



Town of Ayer

***Ayer Board of Selectmen Meeting Highlights from May 5, 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 conducted a Public Hearing for a Pole Petition from National Grid and Verizon for Marshall street and voted by roll call vote (3-0) (S. Houde, Y; J. Livingston, Y; S. Copeland, Y) to approve the Pole Petition. The BOS conducted a Public Hearing for a Pole Petition from National Grid and Verizon for Harvard Road and voted by roll call vote (3-0) (S. Houde, Y; J. Livingston, Y; S. Copeland, Y) to approve the Pole Petition.
- The BOS voted by roll call vote (3-0) (S. Houde, Y; J. Livingston, Y; S. Copeland, Y) to approve a lien subordination request for CASE# 06-316E on recommendation of the Department of Community and Economic Development. The BOS voted by roll call vote (3-0) (S. Houde, Y; J. Livingston, Y; S. Copeland, Y) to authorize a grant extension of the CDBG Grant for purposes of funding a portion of the budget Department of Community and Economic Development.
- The BOS received an update from the Department of Community and Economic Development regarding their ongoing efforts in collaboration with the Ayer Housing Committee, Ayer Housing Authority, and Community Preservation Committee regarding the development of an Emergency Rental Assistance Program to assist residents with rental assistance as a result of impacts from the COVID-19 Pandemic. The BOS received an update from the Director of Community and Economic Development regarding the Town's ongoing development of a comprehensive business relief and assistance program due to the impacts from the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- The BOS voted by roll call vote (3-0) (S. Houde, Y; J. Livingston, Y; S. Copeland, Y) to approve the continuation of the Town's Outdoor Water Ban on recommendation of the DPW Superintendent. The BOS voted by roll call vote (3-0) (S. Houde, Y; J. Livingston, Y; S. Copeland, Y) to accept a gift in the amount of \$500 from Ms. Mary Metzger for the Pulpit Rock Improvement Plan.

- The BOS voted by roll call vote (3-0) (S. Houde, Y; J. Livingston, Y; S. Copeland, Y) to adopt and enact the following provisions of Chapter 53, Sections 10-12 of the Acts of 2020 *“An Act to Address Challenges Faced by Municipalities and State Authorities Resulting from COVID-19”* as follows:

Authorize the extension of the tax deadline for real estate and personal property taxes from May 1, 2020 to June 1, 2020.

Authorize the extension of the deadline for applications for exemptions of taxes from April 1, 2020 to June 1, 2020.

Authorize the Treasurer/Tax Collector to waive the payment of interest and other penalty in the event of late payment of any excise tax, betterment assessment or apportionment, water rate, annual sewer use, or other charge added to a tax for any payments with a due date on or after March 10, 2020, and that this waiver may only be given if payment is made after its due date but before June 30, 2020.

- 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 April 7, 2020. The BOS received a Coronavirus/COVID-19 Town Preparedness Update from the Town Manager on the Town’s various, ongoing preparedness regarding COVID-19.
- The BOS voted by roll call vote (3-0) (S. Houde, Y; J. Livingston, Y; S. Copeland, Y) to approve the change of officers and the change of manager for the Ayer Gun and Sportsmen’s Club as presented by the Assistant Town Manager. The BOS received an update on the General Code Bylaw project from the Assistant Town Manager.
- The BOS voted by roll call vote (3-0) (S. Houde, Y; J. Livingston, Y; S. Copeland, Y) to authorize up to \$15,000 from UDAG Unrestricted Funds for the purposes of equipping and furnishing the new Park’s Building at the request of the Parks Commission and Parks Director and on recommendation by the Town Manager.
- 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 March 17, 2020; March 30, 2020; and April 7, 2020.
- The BOS voted by roll call vote (3-0) (S. Houde, Y; J. Livingston, Y; S. Copeland, Y) to adjourn the meeting at 7:40pm.

**(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 Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 6pm