



Town of Ayer

Ayer Board of Selectmen

Meeting Highlights from the September 1, 2015 BOS Meeting

(Note: These Meeting Highlights are for informational purposes only and do not constitute nor substitute the official meeting minutes of the BOS)

- The Ayer Board of Selectmen called to order their September 1, 2015 Meeting at 7pm in the Ayer Town Hall.
- The Board on recommendation of the DPW Superintendent authorized (3-0) a sewer abatement in the amount of \$2,453.82 to 25 Groton School Road.
- The Board approved (3-0) a Memorandum of Understanding between the Town and JAR Realty for the expansion of the Catagna Spagna rail loading/expansion project as well as approval for a drainage easement.
- The Board voted (3-0) its intention to layout Mulberry Circle, Calvin Street Extension, Blueberry Circle, Hibiscus Lane, Magnolia Drive and Samantha Lance as public ways for consideration of approval by the Fall Special Town Meeting on October 27, 2015.
- The Board heard an update from the DPW Superintendent and Town Engineer on the Transfer Station pavement improvement project(s). The project(s) have been delayed due to the need for State Approval to work on a capped landfill as well as the fact that there were no responses to the initial project(s) bid. The project has been rebid and approval from the State has been granted.
- The Board voted (3-0) to accept a gift in the amount of \$5,000 from F & P Willow Trust for the purchase of Fire Department equipment.
- Senator Eldridge, Representative Benson, and Representative Harrington appeared before the Board to make a presentation on various legislative initiatives, the State Budget, and other issues pertinent to Ayer. The Board discussed with the State Delegation the importance of resolving the property dispute between the MBTA and Mr. Berry so that the commuter rail surface parking lot project may commence. Additionally, the Board discussed the importance of the MassWorks Infrastructure Grant Application for the sewer extension from Groton into Ayer along Westford Road. The issue of DCF reform was also raised by a resident.
- The Board voted (3-0) on recommendation of the Conservation Commission to appoint Mr. Brian Collieran as the Town's Conservation Administrator with a start date of September 8, 2015.

- The Board voted (3-0) on recommendation of the Conservation Commission and the Town Administrator to appoint Ms. Bonnie Tillotson to the Conservation Commission to fill an unexpired three-year term to expire on June 30, 2017.
- The Town Administrator advised the Board that as a result of the ruling of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court (SJC) on Friday, August 28, 2015 in the case of *Doe, et. al. v. City of Lynn*, the ruling of the SJC has rendered sex offender residency bylaws (such as the Town of Ayer's) unconstitutional and unenforceable across the Commonwealth. As a result, the Town has been advised by the Chief of Police, Town Counsel, and the Massachusetts Police Chief's Association not to enforce the Town's Sex Offender Residency Bylaw pending further action by the Massachusetts Legislature. The Board authorized the Town Administrator to issue a public notification (to include the full decision of the SJC in *Doe v. City of Lynn*) regarding this matter. The Town will await further guidance and advice from Town Counsel and the State.
- The Board expressed its concerns publically about the lack of detailed and effective coverage of its proceedings by the *Nashoba Public Spirit* over the last several months.
- The Board approved (3-0) its meeting minutes from August 11, 2015 and adjourned at 9:10pm.
- The Ayer Board of Selectmen's next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, September 15, 2015 at 7pm in the Ayer Town Hall.