

Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, June 11, 1997
Ayer Public Library-Lower Level Conference Room
East Main Street, Ayer, MA 01432

7:30p.m. Open Session

The Board met with Chairman Norstrom, Selectman Hamel and Selectman Bresnahan.

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Chairman Norstrom opened the meeting by making the following announcements:

Ayer School's will close on 6-24-97 for the summer and the next 4th of July meeting will be on the 17th of June at 7:00p.m. at the Ayer Town Hall.

Chairman Norstrom requested if there was anyone present who wished to be heard.

Atty. Charles Kadison requested to speak re: Bennetts Brook pumping station, Police Chief Don Haapakoski, re: police station update, William Oelfke, re: Supt. of DPW search, and Russell Nostrum, Park Commissioner re: reimbursement for Park Director's personnel vehicle. Chairman Norstrom called for a motion to accept the Agenda of 6-16 as amended.

Selectman Hamel moved the Board approve the Agenda of 6-16 as amended, 2nd by Selectman Bresnahan.

The Board met with Daniel Loring of Madigan Lane re: incinerator odor emanating from Deaconess Nashoba Hospital. Mr. Loring presented the Board a letter which advised the Board to black smoke and odor coming from the smokestack which burns hospital waste. Mr. Loring stated his home is covered with black particles and he is very concerned about health risk to his adjacent neighborhood. Mr. Kreidler advised the Board to need of DEP to investigate this matter. Mr. Kreidler to advise DEP and report back to the Board.

Chairman Norstrom requested the Fire Chief-Paul Fillebrown to step forward along with Deputy Fire Chief's Peter Johnston and Larry Cole. Chairman Norstrom read into the record a letter of appreciation to Chief Fillebrown and his department/full-time & call fire fighters for the immediate response to the devastating and laborious fire at 3-15 West Main Street, Ayer. The prompt and professional response at the scene kept the situation well under control. Chairman Norstrom stated Fire Chief Fillebrown must be commended for no one being seriously injured or killed. The Board echoed Chairman Norstrom's praise and also added the entire community joins in extending a well deserved thank you to the Chief and his entire department. Fire Chief Fillebrown also extended his praise for the leadership of both Deputy Chief Johnston and Cole for their leadership as well as to the twenty two plus neighboring communities who also contributed their time & energy battling the fire. Chairman Norstrom read into the record the twenty two communities who assisted with fire apparatus, men, ambulance, police, food, etc: Shirley, Harvard, Groton, Littleton, Harvard, Lancaster, Acton, Billerica, Fitchburg, Leominster, Ashburnham, Ashby, Berlin, Bolton, Clinton, Lunenburg, Pepperell, Princeton, Sterling, Townsend, Wesford, Gardner, Winchendon, & Lowell. Chairman Norstrom requested Chief Haapakowski to step forward and also presented to him a letter of appreciation for the valuable assistance organizing what would have been a chaotic situation without proper crowd control and supervising the other assistance from neighboring communities. Chairman Norstrom also requested the Civil Defense Director and DPW Supt. also step forward; again Chairman Norstrom thanked Wellman Parker for his efforts standing by all night assisting where needed. Thank you's were extended to Richard Linde and Paul Curtin of the Water Dept. for their standing by and monitoring the water usage to Larry Caldwell, Dave Kidder and Doug Jaspersen for extending their assistance re: clean-up and assisting wherever needed. Chairman Norstrom closed the discussion by stating the fire was contained due to the many dedicated public safety officials and the team effort of the 22+ surrounding Towns.

The Board met with Atty. Kadison and Angus Bruce of Bennetts Brook. Atty. Kadison opened the discussion by stating that he had met with Supt. O'Riordan re: the pumping station. Supt. O'Riordan only wants pumping station & force main and that everything was in place. The pumping station to be accepted after roads are completed to specs. Town Administrator stated he has been in contact with Town Counsel Debbie Eliades re: the legal position of the Town concerning acceptance of roads/infrastructure. Chairman Norstrom stated only Town Counsel's recommendations and requirements will be permitted this would include water & sewer permits until all issues are resolved re: pumping station, the Transit Authority re: easement.

The Board met with Chief Haapakoski re: the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant (LLEBG) application for FY-97. Chief Haapakowski stated Ayer is eligible for a direct grant of \$35,978.00. Chief Haapakoski stated Tim Henzy the Grant Administrator has been instrumental with preparing this application which will be submitted prior to the July 11, 1997 closing date.

The Board met with William Oelfke re: placing the advertisement for the Superintendent of Public Works on the Web Site re: recruitment of applicants through a nation wide Internet. The Internet site if approved would be "WWW.USAJOB.S. OPM.GOV". The Board approved of Mr. Oelfke placing the Town's classified advertisement for the Supt. of Public Works on the Web Site due to bigger network to recruit from.

The Board met with Russell Norstrom, Park Commissioner re: Marvin McMiller's personnel motor vehicle being utilized by the Town without reimbursement. Mr. Norstrom stated Mr. McMiller pays for the upkeep and maintenance of this vehicle. Mr. Norstrom requested the Board consider an alternate method of reimbursing him for the use of his vehicle. Mr. Kreidler to meet with Mr. McMiller to establish a policy re: mileage and use of his private vehicle to conduct Town business.

