

Selectmen's Meeting with Paul's edits
Tuesday, January 6, 2004
Ayer Town Hall, 1st Floor Meeting Room, Main St., Ayer, MA

7:00p.m. Open Session

The Board met with Chairman Fay, Selectman Bresnahan, Selectman Morrison, Selectman Maxant and Selectman Sullivan.

Public Input: Chairman Fay requested if there was anyone present wishing to speak under Public Input:

1. Patrick Hughes-Grove Pond as it relates to Rate of Development By-law-Provision. Mr. Hughes advised to amendment being reviewed by Glen Garber re by-law provision to take effect when five year limitation on building is up in Town, advising to By-law must be amended State will not accept it in its current form, must have revisions. Mr. Hughes reviewed with the Board why a new provision is necessary and suggested the Town work with developers give incentives by way of public works projects/infrastructure and open space donations. Mr. Hughes advised to a Public Meeting to be conducted, date to be announced later- to get residents input.
2. Mary Spinner-issues from Selectmen's 12-2-03 Meeting.
 1. Baby Safe Haven-Letters to Senator Resor/Rep. Hargraves re support of bill.
 2. North Post-Formal request for land (North Post) from MADEV. The Board advised Ms. Spinner to a Joint meeting scheduled with Bill Burke in Feb. 04 to discuss this issue.

Chairman Fay called for a motion to accept the Agenda as amended. Selectman Bresnahan moved the Board approve the Agenda of 1-6-04 as amended, 2nd by Selectman Sullivan, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

Agenda Item #1. Appointments- Betty Surette-Police Dispatcher (P-T)

The Board met with Chief Rizzo re: filling a part-time Police Dispatcher position at the Ayer Police Department. Chief Rizzo introduced Betty Surette to the Board. Chief Rizzo advised the Board to Betty being recruited after attending one of the departments Citizen's Police Academies. The Board reviewed with Ms Surette her extensive technical background and reasoning for interest in the Dispatcher's position. Selectman Bresnahan moved the Board appoint Ms Surette to the part-time dispatcher's position effective to 6-30-04, 2nd by Selectman Morrison, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

Tree Warden-The Board was updated to John Flagg resigning position. The Board requested position is advertised via Cable/Newspaper re citizen's interest. The Board requested a letter of appreciation be sent to Mr. Flagg accepting his resignation with regrets and thanking him for his many years of dedicated service to the Town. Motion to accept Mr. Flagg's resignation made by Selectman Bresnahan, 2nd by Selectman Morrison, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

Agenda Item #2. APAC-Comcast Contract-The Board met with Douglas Becker-APAC, Charles Commeau-APAC, and Rob Travers-Manager of Government Community Relations for Comcast.

Mr. Becker reviewed with the Board Comcast & APAC's renewal agreement re Video drops approved for the following locations: 1. Town Hall, Page/Hilltop School, Ayer High School, and Police Station. The Library is to be eliminated and the two Fire Stations indefinitely postponed. Construction to begin immediately on the Page/Hilltop and High School. Mr. Becker advised to Comcast agreeing to pay the Town for the three locations that are not to be built. Construction to begin at the Hilltop/Page & High Schools in early 2004 or before May 1, 2004. The total cost for the PCF is seventy two thousand dollars (\$72,000.00). APAC to receive \$25K within forty five (45) days from approval of this agreement. If either or both of the Fire Stations have not been built within five (5) years of the execution of this proposal then Comcast will pay APAC for the unbuilt location (s). If the Town connects one or both of the Fire Stations during the five year period a notice of intent must be provided by September 1st prior to the year in which the project will be constructed so Comcast can budget for the project. Comcast will not be obligated to construct Video Returns to the Library, old Fire Station and new Fire Station. Selectman Morrison moved the Board approve the acceptance of this proposal and the parties agree that this letter agreement has the same force and effect as an amendment to the Renewal License, 2nd by Selectman Sullivan VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

Mr. Commeau addressed APAC's proposed improvements to the Great Hall i.e. sound system, drapes, acoustical evaluation re acoustical material front/rear walls, installation of acoustic coved cloth sound absorptive material to the rear wall, ceiling panels covered with banners, flags, seal other appropriate material. Utilization of the Stage-sound to be directed down. The Board took this matter under advisement pending the Town Hall Committee re-looking these suggested improvements. Mr. Commeau updated the Board to a new Channel being added for the viewers, Channel 9 is now the Community Bulletin Board. The Board thanked APAC for coming in to meet with the Board and updating the Town re Cable's negotiations.

