



Town of Ayer

***Ayer Board of Selectmen Meeting Highlights from March 30, 2020**

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic and in accordance with Governor Baker's Emergency Order temporarily suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law; 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' deliberation "through adequate, alternative means".

- The Ayer BOS Meeting was called to order in Open Session at 6:00pm in the First Floor Meeting Room of the Ayer Town Hall using public remote participation technology which consisted of a live broadcast of the meeting on Channel 8 as well as a live stream on www.ayerpublicaccess.org. The Public was instructed to call in remotely to a teleconference number if they wanted to provide any public input or ask any questions.
- The BOS received a Town of Ayer Coronavirus/COVID-19 Preparedness Update from the Town Manager and Police Chief. The Town of Ayer continues to be proactive out of an overabundance of caution with its local preparedness to limit the spread of COVID-19. Residents are encouraged to view the Town's website at www.ayer.ma.us for all Town related information and updates. **There is an urgent need for all forms of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the Town's First Responders (Fire, EMT, Police, DPW, and Health Inspectors). For more information on the types of PPE or to make a donation, please contact the BOS/Town Manager's Office at 978-772-8220 or at cantonellis@ayer.ma.us**
- The BOS voted (3-0) on recommendation of the Town Manager in consultation with the Fire Chief and Police Chief; and in accordance with Federal and State directives including the Governor's Emergency Order(s) to amend the Town's Directive regarding the suspension of nonessential Town programs and services which was originally issued on March 14, 2020. **The amended directive extends the public closure of all Town Buildings and Town-owned outdoor parks and recreation facilities (including Pirone Park, Sandy Pond Beach, and the Ayer Dog Park) until May 4, 2020.**
- Additionally, the amended Town Directive extends the cancellation of all public meetings in Town Buildings through April 7, 2020 (except for the Board of Selectmen and Board of Health). Beginning on April 8, the Town will begin to implement remote public participation meetings for other Town Boards, Committees, and Commissions in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Open Meeting Law Order and on a priority basis. (Note: At this time Town Personnel continue to work during normal hours of operation and are available by telephone and/or email) To view the amended Town Directive please go to the Town's website at www.ayer.ma.us and it is posted on the Ayer Town Hall.
- The BOS conducting the Public Hearing for the Adoption of the FY 2021 Water and Sewer Rate Recommendations. The DPW Superintendent made the presentation on behalf of the Town's Rate Review Committee. The BOS voted (3-0) to approve the following recommendations as presented and recommended by the Rate Review Committee:

- The BOS voted (3-0) to adopt the following water rates effective July 1, 2020:

Water Rates Per Hundred Cubic Feet (750 gallons)

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>\$ Increase</u>
Step 1	\$2.62	\$2.88	\$0.26
Step 2	\$3.24	\$3.56	\$0.32
Step 3	\$3.84	\$4.22	\$0.38
Conservation Rate	\$3.84	\$4.22	\$0.38

- The BOS voted (3-0) to adopt the following sewer rates effective July 1, 2020:

Sewer Rates Per Hundred Cubic Feet (750 gallons)

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>\$ Increase</u>
Step 1	\$7.90	\$8.16	\$0.26
Step 2	\$9.05	\$9.34	\$0.29
Step 3	\$10.30	\$10.63	\$0.33

- The BOS voted (3-0) to adopt the following connection fees effective July 1, 2020

<u>Connection Fees</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Effective July 1, 2020</u>
Connection Fee – 1” Service	\$3,600	\$4,500
Connection Fee – 1 1/2” Service	\$3,600	\$4,500
Connection Fee – 2” Service	\$3,600	\$4,500
Connection Fee – Second Meter	\$1,080	\$1,350
Annual Fire Sprinkler Fee	\$200	\$250
Sewer Connection Fee	\$4,800	\$5,400

- The BOS voted (3-0) on recommendation of the Town Clerk **to postpone the Annual Town Election** (originally scheduled for April 27, 2020) **to Tuesday, June 2, 2020** as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic.
- The BOS voted (3-0) to adjourn the meeting at 7:10pm.

**(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, April 7, 2020 at 6:00pm. The BOS will be using remote public participation technology for this meeting in compliance with Governor Baker's Emergency Order regarding the Open Meeting Law. Instructions for the public to participate remotely will be provided prior to the meeting and during the meeting.