

Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, May 5, 1997
Ayer Library-Professional Development Room
East Main Street, Ayer, MA

7:30p.m. Open Session

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

Selectman Hamel called the meeting to order. Selectman Hamel and Selectman Norstrom welcomed Mr. Bresnahan to the Board and requested the first order of business be to re-organize. Selectman Hamel nominated Coleen Norstrom to serve as Chairman, 2nd by Selectman Bresnahan, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.. Selectman Hamel nominated Paul Bresnahan to serve as Clerk, 2nd by Chairman Norstrom, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

Chairman Norstrom thanked the Board for their vote of confidence and requested Paul Routhier step forward. Chairman Norstrom elaborated on Mr. Routhier's recent awards presented at the World Trade Center in Boston at the EnviroExpo on Tuesday, April 29, 1997. Routhier's Tire Recycling received the N.E. Environmental Award and was named the business of the year by MassRecycle. The Board thanked Mr. Routhier for inviting them to this presentation and having the opportunity to see this environmental business exposition for themselves. The Board stated Paul was much deserving of this award. The Board to present Mr. Routhier a certificate of Merit in the upcoming month.

Chairman Norstrom requested if there was anyone present who wished to speak under public Input. Marvin McMiller, Park Dept. Director requested to meet with the Board re: a Reserve Fund Transfer in the amount of \$1,000.00 for a public safety problem concerning the electrical ballast at the Town Park. Mr. McMiller explained that Mass Electric had flagged the ballast which supplies the electrical hookups to the park was dangerously overloaded and required a new transformer. Mr. McMiller stated he had contacted a electrician who had worked at the Park on different occasions who could do the job for approximately \$1,000.00. The Board requested if this project would have to go to bid. Mr. McMiller stated no that the quote was under the bid requirements re: procurement of services. The Board requested Mr. McMiller meet with the Advisory Board to see if they would recommend the transfer. The Board requested this matter be tabled until the information was available from the Advisory Board.

Chairman Norstrom requested if either of the Board members had any announcements to make. Chairman Norstrom stated she had an update re: 4th of July activities which she read into the record.

The Board met with Tony Diluzio, Project Manager for the new Police Station, representing KVAssociates and Chief of Police Donald Haapakoski, re: status report.

Mr. Diluzio stated the police station is taking shape nicely, getting there required extra work on ground preparation which caused dipping into the contingency fund. The Board expressed concern with this practice and requested assurances this would not continue as construction continues through October. Mr. Diluzio stated soil work is complete and everything from the ground up is a know entity. Mr. Diluzio stated ground preparation had gone over \$13,000.00 beyond the cap of \$80,000.00 the Board had placed. The Board approved a change order to pay the construction company \$101,049.00 from the Contingency fund of which \$9,000.00 was earmarked for builder's risk insurance.

Town Administrator reviewed with the Board the buried construction debris at the new police station site, which had to be removed, and stated he was thankful the unsuitable soil was not more widespread. The Board approved a contract with Briggs Eng. & Testing who assisted in the soil testing in the amount of \$8,170.00. Mr. DiLuzio announced prior to exiting the meeting that work would begin on the roof next week and that the project was on schedule.

The Board met with Chief of Police Donald Haapakoski who advised the Board to the Mass. Chief's of Police Assoc.'s accreditation program process being in place. Chief Haapakoski advised the Board to that information being placed in their packets for their review and comment.

Public Hearing Continuance: Roux's Liquor Transfer-(cont. from 4-22-97)

The Board met with Atty. Arthur Pearlman representing Ambalal Patel, B.A. P. Ram, Inc., and Thomas Roux re: continuation of the transfer of Roux's Liquor's Beer & Wine License. The Board stated they had received the background information from the Chief of Police re: Mr. Patel's operation in Easton which came back favorable. The Selectmen discussed their concern re: location of the Beer & Wine to be sold in the store and suggested segregating off an aisle solely designated to Beer & Wine sales blocking off the beverages to minors. Mr. Roux stated safety codes would be a problem blocking off the only egress which would present a safety risk. Selectman Bresnahan stated he was familiar with the store and found the store well covered for surveillance and also stated he would feel uncomfortable as a customer with the aisle blocked. Mr. Roux stated he had tried a similar aisle blockage and found it not practical businesswise. After a brief discussion the Board approved of the Alcohol License transfer of Roux's Liquors to Ambalel Patel, B.A. P. Ram, Inc. of Woburn Ma. Selectman Bresnahan moved the motion 2nd by Selectman Hamel, Vote: unanimous, so moved.

The Board met with Diane Sullivan, Economic Development Director, re: the Town's interest in working with the MBTA to accommodate commuter riders from Central Massachusetts. Ms. Sullivan stated she was before the Board to request their approval on a letter to be submitted to Hasty Evans, Director of the M.B.T.A. seeking her assistance with the Town's proposal. The Board endorsed Ms. Sullivan's request.

Ms. Sullivan updated the Board to the EOEI Grant Proposal.

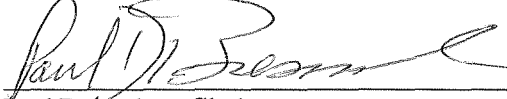
Town Administrator's Report:

1. Mr. Kreidler advised the Board to the legal expense deficit being the first item slated for the Special Town Meeting scheduled just before the Annual Town Meeting. Mr. Kreidler stated an additional \$12,000.00 is need to pay for the Police Investigation over and above the \$20,000.00 paid to date.
2. The Board requested Mr. Kreidler contact Vanasse Hangen Brustlin to present a report re: the Comprehensive Plan which the Board had hoped to have for the Annual Town Meeting and to be prepared to do a short presentation at Town Meeting.
3. The Board reviewed with Mr. Kreidler the NESDEC Report submitted by the School Com. Discussion focused on the Town of Shirley needing to address immediately a burgeoning school population problem whereas Ayer has the time to carefully consider. The Board pondered the reality of Shirley High School students leaving and having only 200 Ayer High School students which would seriously effect the viability of Ayer High School. Selectman Bresnahan requested the Board do a lot of exploring before they shut regionalizing off.
4. The Board reviewed the Annual Town Meeting Articles.
5. Mr. Kreidler advised the Board to Middlesex Corp. requesting permission to remove a utility pole belonging to Mass. Elec. The Board endorsed Middlesex Corp. request and requested Mr. Kreidler submit a letter to Mass. Elec. granting them permission to remove the pole.
6. Mr. Kreidler advised the Board to Mr. Henzy recapturing funds from past MSCP rehab cases and requested the Board utilize the recapture funds to fund Mr. Henzy's position and the secretary's position to September 1997 and at that time the Town would be notified to status re: award of new grant by EOCD. Mr. Kreidler stated the Town has been very successful in the past with their applications for MSCP funding. The Board approved of utilizing the funding of the recapture funds to fund Mr. Henzy and the MSCP secretaries positions to the fall of 1997.
7. The Board approved of funding additional expense for DPW clerk for additional hours to get the water/sewer bills out as fast as possible.

Chairman Norstrom called for a motion to adjourn from Open Session to enter into Executive Session.

Selectman Hamel moved the Board adjourn from Open Session to enter into Executive Session pursuant to MGL Chapter 39, Section 23b Exemption #3, re: pending litigation to adjourn and re-enter another Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 39, Section 23b Exemption #3, re: pending litigation to adjourn and re-enter Open Session for the sole purpose of adjourning the meeting, 2nd by Selectman Bresnahan, Vote: unanimous, so moved.

10:35p.m. Meeting Adjourned

 -Date: 6/2/97
Paul Bresnahan, Clerk
AYER BOARD OF SELECTMEN