

Board of Selectmen

MEETING TUESDAYS AT 7:00 P.M. • UPPER TOWN HALL • MAIN STREET • P. O. BOX 12 • AYER, MASSACHUSETTS 01432



S H. JONES, Chairperson
JEL A. SIFAKIS, Clerk
EPHEN M. SLARSKY, Member
(508) 772-2072

TIMOTHY S. HIGGINS
Executive Secretary
(508) 772-0231

Selectmen's Meeting Upper Town Hall February 20, 1990

7:30PM OPEN SESSION

Present: Selectmen Sifakis and Slarsky, Tim Higgins, Executive Secretary
NOTE: Chairman Jones arrived at a later time.

Selectman Sifakis opened the meeting at 7:30PM. The Board agreed to waive a motion on the approval of the minutes of 2/13/90 until the next meeting. The members signed the weekly warrant: Expenses \$242,495.92 and Payroll 327,717.63.

Executive Secretary's Report(see report dated 2/20/90)

Mr. Higgins noted that the restrictions had been placed on the Class II license for Regis Magnus/PDC(see copy of license on file). Selectman Slarsky made a motion to approve the license with the following added restriction as follows: #6 that the dealer plate would only be utilized for the vehicles as described on the license, Selectman Sifakis seconded the motion, all in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Higgins advised the Board that the Supt of Schools had submitted the budget request for the School Department for FY91. He indicated that the the budget was \$1.2 million more that that last year, and increase of 8.6%. He stated that the Advisory Committee would like to meet next week with the Selectman. Selectman Slarsky expressed his concern that budgets should not be increased, we have to be realistic and conserve services. Any override article at Town Meeting would be dependent on each individual department. Mr. Higgins responded that most departments had complied. Selectman Sifakis asked if Union raises were budgeted, Tim assured him that the raises were included. Tim did explain that there were options recommended by the Advisory Committee. He noted that although permit fees had been raised, this does not generate enough revenue and it would not be prudent to increase any fees. He stated that the State could reduce aid in the amount of \$1.6 million and that next year the deficit would be over \$2 million.

AFSCME - Tim noted that this matter would be postponed until next week. He presented the members a copy of a memmo from Supt Redfield to the DPW personnel concerning coffee break policies. He noted that Senator Cellucci had responded to the Board concerning MEPA; regarding Patriot Energy. He advised the Board that Ogden Martin had sent a letter concerning renegotiating the contract before April 30, 1990. The Board asked if any other documentation had been received concerning the Company's financial status, Mr. Higgins replied that he had not received any correspondence or statements from Ogden & Martin. Mr. Higgins explained that the Board had received two petitions from the Town Clerk with the appropriate number of signatures to get the respective articles on the next Town Meeting Warrant. 1) to reinstate the Board of Public Works

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and 2) an article to instruct the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court to enact the Provision of Recall of Elected Officials. He explained that he had checked with the Town Clerk on these articles and that they can be brought back on the warrant. Only Zoning Articles are restricted. He continued that The Minot Group had requested that the Board approve Patricia Drive as a Public Way. He added that that all construction was inspected by CDM and accepted by Bill Redfield. Mr Higgins advised the Board that he had received letters from two drivers whose vehicles had sustained damage as a result of hitting a pothole on Barnum Rd. Selectman Slarsky noted that this had happened before but the Town never had to pay, Tim was asked to have Town Counsel review the matter. In his last item, Tim noted he had received a petition from the owners of properties on Fitchburg Rd relative to amending the zoning boundaries of their property, in order for the owners to develop the land as they see fit. the Board agreed that this should be an article on the Town Meeting warrant. Selectman Slarsky made note of the fact that the Board was in receipt of a letter from a resident, complimenting Mr. Higgins in the resolution of a water bill dispute.

Russ Smith/Mike Shannahan
Proposed Water Supply Protection District ByLaw

Mr. Smith noted that that the members were given a packet concerning the proposed bylaw. he asked that if there were any questions, these should be addressed. The Board members stated that they would need additional time to review the material and asked if Mr. Smith would come back before the Board, which he agreed to do. He also presented a water supply protection district map for their review at this meeting. Selectman Slarsky asked for an analysis and specifications on how this would change, or have future limitations on the area, in regard to business or other activities. Mr Smith advised the Board that he would be back.

Selectman Slarsky asked for a brief recess.

Bill Halligan: J&A Realty

Mr. Halligan noted that the ChopSticks Restaurant(J&A Realty Trust) had applied for an addition to their building for storage. Also, that since they hold a Common Victuallers License he wanted to keep the Board apprised of this situation. He noted that that this would not change the seating capacity at the restaurant. The Board thanked Mr. Halligan for bringing this to their attention, there was no objection to the addition from the Selectmen.

At this point in the meeting Mr. Jones arrived.

Supt Redfield's Report:

Supt. Redfield presented copies of the CDM Admendment No 2 for the Boards' signature. (note: admendment No.2 increased CDM's contract by \$11,500.00 under the Bidding phase). The Board voted to approve the transfer of Richard Linde from position of Equipment Operator to Water and Sewer Meter Reader. Mr Redfield asked for permission to fill the vacancy of Equipment Operator position. Selectmen Slarsky asked Mr. Redfield why three DPW personnell ride around in a truck together and that he had concerns with this practice, especially after receiving several complaints on the matter. After a discussion on the need for an equipment operator, Selectman Slarsky made a motion to fill the position of Equipment Operator, seconded by Selectman Sifakis and passed. Chairman Jones reminded Supt Redfield that he should be cognizant of fiscal restraints and that the DPW could not afford the impression of "waste", and that the DPW employees should not ride around together. The Board asked Mr. Redfield about management of his employees, Mr Redfield stated these employees are the busiest of the Town Employees and that admittedly there are quirks which will have to be worked out. Mr. Redfield gave the Board members a copy of a notice to be included with the water and sewer bills. Chairman Jones asked that a change be made in the 4th paragraph, in that any change would be adjuisted to actual meter reading. Selectman Slarsky asked that the DPW check the Sluice Gates on E. Main St. Supt Redfield advised the Selectmen that this would be done.

Tim's Report (con't)

Item#2

Tim advised the Board that the Advisory Comm. had forwarded a memo stating that they are agreeable to signing the reserve fund transfer for costs involved with Tony's Restaurant Fire. This would be in the amount of \$6,939, the transfer would take place once the invoice had been presented to the property owner. Selectman Slarsky moved to accept the transfer of \$6,939, seconded by Chairman Jones and the motion passed.

At this point Selectman Sifakis read a prepared statement that he will not be running as a candidate for Selectman this year. The Board members expressed their regrets, noting that Mr. Sifakis had been a valuable asset to the Board and a stabilizing factor.

Don Leistikow-Re-Cycling Committee

Mr. Leistikow introduced himself to the members, and stated that he had met with Mr. Maxant and two other people who were interested in re-cycling. He stated that he was aware that the Town had problems with RFA. It was agreed that Tim and Mr. Leistikow should discuss this and that appointment letters should be sent. Mr. Leistikow also noted a letter would be required from the Town to DEP concerning re-cylcing for the Town.

9:05PM At this point Selectman Sifakis made a motion to enter into Executive Session only to adjourn pursuant to MGL Chapter 39 Section 23B, seconded by Selectman Slarsky and passed.

