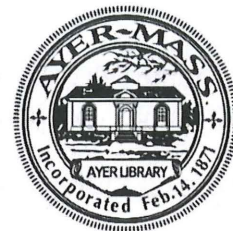


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APR 06 2022

TOWN OF AYER
TOWN CLERK



Town of Ayer
Select Board
Ayer Town Hall - 1st Floor Meeting Room
Ayer, MA 01432



Broadcast and Recorded by APAC

Tuesday, March 22, 2022
Open Session Meeting Minutes

SB Remotely Present: Shaun C. Copeland, Chair; Scott A. Houde, Vice-Chair; Jannice L. Livingston, Clerk

Also Remotely Present: Robert A. Pontbriand, Town Manager
Carly M. Antonellis, Assistant Town Manager
Susan E. Copeland, Town Clerk
Chief Tim Johnston, Fire Chief
Jeremy Januskiewicz, Deputy Fire Chief

SB Call to Order: S. Copeland called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic, in accordance with Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law (OML), public bodies otherwise governed by the OML are temporarily relieved from the requirement that meetings be held in public places, open and physically accessible to the public, so long as measures are taken to ensure public access to the bodies' deliberations "through adequate, alternative means." This meeting will be live on Zoom and Channel 8. S. Copeland stated that all votes will be taken by Roll Call.

Consideration and Vote on Form of Ballot Question for the Annual Town Election on May 10, 2022 - Fire Engine (Pumper) Debt Exclusion and Submission of Question to Town Clerk for Inclusion on Annual

Election Ballot: R. Pontbriand provided an overview of the issue. As the Select Board is aware the Capital Planning Committee has recommended the Fire Chief's request to purchase a new Fire Engine (Pumper). Additionally, the Capital Planning Committee has recommended a debt exclusion for the Fire Engine (Pumper) since the cost exceeds \$350,000 and per the Town's Financial Policies any Capital expenditure over \$350,000 requires a debt exclusion. As the Board is aware, a debt exclusion is a two-part process. The first part will be at Town Meeting on April 25 at which there will be a Warrant Article seeking Town Meeting's approval of the debt exclusion. There will also be a presentation on the Fire Engine (Pumper) at Town Meeting. The second part of the debt exclusion approval process is that the debt exclusion must also be approved by ballot by the voters at the Annual Election on May 10.

R. Pontbriand continued that as the Select Board is aware the Select Board must approve a debt exclusion ballot question and notify the Town Clerk at least thirty-five (35) days before the date of the Annual Election and that is the purpose of tonight's meeting. Finally, if the debt exclusion does not pass Town Meeting, the ballot question will still appear on the Annual Town Election Ballot for May 10, but it will be null and void since the authorization of the debt exclusion requires both Town Meeting approval and approval at the ballot by the voters.

Motion: A motion was made by J. Livingston and seconded by S. Houde that the Select Board approve the following ballot question for a debt exclusion for a fire engine (pumper) for inclusion on the Annual Town Election ballot to be held on May 10, 2022 as follows:

Shall the Town of Ayer be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued in order to purchase and quip a Fire Engine (Pumper)?

Yes__ or No__

And that the Select Board direct the Town Manager to notify the Town Clerk of this vote in writing and request that the subject ballot questions be place on the Annual Town Election to be held on Tuesday, May 10, 2022.

By Roll Call Vote: S. Copeland, aye; S. Houde, aye; J. Livingston, aye. **Motion passed 3-0.**

SB Adjournment: A motion was made by S. Houde and seconded by J. Livingston to adjourn at 6:05 PM. **By Roll Call Vote:** S. Copeland, aye; S. Houde, aye; J. Livingston, aye. **Motion passed 3-0.**

Minutes Recorded and Submitted by Carly M. Antonellis, Assistant Town Manager

Date Minutes Approved by SB: _____

Jaimee Lee Livingston

Signature Indicating Approval: _____

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