

SELECTMEN'S MEETING

MONDAY, JUNE 24, 1996

PAGE SCHOOL-PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ROOM
WASHINGTON ST., AYER, MA.

7:30p.m. Open Session

The Board met with Chairman Miller, Selectman Hamel and Selectman Slarsky..

Chairman Miller opened the meeting by requesting the Board's indulgence to speak on behalf of a meeting he attended this past weekend at New Hope Baptist Church with the Reverend Gary Palmer and members from his congregation. Chairman Miller stated the discussion focused on the recent church burnings in the south and what they could do to support the communities/burned out churches. Chairman Miller suggested that a box be placed at the Town Park on Saturday, July 6, 1996 seeking donations to **lend moral support to fight hate crimes and bigotry**. Chairman Miller requested the Board's support for a box to be placed at Pirone Park to solicit donations to help with the rebuilding of these churches. The Board wholeheartedly supported this request.

Chairman Miller stated there was no warrant available this evening due to the warrant being prepared for Tuesday distribution.

TOWN CRIER: Chairman Miller made the following announcements:

1. 4th of July Celebration to be held on Saturday, July 6, 1996 starting at 12:00noon with parade and full days entertainment at Pirone Park-rides, food, auction, contests ending with fireworks display at 9:00p.m. Chairman Miller stated volunteers were needed and requested those interested to contact the Selectmen's Office.
2. The Board thanked Dr. Warren and the School Committee for use of the building to conduct the Selectmen's Meetings to be in compliance with ADA.

Chairman Miller took this opportunity to state that this has been a tough week for the Town of Ayer with the loss of two (2) of the Towns most beloved citizens. Hymie Slarsky who passed away on June 19, 1996 and Thomas May, who passed away earlier today 6-24-96. Chairman Miller called for a moment of Silence in honor of Hymie Slarsky. Chairman Miller requested if Selectman Slarsky wished to say a few words in memory of his father. Selectman Slarsky stated the response from the community has been overwhelming. The flowers and cards has been a tremendous comfort to the family. Selectman Slarsky stated he never knew how much his father was loved as he had loved the community as well. Selectman Slarsky extended a heartfelt thank you to the community.

Chairman Miller requested a Moment of Silence be conducted for Thomas May who served the Town of Ayer for the past thirteen years as a member on the Historical Commission from its inception.

The Board met with Manuel Velez, Chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals. Mr. Velez introduced Thomas Welham to the Board. Mr. Velez recommend to the Board the appointment of Mr. Welham to the Zoning Board of Appeals stating Mr. Welham has attended a few of the Zoning Board Meetings and had expressed an interest on becoming a member of the Board. The Board requested Mr. Welham state why he wished to be considered for appointment to the Board of Appeals. Mr. Welham stated he was a new resident of the Town having purchased a new home in Crabtree Heights on Mulberry Circle and that he originally got involved with the Board due to a zoning variance to his

property. Mr. Welham stated he felt he could bring issues/input from new residents and looked forward to working with the Board. Chairman Miller thanked Mr. Welham and called for a motion. Selectman Slarsky moved to appoint Mr. Welham to the Board of Appeals based upon the recommendation of Chairman Manuel Velez, 2nd by Selectmen Hamel, VOTE: unanimous, so moved. Chairman Miller welcomed Mr. Welham to the Board of Appeals stating it is always welcome to get new blood, new ideas most officials began to take things for granted.

Chairman Miller stated he was advised to a resignation from Mr. Kreidler that came in earlier today. Chairman Miller stated that Mark Donell, a Park Commissioner had resigned his position. Chairman Miller called for a motion to accept Mr. Donell's resignation. Selectman Hamel moved the Board accept the resignation of Mark Donell with regrets, 2nd by Selectman Slarsky for discussion. Selectman Slarsky stated he hopes it was for the best interest for himself, after reading the editorial, no one could ever accuse him of doing anything wrong, anyone who took the insurance did it without malice. With that Selectman Slarsky 2nd the motion, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

Selectman Slarsky stated this resignation creates a real problem with only one Park Commissioner left on the Commission. In the interim does the Board assume the duties of the Park Dept. Town Administrator James Kreidler to check with town Counsel. Selectman Hamel stated the Board could use this time to appeal to the viewing public to volunteer their time. Selectman Slarsky stated who will take the responsibility of the Park Dept. full time employee, or should this position be combined with another department. Who should he report to in the short term-long term. Selectman Slarsky moved the Park Dept. full time employee report to the Town Administrator while Town Counsel reviews this matter, 2nd by Selectman Hamel VOTE: unanimous, so moved. Outstanding bills to be run by the Town Administrator prior to approval.

