

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



Tuesday, October 14, 2014
Meeting Minutes

Selectmen in Attendance: Christopher Hillman, Chair; Gary Luca, Clerk

Also in Attendance: Robert A. Pontbriand, Town Administrator
Carly M. Antonellis, Assistant to the Town Administrator

Absent: Jannice Livingston, Vice-Chair

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM by C. Hillman. C. Hillman stated that J. Livingston would not be attending this evening's meeting because she was not feeling well and wished her a speedy recovery.

Approval of Agenda: R. Pontbriand requested that Item #1 under the DPW Superintendent's report be tabled to a future meeting. He also requested two additions to the Town Administrator's report regarding 3 requests for 10 AM alcohol sales on Sunday and approval of a Purchase Order for a police cruiser.

Motion: Motion made by G. Luca and seconded by C. Hillman to approve the agenda as amended. **Motion passed 2-0.**

Public Input: Mr. Ernie Guertin of 142 Sandy Pond Road inquired about the status of the Senior Tax Work-Off Program.

Announcements: C. Hillman announced that the 3rd Annual Rotary Tree Lighting will take place on 12/7/14; the General Election will take place on 11/4/14; and the Winter Parking Ban will begin on November 15, 2014 and last until April 15, 2015.

R. Pontbriand spoke about the Habitat for Humanity Project at 76 Central Ave and thanked everyone on the Committee.

Appointments: Mr. Sam Goodwin was present to be appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Motion: Motion made by G. Luca and seconded by C. Hillman to appoint Mr. Sam Goodwin to a three year term of the Zoning Board of Appeals for the term beginning on July 1, 2014 until June 30, 2017. **Motion passed 2-0.**

Ms. Alicia Hersey, Office of Community Development: Ms. Hersey announced that the Community Development Block Grant Survey is now on the Town's website. She then updated the Board of Selectmen on the Affordable Housing in the Town of Ayer. The current affordable housing rate in Ayer is 8.31%.

Ms. Hersey then presented the Drug Court Grants that were successfully obtained from SAMHSA. The contracts for the grants are between the Town of Ayer and Advocates, Inc.

Motion: Motion made by G. Luca and seconded by C. Hillman to authorize contract between the Town of Ayer and Advocates, Inc. for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Trauma Grant in the amount of \$318,460 for the period of 09/30/2014 – 9/28/2015. **Motion passed 2-0.**

Motion: Motion made by G. Luca and seconded by C. Hillman to authorize contract between the Town of Ayer and Advocates, Inc. for the SAMHSA Behavioral Health Grant in the amount of \$341,315 for the period of 09/30/2014 – 9/28/2015. **Motion passed 2-0.**

Ms. Susan E. Copeland, Town Clerk and Tax Collector: S. Copeland gave an update on the following topics that her office is working on: Processing Payments/Taxes; Shredding and Document removal; Update on Hours Change; Purchase of New Copier Machine; Boston Post Cane; Lock Box Collection Update; Century Bank Update; 2nd Quarter Taxes being due; Training and Conferences.

Lt. Jeremy Januskiewicz, AFD and Det. Kellie Barhight, APD: J. Januskiewicz from the Ayer Fire Department and R. Kariskinas (appearing for K. Barhight) from the Ayer Police Department were present to discuss grievances their respective unions filed as it relates to Great West Deferred Compensation. Although the issue has been resolved both unions would like to encourage that members be notified in the event that something like this happened again.

Mr. Mark Wetzel, DPW Superintendent: M. Wetzel was present to recommend Mr. Daniel Van Schalkwyk for the appointment of Town Engineer.

The Board asked questions of the DPW Superintendent and the candidate.

Motion: Motion made by G. Luca and seconded by C. Hillman to appoint Mr. Daniel Van Schalkwyk to the position of Town Engineer and to allow the Town Administrator to begin Personal Services Agreement negotiations. **Motion passed 2-0.**

Town Administrator's Report: R. Pontbriand illustrated the need for authorization for the Town Administrator to approve contracts up to \$35,000 pursuant to the change in the Massachusetts General Laws.

Motion: Motion made by G. Luca and seconded by C. Hillman to authorize the Town Administrator to approve contracts up to \$35,000, pursuant to the change in the Massachusetts General Laws. **Motion passed 2-0.**

Three (3) requests were submitted for change of Sunday hours for alcohol sales at §12 package stores pursuant to the change of Massachusetts General Laws.

Motion: Motion made by G. Luca and seconded by C. Hillman to approve the requests as submitted by GW Archer, the Vineyard and the Jack-O-Lantern to sell alcoholic beverages beginning at 10 AM on Sundays pursuant to the change of Massachusetts General Laws. **Motion passed 2-0.**

Motion: Motion made by G. Luca and seconded by C. Hillman to approve Purchase Order 2356 for the Ayer Police Department Police Cruiser in the amount of \$36,940 with signature by the Chair. **Motion passed 2-0.**

R. Pontbriand and M. Wetzel went over the details of a DPW PILOT program for GPS Transponders.

Motion: Motion made by G. Luca and seconded by C. Hillman to accept the GPS Pilot Program for the DPW with an anticipated feedback report due prior to the Spring 2015 Annual Town Meeting. **Motion passed 2-0.**

New Business/Selectmen's Questions -

C. Hillman brought up concerns/issues with respect to beaver dams in Town

C. Hillman and G. Luca questioned about the possibility of the Building Inspector being a full time position.
R. Pontbriand advised that he would need to meet with the Union to discuss.

Motion: Motion made by G. Luca and seconded by C. Hillman to approve the meeting minutes of September 16, 2014. **Motion passed 2-0.**

Motion: Motion made by G. Luca and seconded by C. Hillman to adjourn at 9:25 PM. **Motion passed 2-0.**

Minutes Recorded and Submitted by Carly M. Antonellis

Minutes Approved by BOS: _____

Gary J. Luca, Clerk: _____

11-18-14
Gary Luca