however, the applicant is not prepared to move forward with the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) process at this time. Attorney Campbell noted that although Supervisor David LeFeber will be out of town, it would still be beneficial for the remaining Town Board members to attend the meeting to learn more about the fire safety considerations related to the proposed battery storage project.
- Attorney Campbell reported that there has been no new information regarding the Bruckel project.
- Attorney Campbell stated he has been working on the Gary Wheat Solar project, which has recently been sold. Work is currently underway to transfer the bonds from the original company to the new company.
- Attorney Campbell also reported that he has been working on the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) grant that the Town was awarded for three projects resulting from recent storm damage. During discussion with Tim Walsh of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Attorney Campbell asked who the appropriate contact at DEC would be regarding the projects. Mr. Walsh recommended contacting Tom Heeley and indicated he would provide Attorney Campbell with his contact information. Mr. Walsh noted that similar conversations are occurring throughout the 11-county region and that NRCS funding is currently available. If DEC approval can be obtained, the remaining requirement would be securing easements, which are not expected to present a problem.
- Attorney Campbell explained that representatives from Carson Power were invited to attend the meeting due to concerns raised by the Board regarding fire safety for the proposed battery storage project. Since Supervisor LeFeber will not be able to attend the upcoming joint meeting, the

discussion would also allow the Board to consider additional questions they may wish to raise at that meeting. Discussion followed regarding Carson Power's proposal, the SEQR process, and the likelihood that the Zoning Board of Appeals may assume lead agency status for the project.

- Attorney Campbell encouraged the Board to review the materials provided by Carson Power prior to the joint meeting, noting that the information provided an interesting overview of the project and may help Board members prepare additional questions.

THOMAS CRYE – HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Highway Superintendent Thomas Crye updated the Board on the following:

- Highway:
 - Snow removal
 - Brush removal
 - Shop-maintenance
 - Snow fence down
- Water:
 - Everyday maintenance & sampling
 - Meter changes
 - Purchased 283 meters from Town of Hilton \$280.00/meter (\$50.00 savings per meter)

Tom Crye said that the Town of Hilton also might have other equipment that we may be able to purchase at a reasonable price.

Supervisor LeFeber asked Highway Superintendent Crye about taking down a guardrail on Sackett Rd. This brought on conversation between the Board and Dave Willard from MRB, about saving the Town money by our guys doing some of the work on these projects.

DAVE WILLARD – ENGINEERS

Dave Willard of MRB Group updated the Board on the following items:

- Dave Willard reported that the Town applied in July for a study of six culverts within the Little Conesus Creek Watershed. The Town was awarded a \$50,000 grant with a required \$5,000 local match, for a total project of \$55,000. The Town's match has already been met through preliminary design work completed for the Sackett Road project, which included a stream shed study. Dave Willard noted that work may begin once the proposal is approved, as expenses are retroactive to the date of the grant application. Proposal documents were distributed for Board review.
- Supervisor LeFeber discussed the possibility of using Councilman Drozdziel's engineering services toward the Town's match for the NRCS program.
- Dave Willard reported that MRB is nearing completion of the preliminary engineering design. SEQR is currently underway and is expected to be finalized at the March 26 meeting. A bond resolution is anticipated for the early April meeting.
- Supervisor LeFeber asked if the Town could perform some of the project work toward the required 20% share. Dave Willard stated that work completed by the Town may qualify as an in-kind match and will confirm. The Board discussed what work could potentially be completed in-house.
- Dave Willard reported that MRB reviewed the revised RPZ report for Anderson Farms. He indicated that the DOH form will be signed and submitted to Livingston County. MRB also received the easement map and description, but he was unsure if the agreement had been signed.

- Dave Willard reported that a meeting with the Town of Lima is scheduled for March 13 to discuss using their water supply during the shutdown of the Town’s water tank. The Department of Health has received the final drawings.
- Dave Willard reported that the project is scheduled to be advertised for bids on March 20, with bids to be opened on April 15. This would allow for a pre-construction meeting in mid-May. Supervisor LeFeber discussed the timeline and noted that the Intermunicipal Agreement requires the Town, in addition to the Village, to approve moving forward with the bid. Dave Willard provided a project schedule and asked if the Board wished to authorize proceeding to bid.

