

Town of Ayer
Board of Selectmen
Open Session Meeting Minutes

April 4, 2017, 7:00pm



Attendance: Gary J. Luca, Chair; Jannice L. Livingston, Clerk

Absent: Christopher R. Hillman, Vice-Chair

Also in Attendance: Robert A. Pontbriand, Town Administrator

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7pm by G. Luca.

Pledge of Allegiance: G. Luca led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Meeting agenda was amended to include a Reserve Fund Transfer for the Building Department under the Town Administrator's Report.

MOTION: A motion was made by J. Livingston and seconded by G. Luca to approve the meeting agenda as amended. **Motion Passed 2-0.**

Public Input:

Mary Spinner stated that the Town should consider having Town Meeting on Saturday morning's to attract more people to participate.

Lauri Sabol addressed the BOS regarding the Clean Ayer Event on April 29 and April 30.

Home Rule Petition Request for All Alcohol Permit :

Mr. Jeff Gendron, owner of The Vineyard, 63 Park Street appeared before the BOS to request BOS support for a warrant article for the Annual Town Meeting for a home rule petition for an all alcohol permit.

R. Pontbriand introduced Mr. Gendron to the BOS and referenced Mr. Gendron's letter of request for the record.

G. Luca stated that he has consistently not been in favor of any additional all liquor licenses for the Town since the Town already has one more than its quota and the Town does not need another one.

Mr. Gendron stated that many of his customers continued to ask for one for his store and that he has forty years of experience; well-trained employees; competitive pricing; and this would greatly help his business.

J. Livingston stated that though the Town is one over its quota, she is not opposed to putting the matter before the People at Town Meeting.

MOTION: A motion was made by J. Livingston for the BOS to place a warrant article on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant for a home rule petition for an all alcohol license for the Vineyard. Motion was seconded for discussion by G. Luca.

G. Luca stated that he is against an additional license.

Vote on the Motion: J. Livingston, Y; G. Luca, N; 1-1; the Motion does not pass.

Mr. Jim Fay asked the Chair to address the Board since he missed Public Input at the beginning of the meeting.

The Chair recognized Mr. Fay.

Mr. Fay addressed the BOS to inform them that the Planning Board is working on the issue of Retail Marijuana and will report back to the BOS shortly.

Agreement for Paramedic Intercept Services with the Town of Shirley:

Fire Chief Pedrazzi appeared before the BOS seeking approval of an agreement for paramedic intercept services with the Town of Shirley as put forth in the BOS Meeting Packet.

MOTION: A motion was made by J. Livingston and seconded by G. Luca to approve the Agreement for Paramedic Intercept Services with the Town of Shirley as presented by the Fire Chief with signature by the BOS Chair. **Motion Passed 2-0.**

Former Fire Station RFP Award Recommendation:

Mr. Alan Manoian, Director of Economic Development appeared before the BOS seeking approval from the BOS for the proposal for the redevelopment of the historic 1934 Ayer Central Fire Station as submitted by C. Donell Homes in the amount of \$50,000. The Town received a total of three RFP responses and the proposal from C. Donell Homes was found to be the most responsive and responsible proposal based on the scoring of the evaluation team and price.

MOTION: A motion was made by J. Livingston and seconded by G. Luca to approve the recommendation of the proposal for the redevelopment of the historic 1934 Ayer Central Fire Station as submitted by C. Donell Homes in the amount of \$50,000 and to authorize the Economic Development Director to proceed with developing a contract for the proposal. **Motion Passed 2-0.**

Ayer Master Plan Update:

The BOS heard an update on the Ayer Master Plan from Mr. Manoian, Economic Development Director and Ms. Courtney Starling, the Town's consultant from Community Opportunities Group (COG).

Preliminary Vote to Authorize Refunding of Past Bonds:

Ms. Lisa Gabree, Finance Manager and Ms. Susan Copeland, Treasurer appeared before the BOS requesting a preliminary vote from the BOS to authorize the refunding of past bonds. The refinancing/refunding of these municipal bonds will save the Town approximately \$383,000.

