

Selectmen's Meeting

October 9, 2007

Ayer Town Hall, 1st Floor Meeting Room, Main Street, Ayer, MA

Meeting recorded by AYERPAC made part of meeting minutes-CD available for viewing by written request to Town Administrator or by purchase from AYERPAC directly.

Present

Gary J. Luca, Chairman	X
Carolyn McCreary, Vice-Chairman	X
Cornelius F. Sullivan, Clerk	Delayed due to prior engagement
Frank F. Maxant, Member	X
Pauline Conley, Member	X
Shaun Suhoski, Town Administrator	X
Janet Lewis, Secretary	X

7:10p.m. Open Meeting -Chairman Luca called the meeting to order

Public Input:

1. Daniel Vaughn-re Taxi License-The Board advised to this matter taken up later and at that time would allow Mr. Vaughn to comment.
2. Mark Valardi-land preservation. Mr. Valardi expressed his concern re precious little land left in Town and development out of control. Ayer beginning to look like a city, urging Board to save some land. Patrick Hughes spoke to Town organizations working to control/prioritize land development and urged Mr. Valardi to attend next task force meeting November date to be announced later. Selectman McCreary also thanked Mr. Valardi for voicing his concerns and coming to meeting. Selectman McCreary encouraged Mr. Valardi to join forces with the Town's various green groups welcoming him to join the Conservation Task Force and also welcoming Mr. Valardi to attend upcoming meetings.
3. Selectman Conley, re: Agenda # 3. Zoning Consultant Retention (VHB) moved to postpone this discussion until after the Planning Board has finished its deliberations. Selectman McCreary speaking against this postponement/continuation on behalf of the Comprehensive Planning Implementation Committee (CPIC) which has taken the charge leading the effort on behalf of the Townspeople to get the Zoning Map /By-laws updated/recodified. Selectman Maxant 2nd Selectman Conley's motion, Chairman Luca called for a vote: Selectman Conley aye, Selectman Luca aye, Selectman McCreary no, Selectman Maxant no. 2-2 motion carries. Discussion continued until the next Selectman's Meeting.

Chairman Luca welcomed Eagle Scouts: Christopher and Zachary Watson of Troop 3 to the meeting. Chairman Luca read into the record Certificates of Recognition acknowledging the brothers Eagle Projects: Christopher Watson-cleaning, repairing and beautifying the quadrangle at the Ayer High School. Zachary Watson-building a reading loft for Kiddie Junction Preschool/Daycare on Shirley St. both projects done to the betterment of the Ayer community. The Board thanked the Brothers and wished them well on future endeavors.

7:20p.m. Agenda Item #1. Public Hearing Continuation-Taxi License-C&M Lynch Inc. d/b/a Ayer Kab Co.

Chairman Luca opened the Public Hearing by requesting the Legal Notice be read into the record. Selectman Sullivan read the legal notice published in the Nashoba Publications Newspaper the weeks of 8-31-07 & 9-7-07. The Board met with Charles Lynch of Fitchburg, MA. Selectman Conley reviewed with Mr. Lynch packet of information provided by him to the Board, advising Mr. Lynch to his application 99% complete. Missing information included: Business Certificate from Ayer Town Clerk's Office, Police Chief's inspection reports of vehicles (2), Certificates of Good Standing from Dept. of Revenue and Secretary of State's Office (Boston) and Taxi Drivers to be hired applications. Chairman Luca opened the floor for comment-Daniel Vaughn. Mr. Vaughn updated the Board to his wife applying for a Taxi License three (3) years ago and everything approved except for background check disclosing problem with her social security number and that problem rectified. Mr. Vaughn requesting the Board's permission to have opportunity to come back before the Board for Taxi License. The Board encouraged Mr. Vaughn to apply and follow same procedures. Selectman Conley moved the Board vote to approve the Taxi License for C&M Lynch Inc. d/b/a Ayer Kab Co. with four (4) conditions: Business Certificate from Ayer Town Clerk, Certificates of Good Standing from DOR & Sec. of State's Office, Vehicle inspection reports (2) from

Police Dept., and applications of drivers hired, 2nd by Selectman Maxant. Town Administrator advising to inquiries made showing no issues re Mr. Lynch's businesses in Gardner/Fitchburg, taxes current. The Board reviewed fees and established rate of \$100.00 per taxi vehicles and \$20.00 per license/drivers. Chairman Luca called for a VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

