



Town of Ayer

***Ayer Board of Selectmen Meeting Highlights from August 13, 2019**

- The Ayer BOS Meeting was called to order in Open Session at 7:00pm.
- Selectman Houde announced the resignation of Selectman Hillman effective August 13, 2019 due to his increased work commitments with his business. Selectmen and the Town Manager offered their appreciation for Selectman Hillman's seven years of dedicated service to the Town of Ayer. The BOS amended the agenda to discuss the vacancy and election options with the Town Clerk.
- The BOS conducted a public hearing for a request for amendment of a flammable liquids license for Groton Ayer Realty Trust located at 95 Fitchburg Road. The BOS voted (2-0) to approve the amendment of the license.
- The BOS conducted a Joint Appointment with the Planning Board to fill a vacancy on the Planning Board. The Joint Appointment Committee met with Nathan King and voted (6-0) to appoint Nathan King to fill the Planning Board vacancy until the next Town election in April 2020.
- The BOS voted (2-0) to continue the public hearing for a petition for underground conduits and fixtures from National Grid on Littleton Road to September 3, 2019 at 7:05pm. The continuation was due to an outstanding issue with the Conservation Commission.
- The BOS voted (2-0) to approve the Community Host Agreement with Pharmaseed, Inc.
- The BOS voted (2-0) on recommendation of the Building Commissioner to increase all Building Permits by 20%; Plumbing Permits by 20%; and Electrical Permits by 25%. These fees had last been increased in 2003.
- The BOS voted (2-0) to approve Change Order #1 in the amount of \$67,324.58 for the Prospect & Oak Street Infrastructure Project. The BOS voted (2-0) to approve Change Order #1 in the amount of \$11,119.46 for the DPW Garage Project. The BOS received various project updates from the DPW Superintendent.
- The BOS discussed with the Town Clerk the various options to address the recent Selectman vacancy. The Town Clerk advised that the vacancy can only be filled by an election and that there is no appointment process. The BOS may call a special election. The special election follows a very specific timeline set by state law and would cost approximately \$5,000 to run. The winner of that Special Election would still have to run in the April 2020 Town Election for the remaining two years of the vacated term. The BOS could also take no action until the April 2020 Town Election at which both the vacated term of two years and the other 3-year Selectman term would be on the ballot. The Town Clerk also advised that if 200 registered voters submit a petition to call a Special Election, then the BOS would be required to call a Special Election unless the request was filed within 100 days of the annual Town Election. The BOS will take this matter under advisement.

- The BOS received an Administrative Update from the Town Manager. The BOS voted (2-0) to appoint two individuals to the Ayer Cultural Council. The BOS voted (2-0) to officially open the Fall Special Town Meeting Warrant. The Fall Special Town Meeting will take place on Monday, October 28, 2019 at 7pm in the high school auditorium. The deadline for all warrant articles and Citizens' petitions will be Friday, September 27, 2019 at 12pm noon.
- The BOS met with the Chair of the CPC Committee to discuss the proposal of increasing the Ayer Community Preservation Surcharge from the existing 1% to 3% for the purposes of increasing CPC funds as well as taking advantage of the state matching funds at the 3% level. To make this change requires passage of a Town Meeting warrant article and passage of a ballot at the Annual Town Election. The CPC Chair indicated that they are planning to propose this for the Annual Town Meeting and Town Election in the Spring of 2020. The BOS indicated that they were supportive of the CPC's plan.
- The BOS voted (2-0) to approve the Updated Financial Policies (Version 3.0).
- The BOS discussed changing the start time of BOS meetings from 7pm to 6pm. The BOS agreed to try changing the start time to 6pm beginning with the September 17, 2019 BOS meeting.
- The BOS voted (2-0) to approve the meeting minutes for July 16, 2019.
- The BOS voted (2-0) to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:45pm.

**(Note: The BOS Meeting Highlights are for public informational purposes only and do not constitute an official record of the BOS nor do they constitute the official meeting minutes.)*

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Ayer Board of Selectmen will be on Tuesday, September 3, 2019 at 7pm.