

Selectmen's Meeting
December 17, 2002
Ayer Town Hall, 1st Floor Meeting Room, Main St., Ayer, MA

7:00p.m. Open Session

The Board met with Chairman Witherow, Selectman Fay, Selectman Maxant, Selectman Bresnahan delayed, and Selectman Sullivan absent.

Chairman Witherow opened the meeting wishing all Town of Ayer residents a Happy, Healthy and Safe holiday season on behalf of the Board of Selectmen.

Selectman Bresnahan entered the meeting.

Public Input: Chairman Witherow requested if there was anyone present wishing to meet with the Board of Selectmen under Public Input. Janet Giamo and James Lucchesi.

1. Janet Giamo- stated she was before the Board this evening to request the Chairman's signature on Sewer Permit Application stating the original application was lost and DEP has approved all the State documents and requested she submit the original application to the Selectmen again for the Chairman's endorsement to complete their files. Ms. Giamo produced documentation depicting Mr. Bresnahan's signature on the original sewer permit approved by the Board of Selectmen in 1997. Selectman Bresnahan reviewed the documentation and moved the Board approve the Chairman re-sign the Sewer permit for John Giamo-for Winterberry Lane 2nd by Selectman Fay, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.
2. James Lucchesi- Stated he wanted to clarify the American Legion's position re: the Memorial plaque stating the Legion is opposed to this plaque.

Agenda Item #1. Water Bill complaint-Grosvenor St., Ayer, MA

The Board met with Ronald Hernandez of 20 Grosvenor St., Ayer, MA re Mr. Hernandez protesting his latest water bill in the amount of \$650.72. Present for the discussion Supt. Madigan. Mr. Hernandez stated his bill has doubled from his last reading questioning the accuracy of the meter. Supt. Madigan advised the Board to Mr. Hernandez's home being a two (2) family and expressing concerns re possible landlord/tenant dispute or water leaks being a possible source for the high volume use- having tested the meter on numerous occasions and as recently as two weeks ago and finding nothing wrong with the meter. After a lengthy discussion the Board voted to take no action on this complaint and tabled the discussion. Motion to take no action made by Selectman Fay, 2nd by Selectman Maxant VOTE 3-0 Mr. Hernandez to pay the bill but if he finds something out of the ordinary with his water meter to contact the DPW immediately

Agenda item #2. Main Street Lights

1. Street Lights - Supt. Madigan updated the Board to vendors he contacted about lights on Main/West Main St re lumination concerns. Supt. Madigan addressed the main problem of lights throwing out yellow glow on Main & West Main due to being high-pressure sodium lights. Benefits of yellow light bulb last longer and allows wider space between poles vs. white light has shorter life and spacing of poles need to be closer. Supt. Madigan offered to change the yellow lights to white lights on West Main & lower Main St. for a reasonable time to allow the Board to make a choice. Supt. Madigan stated the plastic globes on the lights also increase problem due to globes turning yellowish /brown from exhaust fumes. The Board approved Supt. Madigan go forward with the demonstration on Main/W. Main up to the Bridge changing over to white lights for a reasonable time for a comparison study.
2. Water Meter Calibration- Supt. Madigan requested this item be postponed for discussion due to policies needing clarification/updating and he is not ready to report at this time. The Board set this matter back for the next Selectmen's Meeting.

Agenda Item #3. Chief of Police re: Sidewalks-Main Street

The Board met with Richard Rizzo. Chief Rizzo updated the Board to his research investigating traffic, speed, and types of vehicles traveling through downtown Ayer and number & locations of eight crosswalks .2 of a mile between Park St. and Columbia St. The Chief reviewed with the Board the traffic counter measurements indicating that 5,500 to 6,500 vehicles travel in each direction along Main St. The Board also was advised to traffic generally moving slowly through this part of Town, especially during the day due high volume stating most drivers were polite. The majority of drivers stopped when they saw people in

crosswalks or trying to cross the street there were few near misses and conditions causing them were reported. The area having the safest crosswalks was: Washington St., crosswalks located at North Middlesex Savings Bank, West St., and Pleasant appeared to have the most near misses due to not being clearly marked and located where crosswalks aren't generally located. The Chief recommended a few suggestions to make pedestrian traffic safer. 1. Placing yellow or green stanchions at each downtown crosswalk, hanging crosswalk-warning signs above the crosswalks (plain or electronic), 2. raised crosswalks at Town Hall and Pleasant St. with a warning stanchion causing the motorist to slow down for raised crosswalk, 3. Pedestrian Gateway (six yellow crosswalk posts on each crosswalk (not recommended for downtown) would work well at Park St., E. Main, W. Main and the Rail Trail. 4. Push button electronic walk light (too expensive) 5. Public service announcements on Cable, Newspaper, Town Crier and 6. place officers near crosswalks. The Chief advised the Board to more crosswalks than needed for such a short stretch of road. Selectman Bresnahan suggested the Board pursue raised crosswalks for Park St. (easterly @ Park St.) and needed more research to review the need of eight crosswalks for a .2 mile stretch of road, and possibly remove one or two. The Chief advised to removing a few of the crosswalks would free up parking spaces but the downside would be increased jay-walking. The Board thanked the Chief for meeting with them and took his recommendations under advisement. Selectman Maxant took this opportunity to publicly thank the DPW for all their hard work keeping road clear during the Christmas holiday.

