

SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 5, 1994
2ND FLOOR MEETING ROOM
TOWN HALL, MAIN ST., AYER, MA.

7:30P.M. Open Session

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

The Weekly Warrant was examined and approved in the following amounts: P/R: \$97,506.58

P/R: \$58,517.18

The Minutes of May 24, 1994 & May 31, 1994 were read & approved.

Chairman Hamel opened the meeting by congratulating the 4th of July Committee on a wonderful celebration enjoyed by Town residents. Chairman Hamel thanked the Steering Committee members Charles Jones, Charles Miller and Pauline Conley for orchestrating the event. Selectman Slarsky echoed Chairman Hamel's comments and requested a round of applause for the Committee.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Chairman Hamel requested if there was anyone present who wished to be heard by the Board.

Frank Maxant requested to speak to the Board re: Fort Devens Redevelopment.

Pauline Conley requested to speak to the Board re: financial shortfall of the 4th of July Committee.

Selectman Slarsky requested to speak re: truck traffic on Sandy Pond Rd.

Chairman Hamel called for a motion to accept the Agenda with the above three (3) requests, Selectman Miller moved the Board accept the Agenda of 7/5/94 with the above three requests, 2nd by Selectman Slarsky.

Pauline Conley: Ms. Conley advised the Board to shortfall of Committee arising from 4th of July Celebration. Ms. Conley stated there is still booth sale funds still coming in from the 4th and the Committee felt the shortfall would come in around \$2,700.00. Selectman Slarsky stated he had no qualms regarding \$3,500.00 being transferred from UDAG to fund this deficit. Selectman Slarsky stated participation has doubled over last years event and the activities offered were spectacular and expanding each year. Chairman Hamel called for a motion, Selectman Slarsky moved the Board transfer from UDAG \$3,500.00 to the Fourth of July Committee these funds to be utilized once all

the Committee's funds have been depleted. Chairman Hamel stepped down as chair to second this motion. Selectman Miller serving on the 4th of July Steering Committee and abstaining from vote. Vote: Chairman Hamel aye, Selectman Slarsky aye, Selectman Miller abstained. Motion passed.

Frank Maxant: Mr. Maxant stated he was present this evening to suggest the Town of Ayer vote no to the Land Banks Re-Use Plan-By-laws Public Hearing scheduled for this fall. Mr. Maxant feeling the Towns would have three (3) more years to work with the Land Bank to better enforce the redevelopment of the base. Renewing on a year to year basis. Mr. Maxant stating the Land Bank has not provided a tax base incentive to date from any private sector enterprise looking to relocate on Fort Devens. The Land Bank so far has brought in a prison, a Job Corp., Homes for the Little Ones, etc., all tax exempt Federal entities.

Selectman Slarsky stating his differences with the statements made by Mr. Maxant and elaborating on a call received earlier in the day re: Raytheon contacting the Re-use Office re: interest in South Post area of the base. Selectman Slarsky stating the decision remains with the Joint Boards of Selectmen. The Board thanked Mr. Maxant for his interest re: Fort Devens Re-Development.

Selectman Slarsky stated he was approached re: truck traffic on Sandy Pond Rd by a resident living there. Selectman Slarsky stated trucks are turning around on private property and damaging property. Chairman Hamel stated the lack of proper signs on Willow Rd. directing traffic to 119 and Rt. 2 seems to be one area which needs to be addressed. Selectman Slarsky stated the other being further research re: limiting this traffic.

Selectman Slarsky moved the Board investigate requirements to limit truck traffic on Sandy Pond Rd., 2nd by Selectman Miller, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: See report dated 7-5-94

Action Items:

1. Mr. Higgins presented the Board with the Special Town Election Warrant. Selectman Miller moved the Board vote to support the Override ballot in an attempt to balance the budget. 2nd by Selectman Slarsky. Vote: unanimous, so moved. The Board requested Town officials/employees be advised on guidelines established regarding Rules of Conduct on Proposition 2 1/2 Overrides relative to the promotion or opposition to the override. Selectman Miller moved the Board sign the Special Town Election Warrant for the Special Town Election to be conducted on August 2, 1994, 2nd by Selectman Slarsky, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