Taxi Driver Application C&M Lynch-The Board met with Beatrice (Miller) Trombly of 63 West Main St., Ayer, MA. Ms Trombly advised the Board to being a former Taxi Cab Driver for former business in Ayer. Selectman Conley moved the Board approve Ms. Trombly's Taxi Driver's License - Taxi License Renewal date of 3-31-08, and fee of \$20.00 2nd by Selectman McCreary, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

Agenda Item #2. Treasurer-re MGL Chapter 32B (Medicare) The Board met with Treasurer Denis Callahan and Asst. Treasurer Melisa Doig. The Board thanked Mr. Callahan & Ms. Doig for coming in to meet with the Board re Article 5. on the Fall Town Meeting Warrant forcing retirees to enroll on Medicare. Mr. Callahan reviewed with the Board the savings to the town in an attempt to disqualify any misnomers: retired couple enrolled in Medicare B, would currently pay \$93.50/ ea plus \$156.50 each for a supplemental plan for a total of \$500.00/month or a savings of \$187.00/mo. The Town would save \$374.50/month under the same scenario. A single retiree under a supplemental health plan would pay virtually the same and the Town would save about \$95.00/month. Mr. Callahan as a rough estimate anticipated a net savings of \$50K-\$75K per year after the 1st year. Selectman Conley expressed her concern re retirees being fearful of plan and educating eligible people before enactment. Ms. Doig estimated between 30-40 retirees being effected by this change and advised to their office to meet with each retiree individually to explain and reassure them to no loss of coverage, same doctors, etc. Selectmen McCreary commended the Treasurer's Office for personal touch/service and willingness to walk the retirees through process, thanking the Treasurer and Ms. Doig on behalf of the Town of Ayer. The Board thanked the Treasurer and Ms Doig for taking on this imitative and for coming in to meet with the Board.

Agenda Item #3. Resignations-The Board moved to accept with regrets the resignations of Carolyn Duff from the Fin-Com and the Personnel Board and Charles Jones from the Personnel Board. Both happily retiring and retiring with their respective families. Motion to accept resignations with regret made by Selectman Maxant, 2nd by Selectman McCreary, VOTE: unanimous, so moved. The Town Administrator presented the Board letters for their signatures.

Agenda Item #4. Selectmen's Questions/New Business-Space Alignment Payment

The Board met with Mr. Ryan-Planning & Development Director. Chairman Luca opened the discussion by stating his dismay re expenditure of \$1100.00 for office space architect plans re relocation a complete waste of CDBG money. Selectman Maxant echoing Chairman Luca's remarks re scale drawing done by Haynes, Lieneck & Smith Architects at cost to taxpayers of \$1100.00 outrageous. Chairman Luca agreeing if given latitude to spend will spend-control attitude. On another issue the Board stated their dismay re relying on staff to rearrange space after move implying Senior staff took advantage of Junior staff and requesting flat file be placed back in former Planning Board's office on 2nd floor.

8:10p.m. Selectman Sullivan entered meeting

Selectman Conley reviewed with the Board email from Town Accountant to Town Administrator re payment of bill from UDAG/CDBG Funds requesting in the future a meeting with full Board of Selectmen be required and receiving Board's approval before spending UDAG funds. Requesting of Mr. Ryan if any UDAG Funds were spent re this move. Mr. Suhoski advising the Board to his fourteen years of experience with UDAG/CDBG funds and questioning eligibility of authorized funding being questioned stating he stands behind recommendations, all are factual and will stand up to law. Mr. Ryan gave the Board a brief background/overview being given the primary facilitator's role re space allocation/move reviewing a chronology of the move and associated costs.. Mr. Ryan advised the board to roadblocks and frustration re relationship with Planning Board complicated and no where close to being resolved. Mr. Ryan took exception to remark Senior Staff took advantage to Junior staff re office move. Selectman Conley & Selectman McCreary after discussion offered their support and stated they have not lost their confidence in him.

8:55p.m. Selectman Sullivan moved the Board adjourn from Open Session and enter into Executive Session pursuant to MGL Chapter 39 Section 23B, Exemption #3 strategy with respect to non-union & Collective Bargaining and Criminal Complaints, 2nd by Selectman McCreary, VOTE: Selectman Sullivan aye, Selectman Conley aye, Selectman Maxant aye, Selectman McCreary aye, Chairman Luca aye, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

Conley A. Sullivan

12-18-07