

Selectmen's Meeting
Tuesday, August 8, 2006
Ayer Town Hall, 1st Floor Meeting Room, Main Street, Ayer, MA

Open 7:00p.m.

Present

Frank F. Maxant, Chairman	X
Pauline Conley, Vice-Chairman	X
Carolyn McCreary, Clerk	X
Gary J. Luca, Member	X
Cornelius F. Sullivan, Member	Absent
Shaun Suhoski, Town Administrator	Absent-vacation
Janet Lewis, Secretary	X

Public Input: Chairman Maxant opened the meeting by requesting if there was anyone present wishing to meet with the Board.

Chairman Maxant requested the Board take up the issue of former Town employee's request this evening re text of letter modified by Chair scheduled for 8-15-06 requesting the employees attendance. The Board to take this up under New Business

Selectman Conley: Requesting the Board take up two items under New Business:

1. Planning & Development Director's Job Description approved on 8-3-06
2. Fall Town Meeting and Super Town Meeting dates

Chairman Maxant called for a motion to accept the Agenda. Selectman Conley moved the Board vote to approve the Agenda for 8-8-06 as amended-3 New Business items, 2nd by Selectman Luca, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

Agenda Item #1. School Committee Vacancy-The Board postponed this discussion until later in the evening when Mr. Sallet is available to meet with the Board .

Agenda Item #2. Interim Fire Chief-The Board met with Fire Chief Paul Fillebrown. Chairman Maxant gave a brief overview re this agenda item. Chief Fillebrown retiring in August 2006 and the need to hire an Interim Fire Chief until new Fire Chief is hired. Chairman Maxant ran through the options re retaining Chief Fillebrown, utilize member of call department, utilize a member of full-time department, and/or retired Chief Wellman Parker as the Town's Interim Fire Chief.

The Board met with Chief Fillebrown re retaining his services through September 28, 2006, which offered the most certainty in terms of cost, knowledge of department operations and providing a smooth transition to the new chief; eliminating internal conflicts re in house applicants and keeping all applicants on an even playing field. Chief Fillebrown stated he is agreeable to staying on an additional month as Interim Fire Chief at his regular rate of pay for four weeks providing the department with 24/7 coverage. (\$1,660.20). Chief Fillebrown advised to his salary as Interim not including health benefits estimated at (\$1,035.49/mo) changing from co-pay of 25%-75% to 50%. The Board discussed picking up the health benefits for September to compensate keeping net pay same. Selectman Conley stating her concern and wishing to speak with Ms Doig in Treasurer's Office prior to offering to pick up health benefits stating Board is not prepared for this discussion this evening. Selectman McCreary offering to net pay him same as today advising to added increase in health care amount will reduce Middlesex retirement coverage. Selectman Conley countering the Board does not know exact cost of taxes/benefits. Selectman Luca advised per his discussion with the Chief and Town Administrator at their meeting last week it really didn't make a difference to the Chief. Selectman Luca moved the Board retain Chief Paul Fillebrown on Interim basis, per his last contract through September 28, 2006 at the weekly salary of

\$1,660.20, 2nd by Selectman McCreary. Selectman Conley requesting to add two (2) amendments: 1. Amount of money and 2. Duties, expressing her concern re timeline. Selectman Conley passed out her timeline concerns for review by the Board re the Screening Committee review of applications/resumes, selection of applicants, interviews, re-interviews, Committees recommendations to Selectmen, Selectmen's interview process, contract negotiations, position offered to candidate, notice by candidate awarded position to current employer could be 30/60 days. Chief Fillebrown expressing his dismay with hypothetical scenario presented by Selectman Conley –calendar stretched out and stating his disappointment with discussion. Selectman Conley stating her support keeping Chief Fillebrown as interim just not at the salary. Chairman Maxant called the Vote on Selectman Luca's motion VOTE: Selectman Luca aye, Selectman McCreary aye, Selectman Conley no, Chairman Maxant aye, 3-1, motion passes.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Former Town Employee**-The Board reviewed the Town Administrators proposed letters re Open Session vs. Executive Session re former Town employee requesting court time payment. The Board discussed merits of Open Session vs Executive Session and simplifying meeting to discussion with former employee and if discussion was necessary re employees retirement agreement the Board could adjourn into Executive Session pursuant to MGL Chapter 39 Section 23B Exemption #3. The Board voted to conduct meeting in Open Session and if needed enter into Executive Session if discussion focused upon employees retirement agreement. Selectman Conley inserted language to state in third paragraph-2nd sentence " if necessary we will adjourn into Executive Session pursuant to Chapter 39 Section 23B under Exemption #3 to discuss the agreement". Motion to approve to meet in Open Session and include in the Town Administrator's Open Session letter to Town Employee dated 8-9-06 the above language to the 3rd paragraph 2nd sentence as stated above, and authorize the Chairman's signature made by Selectman McCreary 2nd by Selectman Luca, VOTE: unanimous, so moved. The Board also adjusted the start of Open Session at the 8-15-06 Selectmen's Meeting to 7:30p.m. to allow Board members to attend the Fire Departments Ham & Bean Supper in the Great Hall before going into Open Session.
2. **School Committee Vacancy**-The Board met with Dan Sallet, Chairman of the Ayer School Committee re Joint Meeting of School Committee and Board of Selectmen to fill vacancy of Heather Hanley who resigned her position on the School Committee before her term expired. The Board approved of meeting request of 8-29-06 at 7:00p.m. at the Page/Hilltop School-Profession Development Room to fill the vacancy on the School Committee. Mr. Sallet stated candidates are welcome to this meeting on the 29th to meet with Joint Bodies re their interest, background and reasoning for seeking position. Letters of interest/resumes to be submitted to School Committee. The Board requested the School Dept./Committee take lead re advertising the vacancy in the Weekly Newspaper for this Friday, 8-11-06 as a Public Interest Item, and advertise the vacancy on Town & School Web sites, postings at the Ayer Library, Town Hall, Selectmen's Office, School Bulletin Boards, place on Cable-APAC. The Board agreed to have the School Dept. collect and distribute materials received prior to 8-24-06 (for Selectmen's Packet distribution on Friday 8-25-06). Selectman Conley also requesting posting state candidates must be Town of Ayer registered voters, the Town Clerk to review/ensure prior to 29th. Chairman Maxant also requested the Board request permission at this meeting to conduct a Book Drive.
3. **Planning Development Director's Position**-Selectman Conley advised to the Board of Selectmen and Planning Board meeting on 8/3/06 to review the combined Job Descriptions of Elizabeth Hughes, Chairman of the Planning Board and Town Administrator Shaun Suhoski's. Selectman Conley advising to an eight (8) page document approved by both boards by an 8-0 vote, process completed and Job Description submitted to Personal Board.
4. **Fall Town Meeting and Super Town Meeting dates**-Selectman Conley advising to Fall Town Meeting Monday, October 23, 2006 and Super Town Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 24th, 2006 and the Board contacting Paul Bresnahan, DDEB liaison for the Town of Ayer and requesting DDEB schedule Super Town Meeting on the 23rd at 7:00p.m. a half hour prior to Town Meeting. The Board to research if three (3) other Town's would be agreeable to this date, Super Town Meeting must be held on same date (Shirley, Harvard, Devens). The Board to revisit this matter at the Selectmen's 8-22-06 Meeting. 8:06p.m. Selectman Luca moved to adjourn, 2nd by Selectman McCreary, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.