The Board met with Vicki Paret, Director of the Town's Mass. Small Cities Program. Ms. Paret stated a Public Hearing was conducted on Wednesday, June 29, 1994 at 7:00P.M. to evaluate projects for inclusion in the FY-94 grant application, which is due in to EOCD on August 1, 1994. Ms. Paret stated another public hearing is scheduled for July 19, 1994, the next Board of Selectmen's Meeting. Ms. Paret gave an overview to the Selectmen of the 1st public hearing. Ms. Paret stated the purpose was to learn about the program, review past experience, to identify community development needs and receive proposals for projects to be included in the next application. Ms. Paret summarized the three written proposals received: 1. \$827,280 to remediate infrastructure problems in Devenscrest to include: repaving the roadway, replacing water and sewer mains, water hydrants & water & sewer services to the homes. 2. \$21,000 Loaves & Fishes, operating out of the Federated Church to continue programs thru Ayer's FY-91 Small Cities Grant-financial assistance to low & moderate income participants. i.e rent, utility bills, food & emergency shelter. 3. Ayer Library proposal to fund (5) five programs: after school, homework ctr., elderly, parent education & literacy training. The Ayer Park Dept. also submitted a proposal requesting: full-time recreation staff person, new concession, and double basketball court at Pirone Park, and renovations to the maintenance building. Ms. Paret stated although the Park Dept. lists were persuasive, would not be competitive and may jeopardize the applications score, when evaluated by the State. The town would have to restrict use of the Small Cities-funded facilities to Ayer youth from low-moderate families or neighborhoods. Ms. Paret stated that the Hearing ended with more discussion of obtaining local funds to include putting an article on the September 21, 1994 Town Meeting Warrant.

The Board moved to endorse the general concept, and the three options presented. Motion moved by Selectman Slarsky, 2nd by Selectman Miller, Vote: unanimous, so moved. The Board to explore the use of UDAG funds re: Park Dept. request. The Board requested at this time to research property at Devenscrest for units which are owned by residents and which are leased. The Board to await more information forthcoming by the Mass. Small Cities Office for the July 19, 1994, Public Hearing.

3. The Board was apprised of the Union negotiations pending. Mr. Higgins advised the Board to four of the five Town Union contracts subject only to a wage re-opener. (only wages to be discussed) The only one totally open for renegotiations is the Dispatcher's Union, which has been requested to hold off formal negotiations until the result of the override is known. Mr. Higgins thanked all the Unions for their co-operation and patience during this time.

4. The Board approved a \$22,450.00 Reserve Fund Transfer for

legal expenses incurred for Fy-94. Motion approved by Selectman Slarsky 2nd by Selectman Miller, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

5. The Board approved Town Counsel, Robert W. Gardner, Jr. being designated a "a Special Municipal Employee" pursuant to M.G.L. C268A, s.1(n) to avoid a conflict of interest with Mr. Gardner also being selected to serve on the Land Bank Board of Directors.

6. The Board was advised to Performance reviews and evaluations being readied for the Board re: Department heads under their authority. Mr. Higgins to have evaluations available to the Board for the 7-19-94 Board meeting.

7. The Board reviewed a letter of interest re: the Veteran's Agent position. The Board requested a letter be sent stating the position was re-appointed in june of 1994. The Board requesting applicant to resubmit letter of interest next year.

SUPERINTENDENT OUELLETTE'S REPORT:

1. The Board approved the Chairman's endorsement of Water & Sewer permits for 2 Edgeway and 24 Wright Rd. Crabtree Dev. Co. Lots: 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 38, 39, 40, 41 & 42.

2. Supt. Ouellette requested the Board begin contract negotiations with him due to his contract expiring on 7/1/94. The Board to take this under advisement pending performance review & evaluation.

Selectman Slarsky moved the Board adjourn from Open Session to enter into Executive Session pursuant to Chapter 39, Section 23B, re: pending litigation, 2nd by Selectman Miller, Vote: unanimous, so moved.

9:00P.M. Executive Session

Charles E. Miller 7/19/93

-----Date: July 19, 1994-----

~~Stephen M. Slarsky, Clerk~~ Charles E. Miller
AYER BOARD OF SELECTMEN Acting Clerk