Agenda Item #4. Park & West Main Street Intersection

The Board took this opportunity to discuss among themselves the need for a traffic light at intersection of Park and West Main Street. The concensus of the Board was not in favor for the traffic light or to loose any parking spaces on Main Street. The Board directed the Town Administrator to follow up with Vanasse Assoc. Inc. to advise them of the Board's decision and to request Vanasse Assoc. look into a second lane of traffic heading south on Park Street as a viable approach to traffic congestion. Motion made by Selectman Bresnahan, 2nd by Selectman Fay, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

Agenda Item #5. Rail Trail -MOU

Ms. Hegarty updated the Board to meeting with Dept. of Environmental Management Officials on Dec. 3, 2002, and of meeting atmosphere being very cooperative. Ms. Hegarty updated the Board to the Memorandum of Agreement expiring with DEM on March 31, 2003 regarding the maintenance of the Clivus composting toilets and rail trail parking lot. Ms. Hegarty updated the Board to the high cost of maintenance of the toilets by the Town of Ayer's DPW re vandalism and general cleaning, supplies and septage removal on a regular basis. Parking lot requires snow plowing, sanding, sweeping and cutting grass. Ms. Hegarty stated she looked into the possibility of CPA funds being used to cover the annual cost of maintaining the rail trail toilet/parking lot facilities requested by Chairman Witherow and was advised to CPA funds were not a viable expense for this maintenance. The Board reviewed other options re: closing the toilets for six (6) months a year (Apr.-Nov.) or if repair cost go over a certain amount to remove the toilets. Selectman Bresnahan moved the Board renegotiate the contract with the MA Dept. of Environmental Management with clear message the Town will not continue contract unless renegotiated, 2nd by Selectman Fay, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

Agenda Item #6. New Business/Selectmen's Questions

1. **Sidewalks:** Selectman Maxant-Congratulated the Police Dept. again for their enforcement with the sidewalk clearing of snow stating walkways down E. Main to rotary being clean and clean for pedestrian traffic.
2. **Cannon-** Selectman Bresnahan reported the Cannon would not be moved to the rear of Town Hall due to it not being a realistic location. A meeting will be held to decide on new location soon.

Agenda Item #7. Town Administrator's Report

1. Ms. Hegarty updated the Board to recent complaint received in the Selectmen's Office from James Williams re: requesting written apology to him re incident at Town Hall involving the automatic doors. Ms. Hegarty updated the Board to Mr. Williams and the Disabilities Commission being invited to attend the Jan. 7, 2003 Selectmen's Meeting to discuss this issue and of Town Counsel being requested to attend to address allegations made by Mr. Williams involving her. Selectman Fay moved to approve Ms. Hegarty's request so stated, 2nd by Selectman Bresnahan, VOTE: unanimous so moved.
2. The Board was advised to Joint meeting with BRAC scheduled for 1-9-03 at 7pm re: AOC-50 & Shepley Hill, and of Mr. Goff preferring to meet at 6pm if possible due to RAB Meeting the same

evening. The Board unable to honor Mr. Goff's request for 6pm due to conflicting schedules and requested the meeting is scheduled for 7pm.


3. Ms. Hegarty updated the Board to Lori Nehring having only two (2) partitions available, which she is gladly willing to donate to the Great Hall, and provided the name of contact who may have additional Partitions available to donate. Selectman Maxant stated he has a few partitions available as well.
4. The Board approved of Ms. Hegarty advertising the custodial position to be shared by the Town Hall and Police Dept. for 20 hours each per week, advising the Board to the Personnel Board meeting and grading the position at \$12.51/hr. Selectman Bresnahan moved the Board approve of Ms. Hegarty advertising the custodial position, 2nd by Selectman Maxant, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.
5. Ms. Hegarty advised to Patrol Officers Contract negotiations and Sewer related litigation under Executive Session this evening. Selectman Maxant protesting the sewer related matter being held under Executive Session requesting the discussion be held in Open Session. Supt. Madigan stating matter in litigation presently and recommended discussion is held in Executive. Chairman Witherow called for a vote on Selectman Maxant's request to take the sewer matter up in Open Session: Selectman Bresnahan no, Selectman Fay no, Chairman Witherow no, Selectman Maxant yes, 3-1 motion defeated. Matter to be held in Executive Session.

Agenda Item #8. Economic Development Director's Report-Mr. Suhoski reviewed with the Board the Scope of services with Communities Opportunities Group (COG) & MRPC for the four objectives of the Town's Comprehensive Plan Update: Housing Needs Assessment under Fy-02 CDBG Program, Meet Requirements of Community Development Plan under Executive Order 418, Complete update of the Town's Open Space Plan of 1997, and update the 1997 Town of Ayer Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Suhoski stated a budget of \$105K has been established. Motion to approve Community Opportunities Group Scope of Services not to exceed \$105K made by Selectman Fay 2nd by Selectman Maxant VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

The Board approved the Economic Development Director's release of liens as presented. Motion to approve made by Selectman Bresnahan, 2nd by Selectman Fay, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

9:30pm Selectman Maxant moved the Board vote to adjourn from Open Session to enter into Executive Session pursuant to MGL Chapter 39 Section 23b, Exemption #3 re: Patrolmen's Contract & Sewer litigation, 2nd by Selectman Fay, VOTE: Selectman Fay aye, Selectman Bresnahan aye, Selectman Maxant aye, Chairman Witherow aye, unanimous, so moved.

9:30p m. Open Session concluded.


Frank F. Maxant, Clerk

AYER BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Date: 5/2/14