

**Emergency Board of Selectmen's Meeting**

Wednesday, July 26, 2006 @ 6:30 p.m.

Ayer Town Hall, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Meeting Room, Main Street, Ayer, MA

Agenda: Council On Aging Director -- Appointment of Temporary MART Van Driver.

Emergency session called under MGL Chapter 39, Section 23A whereas the unexpected injuries to Ayer's MART van drivers represent "a sudden, generally unexpected occurrence or set of circumstances demanding immediate action."

	<b>Present</b>
Frank F. Maxant, Chairman	X
Pauline Conley, Vice-Chair	X
Carolyn McCreary, Clerk	X
Gary Luca, Member	X
Cornelius F. Sullivan, Member	X
Shaun Suhoski, Town Administrator	X
Janet Lewis, Secretary	Not requested to be present.

Also in attendance: Karin Swanfeldt, Council On Aging Director

6:38 p.m. Open Session

COA Director Karin Swanfeldt recounted recent serious injuries to the two MART van drivers under her employ. One employee has been out since a June 29 injury, while the second MART van driver was injured on July 24, requiring surgery. Both employees remain out of work and expected to be out of work for an addition one to four months.

Ms. Swanfeldt advised that the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority (MART) provides the vans and service, but through Town employees that are trained and certified through a stringent MART process. She then introduced Ms. Verna Hughes, a three-year volunteer for the COA's Meals on Wheels program, as her candidate to fill a MART driver position.

The need for immediate action resulted from the loss of the two drivers, the lack of substitute drivers from MART, and the inability to schedule MART-trained drivers from a neighboring community due to vacation schedules. Ms. Swanfeldt said an immediate Board appointment would reduce the training window from four weeks to two weeks.

Selectman Sullivan questioned whether MART would approve a "provisional" employee. Ms. Swanfeldt advised that MART agreed to move-up training and that no substitute drivers were available. She also spoke with Gokie & Quinn regarding the potential for MART-certified bus drivers to fill in temporarily. In response to queries from Selectman Sullivan and Selectman Conley, Ms. Swanfeldt is to research the cost and funding of the MART drivers.

Selectman Sullivan moved the Board appoint Verna Hughes as the temporary MART van driver until such time as the Board appoints a permanent position, and that Ms. Swanfeldt and Mr. Suhoski recommend one name for appointment to the permanent post at the August 22 Board of Selectmen meeting. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Selectman Conley. VOTE: Motion approved, unanimous.

Mr. Luca advised Mr. Suhoski that he was upset about not being notified of this matter until earlier in the afternoon. Mr. Suhoski stating that no Board action had been requested until that same afternoon.

Selectman McCreary questioned whether there was potential for the Town to appoint an "alternate" driver. Ms. Swanfeldt advising "absolutely." Chairman Maxant noted the Town routinely appointed reserve police officers, and perhaps could appoint reserve MART drivers from neighboring towns.

Mr. Suhoski distributed information concerning the Town's award of \$861,295 in Community Development Block Grant funding earlier in the day, and commending staff members Susan Provencher and Timothy Hansen for their work on the application.

Motion to adjourn by Selectman Sullivan, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Selectman Luca, VOTE: Unanimous, motion approved.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

END OF MINUTES

  
Carolyn McCreary, Clerk  
AYER BOARD OF SELECTMAN

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_