Agenda Item #3. Community Preservation Committee

The Board met with Community Preservation Committee Members: Patrick Hughes, Patricia Walsh, Pauline Conley, Timothy Taylor, ~~George Bacon~~^{Steve}, Gary Luca, Robert Moore and Selectman Faye Morrison the Board's designee. Chairman Fay opened the discussion by complementing the members for their public service stating the meeting was called by both Chairs to address press issues but in Chairman Fay's view was actually Town government at work. Chairman Hughes responding democracy can be a difficult and sometimes less than pleasing process things can get out of control. Mr. Hughes stated the procedural errors addressed by Town Counsel do not do the Town any good; requesting to addresses higher issues rather than review past happenings. Timothy Taylor stated he felt tonight's meeting was to go over Town Counsel's findings which indicated that the Committee had not adhered to proper procedure re decisions for the Fall Town Meeting Warrant nor met warrant timelines. Chairman Fay stated Town Counsel found that the Board of Selectmen acted within its discretion when it removed CPC Articles from the Fall Town Meeting. Chairman Fay also spoke for the Board in issuing a public apology/regret for denying a resident to speak at a past Selectmen's

Meeting. **Selectman Bresnahan, speaking for himself, also apologized for the decision to not allow public input at the hearing with the "Senior Citizens".** The two Boards's agreed to work together better in the future.

Selectman Bresnahan requested the Board table the Town Administrator's Report from the Agenda to expedite Executive Session this evening. Town Administrator's Report to be taken up later in the evening if time permits.

The Board met with Economic & Community Development Director Shaun Suhoski who appraised the Board to his office preparing Fy-04 Community Development Block Grant Application for submission to the State Dept. of Housing & Community Development by January 13, 2004. Mr. Suhoski updated the Board to the schedule & notification of funding availability sent out to all Town Departments on 10-1-03 and announced by the Board of Selectmen on October 7, 2003, a Public Hearing was held on October 14, 2003. Mr. Suhoski reviewed with the Board the proposed activity and budget for the Fy-04 CDBG Grant Application:

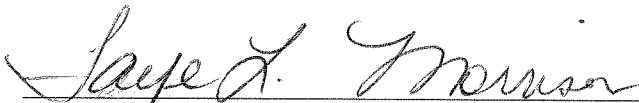
- | | | |
|--------|---|--------------|
| 1. | Housing Rehabilitation (21 units @ \$30K/ea) - | \$630,000.00 |
| 2. | Housing Rehab Program Delivery (rehab specialist/Lead Insp/staff- | 90,291.00 |
| 3. | General Administration (limit 18%-actual estimate 9.58%) | - 79,709.00 |
| TOTAL: | | \$800,000.00 |

Selectman Bresnahan moved the Board authorize its Chairman to execute an application to the State Dept. of Housing & Community Development for \$800,000.00 in Fy-04 CDBG assistance to continue the Housing Rehabilitation Program in the Town of Ayer, 2nd by Selectman Sullivan, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

Selectman Sullivan going on record to applaud the record size of the Grant due to Mr. Suhoski's experience, relationship with the State & cooperative relationship with his staff applauding Mr. Suhoski to "Keep up the Good Work".

8:30p.m. Selectman Morrison moved the Board adjourn from Open Session to enter into Executive Session pursuant to MGL Chapter 39 Section 23B, Exemption #3 to adjourn from this Executive Session to re-enter into Open Session to conclude the remainder of the Open Session items, 2nd by Selectman Sullivan, VOTE: Selectman Morrison aye, Selectman Sullivan aye, Selectman Bresnahan aye, Selectman Maxant aye, Chairman Fay aye, unanimous, so moved. Chairman Fay cautioning attendees to Executive Session being lengthy and meeting may be very late.

8:30p.m. Executive Session opens



Faye L. Morrison, Clerk

AYER BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Date:

