



Town of Ayer

***Ayer Board of Selectmen Meeting Highlights from May 19, 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 and by Zoom conferencing technology. The Public was instructed to call in remotely to a teleconference number or via Zoom conferencing technology if they wanted to provide any public input or ask any questions.
- The BOS announced, "National EMS Week" and thanked all of Ayer's EMTs and Paramedics for their dedicated service to the Town, especially during the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- The BOS voted by roll call vote (3-0) (S. Houde, Y; J. Livingston, Y; S. Copeland, Y) to authorize \$23,923.46 from UDAG unrestricted funds for the repair of the Transfer Station Front End Loader.
- The BOS voted by roll call vote (3-0) (S. Houde, Y; J. Livingston, Y; S. Copeland, Y) to approve the Bond Anticipation and Grant Anticipation Notes on recommendation of the Treasurer/Tax Collector and Finance Manager.
- The BOS received an Administrative Update from the Town Manager on the various activities, initiatives, and projects of the Administration since the BOS last met on May 5, 2020. The BOS received a Coronavirus/COVID-19 Town Preparedness Update from the Fire Chief, Police Chief, and Town Manager.
- The Town Manager recommended that all Town buildings remain closed to the public (and all in person public meetings in Town Buildings remain cancelled with public meetings continuing to use remote public participation technology in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Open Meeting Law Order) until further notice as the Town prepares its public reopening plans in accordance with the provisions of the State's Reopening Plan which was issued on May 18, 2020. The Board of Selectmen agreed that all Town Buildings should remain closed to the public until further notice to ensure that the public reopening follows the State's Reopening Plan and is safe for the public and all employees.

- The BOS received an update on preparations for the June 2, 2020 Annual Town Election and the June 15, 2020 Annual Town Meeting from the Town Manager. Both events are scheduled as planned at this time. The update included the plans for the Town to implement the practices of social distancing, sanitization, and other best practices to ensure that both events are safe for the public and employees. Both plans will be publicized prior to the events occurring.
- The BOS voted by roll call vote (3-0) (S. Houde, Y; J. Livingston, Y; S. Copeland, Y) to approve the proposed plan recommended by the Town Manager, Town Finance Departments, and the Executive Bi-Board for the FY 2021 Budget and Annual Town Meeting as result of COVID-19. The plan would defer Article 14; Article 25; and Article 26 of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant until the Fall 2020 Town Meeting as a proactive financial planning measure due to COVID-19. A presentation to be made at Town Meeting.
- The BOS rescheduled the June 2, 2020 BOS Meeting to Wednesday, June 10, 2020 at 6pm.
- The BOS voted by roll call vote (3-0) (S. Houde, Y; J. Livingston, Y; S. Copeland, Y) per the provisions of Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 44, Section 31 to authorize emergency spending up to \$100,000 for COVID-19 related expenditures and authorized the Town Manager to sign the request letter to the Department of Revenue for approval.
- The BOS voted by roll call vote (3-0) (S. Houde, Y; J. Livingston, Y; S. Copeland, Y) to approve the BOS Meeting Minutes from May 5, 2020.
- The BOS voted by roll call vote (3-0) (S. Houde, Y; J. Livingston, Y; S. Copeland, Y) to adjourn the meeting at 7:15pm.

**(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 meeting of the Ayer BOS will be on Wednesday, June 10, 2020 at 6pm