

SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1992
UPPER TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM
TOWN HALL, MAIN STREET, AYER, MA.

7:30P.M. OPEN MEETING

The Board met with Chairman Jones and Selectman McKinney. Selectman Slarsky delayed due to earlier commitment with Hospital Trustees.

The Board read and approved the minutes of 12/1/92 with amendment to page 1. next to last paragraph, change soot to gravel.

The Board read and approved the Executive Session minutes of October 13, 1992.

The Weekly Warrant was examined and signed in the following amounts: P/R: \$36,308.61
Exp: \$65,571.71

PUBLIC HEARING: WATER/SEWER RATES 1993

The Board met with Supt. William Redfield and the Water Rate Study Committee: William Oelfke, Coleen Norstrom and David Allen with Supt. Redfield being the Technical Advisor to the Committee.

Chairman Jones read the Public Hearing notice, advertised the weeks of November 18 & 25, 1992.

Chairman Jones turned the opening statements over to William Oelfke. Mr. Oelfke stated the Committee was appointed by the Selectmen on July 16, 1992 and a total of fifteen meetings were held. As a part of the Committee's research process the Committee met with Tim Higgins, Sharon Summers, and the Industrial Association.

Mr. Oelfke advised the Board to the Committee researching and computing proposed rates submitted by Supt. Redfield. Mr. Oelfke stated during the Committee's meetings Supt. Redfield presented to them a copy of a letter written by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in which it stated that the Town's sewer rates must equal the cost of treating all the sewer by the unit loading, therefore the Town cannot legally charge a higher rate for a higher volume user. Due to this letter the sewer rate was brought to a straight \$2.00/100 cubic foot. This figure reflects no change in the low user and a \$1.90 decrease in the high user. The higher strength users will be charged and additional high strength surcharge for BOD's and suspended solids. While adjusting the sewer figures it was determined that the sewer

rates has been subsidizing the water rates in the past. Therefore the Committee found that an increase in the water rates was necessary to alleviate the problem. The Committee based the calculations on the percentage of use being 67% for high users and 33% for low users. Calculations indicated that the low usage rate would have to be increased a minimum of \$0.20 per 100 cubic feet and the high user increased \$0.60 per cubic feet. This increase would cost the average water user \$26.00/yr. The Committee stated they also conducted surveys of fifteen area Towns and Ayer ranks as the second lowest water cost in the area. Based upon facts and figures presented to the Committee, the economy of the area and the Environmental Protection Agencies mandate, the following rates were presented to the Selectmen:

STANDARD WATER RATE	\$.90/100 CUBIC FEET	.20 INCREASE
DEMAND WATER RATES	\$1.60/100 CUBIC FEET	.60 INCREASE
STANDARD SEWER RATE	\$2.00/100 CUBIC FEET	<u>NO CHANGE</u>
DEMAND SEWER RATE	\$2.00/100 CUBIC FEET	\$1.90 DECREASE

The Committee concluded that all classes of users should share the expense of capital improvements but a ceiling of 20% should be maintained for low users. All costs associated with running the Water & Sewer Dept. should be considered into the calculations used for figuring rates i.e. workman compensation, pensions etc. as determined by the Town's Accountant, Treasurer and Supt. of Public Works.

The Committee thanked all who helped in the preparation of this study and hoped it would be beneficial to the Selectmen in their final decision.

Chairman Jones thanked the Committee for all their effort and numerous meetings required to compile this information. The Board complemented the Committee on a job well done.

Mr. J. Hashem stated he greatly appreciated having a member from the Industrial Assoc. on this Committee.

8:00P.M. Selectmen Slarsky entered the meeting.

Murray Clark speaking on behalf of the Industrial Association urged the Board to review and study comparisons completed earlier by a consultant for the Industrial Association citing differences in calculation/consumption of usage by the High demand users.

Mr. Hashem stated with the closure of Ft. Devens the Industrial Association has been very active with recruiting new businesses/companies to the area and one of the most attractive features in this recruitment has been Ayer's rates and what the Association does not want is to loose this benefit in this

recruitment process by assessing astronomical rates to the industries/companies in Town. For ten (10) years this area has been an economic jewel, with good infrastructure, rail, and major food chains relocating to this area. Ayer has been a leader in this region and the Commission hoped to build upon this redevelopment.

Selectman Slarsky stated Ayer's economy is unique and he respects the Industrial/Commercial development within the Town and of the companies being good neighbors providing jobs to the economy.