The Board met with Town Treasurer Thomas Callahan and Town Clerk Ann Callahan. Mr. Callahan presented to the Board bonds/notes taken out in anticipation of revenue. Mr. Callahan stated this borrowing was due to tax bills, water & sewer bills going out late. The Board approved the borrowing in anticipation of revenue.

The Board met with Timothy Henzy, Grant Administrator, re: HOME Contract between the Town and Communities Opportunities Group (COG) for Housing Rehabilitation services which requires the Selectmen's approval. The Home Program Grant allows for 6% of funds to be used for administrative purposes. The Town's Grant is \$140,450.00 of which \$7,950.00 would be used to pay for COG's services. The contract has been run by and approved by Town Counsel. Selectman Hamel moved the Board approve the HOME Program as stated by Mr. Henzy, 2nd by Selectman Norstrom, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

The Board approved a "Change of Manager for Tony's of Ayer's All Alcoholic liquor license". The Board approved of the Change of Manager from Emanuel A. Sifakis to Nicholas T. Sifakis. Motion made by Selectman Hamel, 2nd by Selectman Bresnahan, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

The Board continued the discussion with the Building Inspector Gabe Vellante to June 30, 1997 re: inspector's stipend request.

Supt. O'Riordan's Report:

The Board reviewed with Supt. O'Riordan the possibility of placing a Voluntary Water Ban into place due to excess of over \$7/million gallons of water being pumped every day-3 times over limit; and of 1 well at Spec Pond being overtaxed and could crash due to excessive strain. The Board has two options pay for water from Fort Devens or turn on Grove Pond Wells. The Board requested an even odd schedule re: watering be requested to residents-house number would predicate watering day. Nasoya is also coming on

line soon and levels may not get back to normal for quite some time. Also Old Town Village has new units proposed. The Board suggested putting banner up alerting residents to voluntary water ban as well as having mailing prepared to go out to all residents. Mr. Linde stated he will go door to door in all new sub-divisions advising new residents to water ban as well as advertising the ban in the local newspapers. The Board moved & seconded to place a voluntary water ban on all outside watering i.e. lawns, cars.

The Board signed the contract with Tata & Howard for the removal of the underground tank removal at the DPW yard site. Engineering services would be \$10,600.00 contingent the ground water is not contaminated and laboratory, monitoring well and excavation costs to be approximately \$14,000.00. Supt. O'Riordan stated if conditions alluded are discovered then costs are expected to be in excess over those mentioned above. Supt. O'Riordan stated that preliminary investigations indicate that the basic agreement should suffice. Funding to paid from ATM Meeting vote of 5/96-with possible reimbursable funding from State-this currently being investigated. The Board moved and approved Supt. O'Riordan's request to enter into a contract with Tater & Howard re: the removal of underground tanks at the DPW yard. Motion made by Selectmen Bresnahan, 2nd by Selectman Hamel-VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

The Board per the recommendation of Supt., O'Riordan approved of the Grove Pond Well testing Contract prepared by Tater & Howard and approved by Town Counsel in the amount of \$27,100.00. Motion made by Selectman Hamel, 2nd by Selectman Bresnahan.

Supt. O'Riordan presented to the Board the Chapter 90 Project Request Form detailing the Town's Fy-97 construction/maintenance season. Supt. O'Riordan reviewed with the Board current roadway projects i.e Oakridge Dr. resurfacing projects: to include Pond St., West St., Third, Forest, Elm, East, Church & Fletcher, Lawton, Groton Harvard, Norwood, Shirley, Whitcomb, Pleasant & page Streets. The Board approved of the Chapter 90 Project Requests for 1997 Motion made by Selectman Hamel, 2nd by Selectman Bresnahan, Vote: unanimous, so moved.

Supt. O'Riordan stated his last day of work will be June 25, 1997.

Town Administrator's Report:

Action Items:

1. The Board set back the Reserve Fund Transfers (postage until 6-30-97)
2. The Board approved the ABCC Hearing postponement request by Henry Wysk contingent upon Town Counsel's availability/convenience, VOTE: Selectman Hamel aye, Selectman Bresnahan aye, Chairman Norstrom no, VOTE 2-1 motion passes.
3. The Board was advised to Rep. Hargraves has presented the Town's Recall Petition to be enacted by Senate and House of Representatives providing for recall elections in the Town of Ayer.
4. Mr. Kreidler announced the Town Accountant will be attending an upcoming seminar re: the year 2000 computer issues.
5. The Board requested the Town Administrator re-issue a memo to all Town Hall employees that due to inadequate parking employees may park on law closest to banks temporarily signs will be erected allowing only Town Hall staff to park there.
6. Mr. Kreidler advised the Board to the Zoning Revisions being placed in their packets for their review and comment.

9:25 Selectman Hamel moved the Board adjourn from Open Session to enter into Executive Session pursuant to MGL Chapter 39, Section 23b, Exemption #3, 2nd by Selectman Bresnahan, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

-DATE: _____

Paul Bresnahan, Clerk
AYER BOARD OF SELECTMEN