RESOLUTION 50-2026

ACCEPTANCE OF BIDDING FOR WATER PROJECT

On motion of Supervisor LeFeber seconded by Deputy Supervisor Mairs the following resolution was ADOPTED – Aye – LeFeber, Mairs, Drozdziel, Coyne, Hayes Nay – 0 Absent – 0

RESOLVED, to accept the job going out to bid for the Town and Village Water project.

BRIAN SHANNON – CODE ENFORCEMENT

Supervisor LeFeber had a written report from Code Enforcer Brian Shannon and updated the Board on the following:

- Continuing to process and review permits
- Conducting ongoing fire inspections
- Successfully completed the Code Conference and obtained recertification for the upcoming year

FAYE BESHURES – TOWN CLERK’S REPORT – FEBRUARY 2026

Town Clerk Faye Beshures presented the following report to the Board:

For the month of February, the Town Clerk’s Office issued and processed the following:

- 1 Fishing License
- 1 Marriage License
- 7 Marriage Certificate Copies
- 1 One-Day Marriage Officiant License
- 1 E-Z Pass Tag
- 36 Dog Licenses
- 4 Death Certificates
- 3 Building Permits

Total revenue collected for February was **\$818.00**. Distribution of funds is as follows:

- **\$22.50** remitted to the Department of Health
- **\$46.00** remitted to NYS Agriculture & Markets
- **\$23.62** remitted to NYS Environmental Conservation

The **Town’s share totaled \$726.68**.

So far for the month of March, the office has processed:

- 2 Fishing Licenses
- 2 Marriage Certificate Copies

- 1 E-Z Pass Tag
- 15 Dog Licenses
- 16 Death Certificates
- 3 Building Permits

Total revenue collected to date in March is **\$685.80**, with the **Town's share totaling \$593.22**.

Tax Collection Update

Tax collections currently stand at **94% of the total warrant**, with **\$6,623,459.79 collected**. There are **114 unpaid tax bills remaining**, totaling **\$405,039.82**.

The Clerk's Office continues to see steady foot traffic. Residents regularly visit for court matters, water payments, summer recreation applications, and assessor-related inquiries, as well as general questions or to stop in and say hello.

Clerk Beshures continues to organize office materials and procedures while becoming familiar with new responsibilities and systems daily.

Account#	Account Description	Fee Description	Qty	Local Share
A1255	Conservation	Conservation	1	1.38
	Marriage License Fees	Marriage License Fee	1	17.50
	Minor Sales	Bounced Check Fee - Tax	1	18.00
		Certified Copies- Marriage	7	70.00
	One Day Officiant License	One Day Officiant License	1	25.00
		Sub-Total:		\$131.88
A1410.4	EZ PassFee	EZ Pass	1	25.00
		Sub-Total:		\$25.00
A2544	Dog Licensing	Female, Spayed	12	108.00
		Female, Unspayed	1	12.00
		Male, Neutered	19	171.00
		Male, Unneutered	4	48.00
		Sub-Total:		\$339.00
A2770	Minor Sales	Death Certificates	4	40.00
		Sub-Total:		\$40.00
B2555	Permits	Building Permit	3	190.80
		Sub-Total:		\$190.80
		Total Local Shares Remitted:		\$726.68
Amount paid to:	New York State Department of Health			22.50
Amount paid to:	NYS Ag. & Markets for spay/neuter program			46.00
Amount paid to:	NYS Environmental Conservation			23.62
Total State, County & Local Revenues:	\$818.80	Total Non-Local Revenues:		\$92.12

SUPERVISOR'S ITEMS – SUPERVISOR DAVID LEFEBER

DISCUSSION MONTHLY BUDGET REPORTS FOR TOWN SUPERVISOR & TOWN CLERK

Supervisor LeFeber acknowledged that the Board received the February budget reports.

RESOLUTION 51-2026

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MONTHLY BUDGET REPORTS FROM THE TOWN SUPERVISOR & TOWN CLERK

On motion of Deputy Supervisor Mairs seconded by Councilman Hayes the following resolution was ADOPTED – Aye – LeFeber, Mairs, Drozdziel, Coyne, Hayes Nay – 0 Absent – 0

RESOLVED, to accept the monthly reports from the Town Supervisor & Town Clerk.

