

SELECTMEN'S MEETING
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1993
2ND FLOOR MEETING ROOM
TOWN HALL, MAIN ST., AYER, MA.

7:30P.M. OPEN SESSION

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

The Board met with Sharon Summers, Town Accountant regarding the Department of Revenue Education Reform criteria requiring local school districts to submit a data sheet depicting 94 School budget, direct school costs, net school spending and available funding sources. This documentation presented to the Selectmen must accompany the Town's Re-Cap (Town of Ayer Tax Rate Recapitulation) submitted by the Ayer Board of Assessors for certification by the Department of Revenue (DOR).

Mrs. Summers ran through the numbers she had formulated regarding the Education Reform data.

SECTION 1.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. School Budget 1994: | \$7,894,025.00 |
| 2. Transportation (backed out) | -510,700.00 |
| *not qualifying as School Spending | |
| 3. Less (PL-874) | \$-2,700,000.00 |

Total Section 1: \$4,683,325.00 FY-94 School Budget

SECTION 2.

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|----------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Direct/Indirect school Costs: | \$1,634,579.00 |
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SECTION 3.

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| 1. Total FY-94 current appropriation | \$6,317,904.00 |
| *qualifying as net school spending | |

SECTION 4.

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|------------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Net FY-94 School Spending requirement | \$6,962,108.00 |
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SECTION 5.

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|-------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Total increase Requiring Appropriation | \$644,204.00 |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------|

SECTION 6.

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Available funding Sources | |
| New Education Aid | \$662,837.00 |

Mrs. Summers stated the final page of the School End financial report has become extremely important because that is how School Education Reform is calculated. Most communities are not aware of this. The Good news the Board should be aware, and certified by the Town's Auditor Jim Guisti, Dept. of Revenue verified today that the Town will not have to come up with an additional amount to support the schools.

Selectmen Jones stated his appreciation of this news.

Chairman Slarsky requested if the School Dept. has seen these numbers? Mrs. Summers stated we have talked with the School Dept on many occasions but this form has not specifically been gone over.

Chairman Slarsky stated looking at the present Special Town Meeting we are not required to raise any additional local money for educational purposes. Mrs. Summers stated the revenue growth was way over stated.

Chairman Slarsky called for a motion to accept the Dept. of Revenue, Education Reform school report submitted by Town Accountant, Sharon Summers and authorize the Chairman to sign off this report for submission to the Department of Revenue. Selectman Hamel moved the above motion, seconded by Selectman Jones, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

Mr. Higgins came into the meeting at this time, he was a guest speaker at the Ayer Rotary earlier this evening.

Chairman Slarsky stated the main purpose of this evenings meeting was to discuss the direction the Town of Ayer is going to take in terms of legislature to be filed as it relates to the redevelopment of Fort Devens. Chairman Slarsky stated there is a deadline of Tuesday, November 9, 1993, for this legislature to be presented. The Board reviewed an overview of the legislation to be presented.

Town Counsel Robert Gardner stated essentially the Joint Boards presented what is known as the Westover Model. With subsequent meeting and revisions this model did not go anywhere. After that through negotiations with the Devens Enterprise Commission they were able to begin/receive this legislation early 1993. There was originally some kind of conceptual agreement, which was reduced to writing by the Land Bank Attorney Judy Iverson 8/93. Meetings were held with the Joint Boards of the four (4) towns.

Mr. Higgins stated during the discussions commencing in August 93 and over the course of the last couple of weeks the Steering Committees, Joint Boards have been involved in preparing a draft of this legislation. The Joint Boards Co-Ordinator, Bret Doney was given the responsibility of coming up with all the four communities concerns and putting this all into one bill. The game plan was that piece of legislation was to be presented by the Joint Boards of Selectmen to the State legislators next Tuesday, November 9, 1993. Quite candidly all the parties involved hoped to have something in writing before this date for everyone to review and to offer comments.

Chairman Slarsky requested the status.

Mr. Higgins stated the objective as outlined is for the State legislators to present this legislation on Tuesday, November 9, 1993.

Chairman Slarsky stated his concern that we need to go forward with the legislation. It may not be exactly what we want at this time but it is the vehicle. Mr. Higgins stated that basic concepts were agreed to.

Town Counsel relayed to the Board the four options of the Board re: the legislation.

1. Ayer would take control of the land that was formally Ayer's land which is now Fort Devens, the Town would have to rely on essentially the legislation that was proposed by President Clinton which is working its way through Congress, unfortunately nobody knows if it will be enacted, what will be enacted. It would provide hopefully for host communities to obtain land for essentially a dollar for economic benefit.
2. For the four towns to collaborate the four Joint Boards or other entity, to utilize the Clinton Plan.
3. To construct a partnership based upon the legislation.
4. Not to take any action at this point in time, to regroup.

Town Counsel elaborated on the four options stating his concern with option 4. Town Counsel warned the Board of seriousness of taking no action. With the holidays upon us the Legislatures will be breaking and this legislation may be put off until the first of the year. Senator Durrands concern being with other state delegations developing enterprise zones in commonwealth. Fort Devens is unique and he felt this legislation has a stronger force behind it and taking no action could jeopardize the Towns efforts.

Town Counsel also recapped option 1. Town Counsel advised the Board of his earlier discussions with Murray Clark, Chairman of the Ayer Industrial Redevelopment Assoc. and Bill Marshall, President of North Middlesex Bank stating concerns with Ayer opting to going it alone. Clean-up considerations by the Federal Government could take as long as four years or longer. It the Town wishes to control its own destiny the Town would also have to finance. Town Counsel elaborated on Vanasse Hanen Brustlin's letter stating infrastructure alone would be astronomical and there are no guarantees companies would beat a path to Ayer.

Town Counsel stated the best of the four options would be option 3 to develop a partnership with the three other communities and go forward with the legislation.

The board requested to meet again on Friday, November 5, 1993 at 8:00p.m. to further discuss this legislation regarding the following:

1. Status of Joint Board's bill
2. Position of individual communities
3. Coming to consensus of JBOS version of legislation
4. What will be presented to legislators on Nov. 9, 1993
5. Who will make the presentation.
6. Time frame of negotiations from presentation on 9th between the knisely bill and the JBOS bill.

Selectman Jones moved the Board approve the Legislation, or something similar, which was included in the outline (concept) provided by Bret Doney, seconded by Selectman Hamel, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

8:45p.m. Selectman Jones moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Selectman Hamel, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.



DATE: 11-15-93

Charles H. Jones, Clerk
AYER BOARD OF SELECTMEN