

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



Tuesday November 18, 2014
Meeting Minutes

Broadcast and Recorded by APAC

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

Call to Order: C. Hillman called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM

Announcements and Review/Approval of Agenda: C. Hillman made the following announcements: the 3rd Annual Rotary Tree Lighting will be 12/7/14; the Winter Parking Ban will be in effect from 11/15/14 - 4/15/15; the Ayer/Shirley Regional School is holding a lip sync fundraiser on 11/22/14; the Ayer Fire Department's Annual Turkey Party will be held on November 20, 2014.

R. Pontbriand requested to amend the agenda. George Ramirez of MassDevelopment was unable to make the meeting due to an illness. He will come before the Board of Selectmen at a later date.

Motion: A motion was made by J. Livingston and seconded by G. Luca to approve the agenda as amended.
Motion passed: 3-0.

Public Input: None

Mr. David Maher, Economic Development: Mr. Maher and Ms. Alicia Hersey went over the Community Development Block Grant Strategy Survey results. Improvements and enhancements to sidewalks/streets and the need for additional parks/recreation opportunities were the most prominent topics returned in the results.

Public Hearing – FY'15 Tax Classification: G. Luca read the hearing notice, as printed in the Lowell Sun and the Ayer Public Spirit. The Public Hearing was open at 7:18 PM. The Board of Assessors was introduced by Assessor Tom Hogan. T. Hogan went over four items as it relates to the FY'15 tax rate, pursuant to MGL C.40 §56: 1) open space discount, 2) residential exemption 3) small commercial exemption 4) and the adoption of a residential factor.

Motion: A motion was made by G. Luca and seconded by J. Livingston to not adopt item #1, an open space discount up to 25%. **Motion passed: 3-0.**

Motion: A motion was made by G. Luca and seconded by J. Livingston to not adopt item #2, a residential exemption up to 20%. **Motion passed: 3-0.**

Motion: A motion was made by G. Luca and seconded by J. Livingston to not adopt item #3, a small commercial exemption up to 10%. **Motion passed: 3-0.**

T. Gibbons asked how many properties would be affected by adopting this. T. Hogan stated he would have the information at next year's hearing, as it has never been asked of him before.

The Board of Selectmen asked several questions of the Assessors and T. Hogan: J. Livingston had a question about the tax rate. G. Luca asked a question relative to the debt exclusion for the new school building project.

Calvin Moore had concerns about the tax burden being "shifted heavier towards CIP rate."

Tom Gibbons of Park Street asked that the Board maintain status quo and the CIP rate.

Pauline Conley of Cambridge Street asked about the single family valuation compared with the CIP rate and what was going towards the debt exclusion.

Ernie Guertin of Sandy Pond Road stated that he was concerned for the middle class and the elderly.

G. Luca stated that the Town of Ayer has excess levy capacity which is good and that the Town wasn't "taxing to the max" and that highlights the Town's spending control.

Motion: A motion was made by G. Luca and seconded by J. Livingston to set the CIP shift factor at 1.48 and the residential factor at .721776. **Motion passed: 3-0.**

Motion: A motion was made by G. Luca and seconded by J. Livingston to close the public hearing at 8:21 PM. **Motion passed: 3-0.**

Public Hearing - Application for New License (Beer/Wine): The hearing was open at 8:25 PM for Ranu Corp.'s d/b/a Pauline's Variety located at 67 E. Main Street application for a beer and wine only license.

Ms. Christine Logan spoke about concerns she had relative to the bus stop being nearby. R. Pontbriand suggested that she contact the Superintendent's office to inquire about the possibility of it being moved.

Motion: A motion was made by J. Livingston and seconded by G. Luca approve the application. **Motion passed: 3-0.**

Motion: A motion was made by G. Luca and seconded by J. Livingston to close the public hearing at 8:42 PM. **Motion passed: 3-0.**

Mr. Mark Wetzel, DPW Superintendent: M. Wetzel presented his recommendation for the Wastewater Collection System Operator. He is recommending Mr. Bryan Copeland, currently the transfer station operator, for the position.

Motion: A motion was made by G. Luca and seconded by J. Livingston to appoint Mr. Bryan Copeland to the position of Wastewater Collection System Operator. **Motion passed: 3-0.**

M. Wetzel detailed the process of the Sludge Hauling Contract previously approved by the Board. The contract is now ready for execution with Wall Trucking, Inc.

Motion: A motion was made by G. Luca and seconded by J. Livingston to execute contract between the Town of Ayer and Wall Trucking, Inc. in Shrewsbury, MA for the period of 12/1/14 – 6/30/15 with two (2) one year extensions not to exceed \$150,000. **Motion passed: 3-0.**

New Business/Selectmen's Questions: G. Luca gave an update on the Joint Board of Selectmen; there was a meeting last week and a full meeting of the JBOS on 12/18/14 in Shirley.

C. Hillman brought up the LED lights and decreasing the Town's energy output.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Motion: A motion was made by G. Luca and seconded by C. Hillman to approve the meeting minutes of October 14, 2014. **Motion passed: 3-0.**

Motion: A motion was made by G. Luca and seconded by J. Livingston to approve the meeting minutes of October 20, 2014. **Motion passed: 3-0.**

MOTION: Motion made by J. Livingston and seconded by G. Luca at 9:12 PM to enter into Executive Session pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21A, Exemption #1 (Officer M. Power 111F Medical Bills); Exemption #3 Litigation Strategy (190 West Main Street/Property Enforcement) and Exemption #6 (Contemplation of the purchase of real estate) 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.**

The meeting adjourned at 10:07 PM

Minutes Recorded and Submitted by Carly M. Antonellis

Minutes Approved by BOS: _____

Gary J. Luca, Clerk: _____

12-16-14