RESOLUTION 52-2026

ACCEPTANCE OF CLAIMS & PAYMENT OF BILLS

On motion of Councilman Coyne seconded by Deputy Supervisor Mairs the following resolution was ADOPTED – Aye – LeFeber, Mairs, Drozdziel, Coyne, Hayes Nay – 0 Absent – 0

RESOLVED, that the bills be paid in the following amounts:

Fund	Amount
General Fund	\$ 15,461.55
Highway Fund	\$ 13,754.33
Water Fund	\$ 2,994.19
Cemetery Fund	No Voucher
Opera Block Capital Improvement	No Voucher
Royal Springs Lighting	\$ 1,167.65
Cross Roads Drainage District	No Voucher
Bruckel Drainage District	No Voucher
Royal Springs Drainage	No Voucher
Town of Avon Fire Protection	No Voucher
Rte. 39 Water SW2	No Voucher

SUPERVISOR'S ITEMS – SUPERVISOR DAVID LEFEBER

Supervisor LeFeber had the following discussions with the Town Board:

DISCUSSION – VERIZON PHONE CONTRACT

Supervisor LeFeber reported that the Town was able to negotiate with Verizon, reducing the Town's phone bill by nearly half.

DISCUSSION – TOWN WEBSITE PRESS RELEASE

Supervisor LeFeber noted that at a previous meeting the Board discussed issuing a press release on the Town website but delayed doing so while waiting for the new Town letterhead. Now that the new letterhead has been received, he suggested posting information on the website regarding grants the Town has received and upcoming projects.

DISCUSSION – EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK

Supervisor LeFeber reported that the Town has been collecting employee signatures acknowledging receipt of the employee handbook. He indicated that one employee has declined to sign.

DISCUSSION – RESIDENT CONCERN OVER FLOODING

Supervisor LeFeber reported that a resident contacted him regarding flooding that occurred last year and questioned what actions the Town has taken in response. The resident expressed concerns regarding the placement of grant-funded projects and requested an explanation within 30 days regarding the flooding and the Town’s actions.

OPEN ITEMS – TOWN BOARD MEMBERS

DISCUSSION – PAPERMILL PARK PROJECT

Councilman Drozdziel reported that he contacted a local contractor regarding a potential design-build project for Papermill Park. He also reached out to LMC, which provides bridge systems, in order to explore design options and potentially move forward with a design-build bid process.

DISCUSSION – DASNY GRANT UPDATE

Supervisor LeFeber reported that he submitted the required paperwork to DASNY and received a DocuSign document in return, indicating the Town is moving forward in the process. Dave Willard of MRB asked whether the Town had received the grant award from DASNY. Supervisor LeFeber indicated that the next step will be receiving the document back with DASNY’s signature. A discussion followed between the Board and Mr. Willard regarding the grant.

DISCUSSION – JOB DESCRIPTIONS

Councilman Drozdziel reported that he and Supervisor LeFeber’s Confidential Secretary, Kimberly McDowell, are currently working on updating job descriptions.

DISCUSSION – LIBRARY PROJECT

Councilman Drozdziel reported that he will be starting a project this summer with the library involving improvements to the parking lot and backyard area. Supervisor LeFeber asked if the project was grant funded, and Councilman Drozdziel stated that it is funded through the New York State Library Construction Fund. He also noted that the project has been in progress since 2022.

VISITOR COMMENTS:

Liam Coyne inquired whether the utility poles proposed as part of the Carson Power project could be set back further and asked if underground placement had been considered to improve aesthetics.

Bob Westfall expressed environmental concerns regarding the Carson Power proposal. He also asked the Town Board what advantages the Battery Energy Storage System would provide to the Town, including any potential economic benefits. Supervisor LeFeber indicated he was unsure at this time.

Jim Harrington suggested that the Board consider conducting a traffic speed study from the DEC to Oak Openings Road. He noted that additional data could assist in working with the State to pursue signage, speed reductions, and roadway improvements, including the proposed turn.

Cindy Kellen thanked Councilman Drozdziel for raising questions with the Carson Power representatives regarding the number of utility poles included in the proposal.

On motion of Supervisor LeFeber seconded by Deputy Supervisor Mairs and carried by all, the Board meeting was adjourned at 8:51 p.m. Supervisor LeFeber requested to enter into an attorney-client privileged session, with no action to be taken.

Respectfully submitted,

Faye Beshures
Town Clerk