



Town of Ayer
Board of Selectmen
Ayer Town Hall – 1st Floor Meeting Room
Ayer, MA 01432

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

MEETING MINUTES

Attendance: *Present*
Christopher R. Hillman, Chair; Jannice L. Livingston, Vice-Chair; Gary J. Luca, Clerk
Also Present
Robert A. Pontbriand, Town Administrator
Carly M. Antonellis, Assistant to the Town Administrator

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by C. Hillman.

Moment of Silence In Memory of Ayer Firefighter Steve Mickle

MOTION: A motion was made by G. Luca and seconded by J. Livingston to approve the agenda as printed. **Motion passes 3-0.**

Public Input: Mr. Frank Maxant came forward with a proposal for a home rule petition regarding Devens. He is asking the Board to consider adding this to the warrant for the Special Fall Town Meeting.

Director Jeff Thomas, Parks and Recreation – Online Payment Contract: J. Thomas indicated that Chairman of the Parks Commission, Jason Mayo could not make the meeting due to a prior family commitment. J. Thomas went over the details of the online payment proposal, which will allow payments to be made online to the Parks Department.

MOTION: Motion made by G. Luca and seconded by J. Livingston to approve the contract between the Town of Ayer and UniBank with signature by the Chair. **Motion passes 3-0.**

Joint Meeting with the Planning Board to fill Planning Board Vacancy: Pursuant to MGL Chapter 44, Section 11 the Selectmen and the Planning Board, represented by Chairman Jim Lucchesi met to appoint a Planning Board member to fill a vacated term ending in April of 2015. The Board of Selectmen and Chairman Lucchesi interviewed Ms. Jennifer Gibbons.

MOTION: Motion made by G. Luca and seconded by J. Livingston to appoint Ms. Jennifer Gibbons to the Planning Board until the annual election in April 2015. Motion passes 3-0. Chairman Lucchesi also voted in favor of the appointment.

Ayer Commuter Rail Surface Parking Lot Update: Bruno Fisher from the Montachusett Area Transit Authority and George Kahale from the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission gave an update on recent progress that has been made with respect to the Ayer Rail Trail Commuter Surface Parking Lot and the Ayer Commuter Rail Station project. R. Pontbriand stressed that this was only a conceptual plan and that residents will be given opportunity to weigh in on design layouts, etc. The next step in the process is to transfer the proposed land to MART, which will then be transferred to the Town of Ayer. C. Hillman thanked everyone involved for their continued support and efforts.

Director David Maher, Economic and Community Development: D. Maher gave an update of the economic development activity in Town. He went over specific areas of town including: Ayer rotary area, downtown, Route 2A/Fitchburg Road, West Main Street.

Town Administrator's Report: R. Pontbriand detailed the process for reviewing and updating the Town's Comprehensive Plan.

New Business/Selectmen's Questions: J. Livingston requested an update on Warrant Article #30 from the Annual Town Meeting and the status of M.G.L. C.32B§9A½. The Board received an update on the matter via email from the Town Treasurer that afternoon saying the matters would be resolved.

C. Hillman inquired about the possibility of the Town of Ayer using a grant writer to assist department heads in obtaining grant funding. R. Pontbriand went over feedback he had received from other municipalities across the State. Most municipalities the size of Ayer use a contract based grant writer where the grant writer will only be paid if they are successful in obtaining a grant.

C. Hillman that property enforcement issues in the Town of Ayer are moving forward.

C. Hillman would like the Town Administrator to look into working with the Sheriff's Office to help with the cleanup of littering in Town.

C. Hillman said he will also be looking into the installation of a "Welcome to Ayer Sign".

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

MOTION: Motion made by J. Livingston and seconded by G. Luca to approve the meeting minutes of August 19, 2014. **Motion passes 3-0.**

G. Luca asked about the status of the DPW engineer and where the Town was in the hiring process.

G. Luca also had questions about the DPW's Surplus Equipment Bid and asked R. Pontbriand to look into.

MOTION: Motion made by J. Livingston and seconded by G. Luca to approve the meeting minutes of September 2, 2014. **Motion passes 3-0.**

MOTION: Motion made by J. Livingston and seconded by G. Luca at 8:58 PM to enter into Executive Session pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21A, Exemption #3 Collective Bargaining Re: Police Superiors Contract MOA and Re: DPW WWTP Tanker Driver and Exemption #3 Litigation Strategy Re: *Gintner v. Town of Ayer* and to adjourn meeting from Executive Session. J. Livingston stated that to discuss these matters in open session would be detrimental to the Town's negotiating strategy. **By Roll Call Vote:** C. Hillman, Yes; J. Livingston, Yes; G. Luca, Yes. **Motion passes 3-0.**

Minutes Recorded and Submitted by Carly M. Antonellis

Minutes Approved by BOS: October 14, 2014

Gary J. Luca, Clerk: 