Chairman Miller also announced the resignation of Hartwell Kidder from the Ayer Council

on Aging. Selectman Hamel stated Mr. Kidder resides in Florida for six months of the year and he felt this was not fair to the Council. Selectman Slarsky moved to accept the resignation of Hartwell Kidder from the Council on Aging with regrets, 2nd by Selectman Hamel, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

Chairman Miller advised the Board to a letter being received from the Hilltop School thanking the 125th Anniversary Committee for providing the transportation to the Sandy Pond School House for Grades 1 and 3. Chairman Miller read the letter into the record sent by Hilltop School teacher Kathleen Eldredge.

The Board met with Fire Chief Paul Fillebrown re: his recommendation for the Fire Dept. to

join Midstate Mutual Aid District which would tie the Town of Ayer Fire Dept. to thirty six (36) cities and Towns including Gardner and Worcester. Selectman Slarsky requested if the Agreement had been run by Town Counsel. Fire Chief Fillebrown stated no that it was a standard form. Selectman Hamel moved to approve the Midstate Mutual Aid Agreement for the Town of Ayer Fire Dept., 2nd by Selectman Slarsky, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

8:00p.m. Public Hearing-Earth Removal Permit for GAC Homes/Orchard View Estates on the Ayer/Groton Town line. The Board met with George Carpenter developer. Chairman Miller read into the record the legal notice which ran in Nashoba Publications the weeks of June 12th and June 19, 1996. Mr. Carpenter presented an overview of the project depicting the earth removal areas on the site. Mr. Carpenter stated he needs to remove excess topsoil from the site of the proposed subdivision. Mr. Carpenter stated it was his intent to excavate only excess topsoil from the site and haul it to the Town of Groton from the proposed subdivision road stating the haul route is not intended to be through Ayer. The material to be removed is only that topsoil that is in excess of the individual lots needs and removal will only occur on a as needed basis. Mr. Carpenter stated it will not be a continuous operation but will proceed as part of the subdivision construction, thereby avoiding impacts to adjacent wetlands, the neighborhood and environment. Chairman Miller requested if there was anyone present to speak for or against the permit. No one stepped forward. The Board took this matter under advisement pending the By-law

review by Town Counsel re: the removal of "Loam". The Board to approve the permit if approved by Town Counsel. The amount of "topsoil" to be removed: 3500 cubic yards, which equates to 5 trailers per house.

The Board met with Town Accountant Lisa Gabree and Advisory Board Chairman James Carrington re: Fy-96 Reserve Fund Transfers. Ms Gabree presented to the Board two (2) requests for Reserve Fund Transfers stating both had exceeded their Fy-96 appropriations due to high volume of legal cases and unforeseen expenses re: renovations to town hall rooms to accommodate new offices: Economic Development Directors Office and Civil Defense.

1. Legal Expense: \$46,765.00

2. Public Buildings: \$2,500.00

The Board requested if the Advisory Board approved of the transfers. Mr Carrington stated the Board had approved. Selectmen Slarsky moved the Board approve the two transfers based upon the town Accountants recommendation and Advisory Board's approval, 2nd by Selectman Hamel, VOTE: unanimous, so moved. Ms. Gabree distributed FY-96 Reserve Fund Statements to Board which depicted the fund now being depleted.

The Board reviewed the Town's Health Insurance for elected officials. Chairman Miller abstained from discussion due to him receiving the town's health insurance. Selectman Hamel opened the discussion by stating the Special Town Meeting vote of the residents was laud and clear to discontinue health insurance benefits for all elected officials. Selectman Hamel moved the Board vote to discontinue the Health Insurance Benefits for all part time elected officials, 2nd by Selectman Slarsky for discussion. Selectman Slarsky restated his former statement that none of the people who received town insurance did it with malice intent. Selectman Slarsky felt to be fair to all those people effected by the termination of their insurance which would be 4 in number: 1 selectman, the moderator, 1 assessor and tree warden he would like to offer a friendly amendment motion: As the terms of these four (4) people expire or no later than the end of Fy-97 whichever should come first discontinue their health insurance benefits, 2nd by Selectman Hamel. Vote: Chairman Miller abstained, Selectman Hamel aye, Selectman Slarsky aye, 2-1 motion passes.