Selectman Slarsky moved the Board take this matter under advisement pending their review and reschedule the Public Hearing re: 1993 Water/Sewer Rates for January 19, 1993, seconded by Selectman McKinney, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

Chairman Jones took this opportunity to update the Board on the 4th of July Celebration scheduled for the Town this July 1993. Chairman Jones stated the 4th of July Committee has been meeting monthly at the Ayer Town Hall since November 1992. Plans for this years celebration include: booths, food, games, a Fire Dept. Muster, entertainment, Fire Works, bon-fire. The 4th of July Committee members consist of Public Safety Officials, school organizations, Chamber of Commerce members, Arts Council, many Town organizations as well as youth organizations. Chairman Jones stated there is a lot to look forward to. The next meeting for the Committee is Sunday, January 10, 1992 at the Ayer Town Hall from 2:00-4:00P.M. and anyone interested in lending their support is welcome.

The Board met with Chief Boisseau re: appointment of a full time Telecommunicator (Dispatcher) to the Ayer Police Dept. Chief Boisseau stated this appointment is the result of the resignation of Pamela Creekmore.

Chief Boisseau related to the Board that their were thirty eight (38) applicants for the position and the Committee consisting of himself, Victoria Lopez and Chief Fillebrown narrowed the field down to four (4) and the Committee was here tonight to recommend the appointment of Brenda Holmes of Shirley, Ma. Chief Boisseau stated Ms. Holmes worked in Carlsale, Ma. as a Dispatcher from 1989-1991 as well as part-time in Groton, and has a strong EMT background.

The Board met with Ms. Holmes re: a discussion of her background and to congratulate her on this appointment.

Selectman Slarsky moved to appoint Brenda Holmes of Shirley, Ma. to the position of full-time Telecommunicator contingent upon her successful completion of a physical examination and Ms. Holmes appointment date to be her first day of employment with the Ayer Police Department. Seconded by Selectman McKinney, VOTE:

unanimous, so moved.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT: (see report dated 12-15-92 attached)

ACTION ITEMS:

2. The Board moved to appoint the following people to the Sub-Committee that have been organized to tackle specific projects with regard to the Closure of Fort Devens.

1. Timothy Holland to the Small Business Task Group

2. Frank Hartnett to the Prison Siting Group

No member has been selected as yet to sit on the Environmental Task Group, discussions are continuing with prospective candidates.

The Board on a related issue moved to authorize the transfer of \$2,500.00 from UDAG funds for clerical assistance to Brett Doney. Selectman Slarsky moved this motion, seconded by Selectman McKinney, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

The Board requested a letter be drafted stating their displeasure with the Governor's Land Bank, this coming about due to the Governor requesting to resite the prison to the Moore Air Field location. The Board expressed their displeasure re: the land bank banking land, and of frustrating process-no inclusion of local communities. Selectman McKinney stated his frustration with the Prison, and with the delay, to let the process move and site the prison for fear of prison not coming at all.

On another matter the Board requested candidates be contacted to sit on the Board of Directors of the Development Corp. Chairman Jones requested people from Boston be contacted to sit on this Board i.e. state reps, etc. to broaden range this will lend credibility to the legislation in process.

3. The Board requested Hybricon be placed on the next Selectmen's Agenda re: Economic Development Grant discussion.

5. The Board moved to appoint the following people to the Ayer Cultural Council (Arts Lottery Council) Patricia Peters, Kathleen Hebb, and Denise Coalter. Selectman McKinney moved this motion, seconded by Selectmen Slarsky, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

7. The Board requested the Planning Board be scheduled on the Selectmen's Agenda for 1-5-93 re: Interim Planning Overlay District (IPOD).

9. The Board requested the School Committee and School Regionalization Com. be contacted re: meeting Saturday, December 19, 1992 at 8:00A.M. at the Ayer Town Hall to review the Forum issues to presented to the Town on January 21, 1993.

SUPT. REDFIELD'S REPORT: (see report dated 12-15-92 attached)

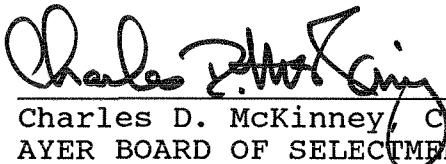
1. The Board took under advisement.

2. The Board requested to schedule a Public Hearing re: Water/Sewer Rules and Regulations later in January 1993 to address revised Industrial Pretreatment local discharge limits recommended by HTA and EPA December 1992 letters.

3. The Board authorized Supt. Redfield to advertise for sealed bids to the general public the deadlined DPW equipment removed from service and to scrap equipment that is unsalable. See List of equipment 12-8-92. Selectman Slarsky moved this motion seconded by Selectman McKinney, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

4. The Board requested to Supt. Redfield to re-bid the solid waste transfer trailer for mid Feb. 93.

9:30P.M. Selectman Slarsky moved the Board adjourn from Open Session and enter Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 39, Section 23B re: Personal matter to adjourn from Executive Session and re-enter Open Session for the sole purpose of adjourning the meeting, Seconded by Selectman McKinney, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.


Charles D. McKinney, Clerk
AYER BOARD OF SELECTMEN

DATE: Jan 5, 1993

9:30 EXECUTIVE SESSION