MOTION: A motion was made by J. Livingston and seconded by G. Luca to authorize the refinancing/refunding of the municipal bonds as presented by the Finance Manager and Treasurer with an approximate savings of \$383,000. **Motion Passed 2-0.**

Public Hearing: FY 2018 Water and Sewer Rates:

MOTION: A motion was made by J. Livingston and seconded by G. Luca to open the FY 2018 Water Sewer Rates Public Hearing. **Motion Passed 2-0.**

R. Pontbriand publically thanked the Water and Sewer Rate Review Committee for all of their hard work and introduced Lisa Gabree, Finance Manager and Mark Wetzel, DPW Superintendent who made a presentation on behalf of the Water and Sewer Rate Review Committee for the FY 2018 water and sewer rate recommendations for the BOS. The Committee recommended a 0% increase in the water rates for FY 2018. The Committee recommended a 3.5% increase in the sewer rates for FY 2018. This increase is within the sewer rate model for the Town. There was no input from the Public.

MOTION: A motion was made by J. Livingston and seconded by G. Luca to approve the recommendation of the Water and Sewer Rate Review Committee for a 0% increase in the water rates for FY 2018. **Motion Passed 2-0.**

MOTION: A motion was made by J. Livingston and seconded by G. Luca to approve the recommendation of the Water and Sewer Rate Review Committee for a 3.5% increase in the sewer rates for FY 2018. **Motion Passed 2-0.**

MOTION: A motion was made by J. Livingston and seconded by G. Luca to close the Public Hearing. **Motion Passed 2-0.**

Town Administrator's Report:

The BOS heard an administrative update from the Town Administrator.

Reserve Fund Transfer Request (RFT) in the amount of \$26,000 for Veterans Benefits:

The Town Administrator presented an RFT in the amount of \$26,000 for Veterans Benefits for approval by the BOS. Due to a shortfall of Chapter 115 Veteran benefit funds, the RFT is needed.

MOTION: A motion was made by J. Livingston and seconded by G. Luca to approve the RFT for Veterans Benefits in the amount of \$26,000 as presented by the Town Administrator. **Motion Passed 2-0.**

Update on Bylaw Review Process:

The Town Administrator gave the BOS an update on the Bylaw Review Process. He recommended that the BOS support a Warrant Article for the May 2017 Annual Town Meeting in the amount of \$20,000 which would fund the professional services of General Code which will do a legal review; recodification; and formal recommendation plan for the Town's Bylaws and Traffic Ordinances. General Code is the industry leader and has worked with KP Law (Town Counsel) in the past. This is the best course of action to ensure a complete professional review, update, and implementation of the Town's Bylaws and Traffic Ordinances. The BOS concurred.

Recreational Marijuana Update:

The Town Administrator gave the BOS an update on the Recreational Marijuana Update and advised that he had met with the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission and representatives of the Ayer Planning Board regarding the issue. It is recommended that whatever the Town decides to do with respect to the issue, that formal action should take place by the Ayer Town Meeting by the Special Fall Town Meeting in October 2017. The BOS concurred.

Reserve Fund Transfer Request (RFT) in the amount of \$42,404.40 for the Building Department:

The Town Administrator presented an RFT in the amount of \$42,404.40 for the Building Department to cover the unforeseen costs to board and secure 14 Williams Street and 128 Washington Street as a result of the Town's recent court authorized condemnation of both properties.

MOTION: A motion was made by J. Livingston and seconded by G. Luca to authorize the RFT in the amount of \$42,404.40 for the Building Department as presented by the Town Administrator.
Motion Passed 2-0.

Approval of Meeting Minutes for March 23, 2017

MOTION: A motion was made by J. Livingston and seconded by G. Luca to approve the BOS Meeting Minutes for March 23, 2017. **Motion Passed 2-0.**

Adjournment:

MOTION: A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by J. Livingston and seconded by G. Luca.
Motion Passed 2-0.

The BOS Meeting adjourned at 8:28pm.

Minutes recorded and submitted by Robert A. Pontbriand, Town Administrator

Date Minutes Approved by BOS: 18 APR 17

Signature Indicating Approval: 