The Board met with Diane Sullivan, Economic Development Director. (see report of 6-24-96) Selectman Slarsky stated he has heard nothing but praises concerning Ms. Sullivan and thanked her for doing a wonderful job.

The Board ran through Ms. Sullivans's Report and complimented her on a thorough update. The Board approved of Ms. Sullivans Fy-97 Economic Development Budget and voted to transfer \$49,810.00 from UDAG to the Economic Development Appropriation. The Board thanked Ms. Sullivan for coming in.

The Board met with Acting Chief Donald Haapakoski Chief Haapakoski requested the Boards permission to hire six new part-time telecommunicators to help the small number of full-time telecommunicators cover all shifts: Chief Hapakoski presented the following names for appointment: Colleen McDowell, Linda Gonyor, David LaRose, Kathleen Webber, Louis Benoit and Joyce Sawyer. Selectman Slarsky requested the name of Jody

Carroll be included on this list. Selectman Hamel moved to approve the list of seven (7) part-time telecommunicators be approved as presented by Chief Haapakoski, 2nd by Selectman Slarsky, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

On another matter the Board accepted the request by Acting Chief Haapakoski to approve of Policy 96-3 Roll Call this policy would call for the training of officers each day at the beginning of shifts this training to help the officers perform on the street. Selectman Slarsky stating his approval, Selectman Hamel stating it was a wonderful idea. Selectman Slarsky moved to approved Policy 96-3, 2nd by Selectmen Hamel, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

Acting Chief Haapakoski advised the Board to the bike patrols being held up due to uniforms and that Lowell P.D. will be training Ayer officers in the next few weeks. Selectman Hamel thanked Acting Chief Haapakoski and stated he was doing a great job taking over so fast.

The Board moved to appoint Manny Sifakis to the vacancy on the Historical Commission due to the death of Thomas May. Selectman Hamel moved the motion 2nd by Selectmen Slarsky, VOTE: unanimous, motion passed.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

1. The Board approved the Fy-97 appointments as amended (new dispatchers, Personnel Board and new Historical Commission member to be added and 1 police officer to be removed)) for a six month period/December 31, 1996 to allow for the Personnel Board to deal with appointed policy procedures and to fix duration of terms re: rotation.
 2. Mr. Kreidler advised the Board to Job Corp slated for Devens may not be the type of facility such as the one operating in Maine. The one to be placed at Devens may be a less favorable facility than originally planned. The Board requested the Town Administrator request Congressman Meehan put a meeting together with representatives of the Job Corp and his office to meet with the board at the next Selectmen's Meeting scheduled for July 15, 1996.
 3. Town Administrator James Kreidler presented a list of applicants to date for the Police Chief's position received by the Selectmen's Office. Mr. Kreidler advised the Board to the position closing on July 1, 1996. All resumes received have been sent to MMA Consulting Group who will narrow the field for interviewing within the next few weeks after the job closing. A list of finalist will be presented to the Selectmen and following their interviewing of the top applicants the Chief could be on board by the end of August.
 4. Mr. Kreidler advised the Board to KV Associates have advised that a smaller building some 2,000 to 3,000 sq. ft. smaller or a building 12,500 sq. ft. would be sufficient. The Station would be a one story building and will fit nicely on the town's lot on Park St. The need for a firing range in the building was eliminated a \$250,000.00 savings. total estimated savings to the town is believed to be about a half a million dollars. Mr. Kreidler stated ADA requirements have been put in place and hoped to have a schematic design for the Board by July 15, 1996. The Building is starting to take off much to the pleasure of the Board. the Board thanked Mr. Kreidler for his report.
- 9:00p.m. Chairman Miller called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Selectman Hamel moved to adjourn, 2nd by Selectman Slarsky, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

9:00p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Pauline J. Hamel
Pauline J. Hamel, Clerk

DATE:

7-15-96

AYER BOARD OF SELECTMEN