

Selectmen's Office
Tuesday, March 1, 2005
Ayer Town Hall, 1st Floor Meeting Room, Main Street, Ayer, MA

7:00p.m. Open Session

The Board met with Chairman Bresnahan, Selectman Morrison, Selectman Maxant and Selectman Fay.
Selectman Sullivan absent.

Agenda Item #1. Public Input:: Chairman Bresnahan requested if there was anyone present wishing to meet with the Board under Public Input

1. Mary Spinner re 4th of July-Requesting the Board consider placing an Article on May 9, 2005 Spring Town Meeting Warrant requesting residents make volunteer contribution of \$1.00/\$2.00 on their tax bill towards the Fireworks, using the City of Lynn as an example of this successful fundraiser. The Board requested language is developed for their review and investigation.

Agenda Item #2. Minutes: The Board set back the minutes of 1-18-05, 2-1-05, and 2-15-05 pending the Clerk's presence.

Agenda Item #3. Senator Resor-State Budget for Fy-06

Senator Resor thanked the Board for inviting her in to meet with the Board re the Fy-06 State Budget projections. Senator Resor advising the Board to being able to count on State funding that will not be lower than what the Governor has proposed in his budget proposal. Senator Resor stated her first priority is to bring back her communities back to the level in State Aid prior to economic downturn, noting how communities are struggling financially this year and hoping they will get more back from the State. Senator Resor advising to her sitting on the Ways and Means Committee makes her aware of what's going on in the budget process. Senator Resor advised to Education her focus is being on Special Education funding and help across the board in Chapter 70 Distribution Funds for Cities and Towns. Senator Resor updated the Board to more work needed re: Federal funds for the Town of Ayer's Parking Garage, Senator Resor stated they tried giving the \$3.2 to MA highways to make parking but they said they don't do parking so, Senator Resor said she contacted DOR re recently created shared use parking in Ayer and the Town receiving state funding for Volunteers of America's assisted living project at the former Woodford of Ayer, as well as a \$75K grant to upgrade the Town beach as well as the region receiving over \$390K in funding for the appropriate disposition of Devens. Sen. Resor commenting on the recent Federal cuts to CDBG Funds felt the Town was ahead of the curve on possible cuts and should be successful adding CDBG Funding remains to be seen, funding is done on the point system i.e. Smart Growth, Zoning and Ayer is definitely ahead of the game. The Board thanked Senator Resor for taking the time to come out to meet with the Board. Senator Resor concluded the meeting by telling the Board she will get the numbers out to the Town as soon as possible.

Agenda Item #5. Shaun Suhoski-CDBG Funding Letter of Support. Mr. Suhoski appeared before the Board to request their assistance with endorsing a letter of support maintaining the existing CDBG Program and maintaining CDBG funds to current levels (\$4.7 billion: the Federal Budget elimination of CDBG Funding on a nationwide level) Mr. Suhoski also requesting to cc Senators Kennedy, Kerry and Congressman Meehan. Mr. Suhoski stated Community Development Block Grant Funds are the lifeblood of the community and the Town of Ayer has reaped many benefits from this program. Mr. Suhoski stated CDBG it is the most flexible program to be used at the local level i.e. housing improvements (over 100 homes assisted), infrastructure i.e. West Main Street Revitalization, Comprehensive Plan, support for our local helping hands- "Loaves & Fishes" with emergency housing assistance, assistance with implementing affordable housing, downtown façade improvements/signage etc. demonstrating a high level of achievement and customer satisfaction and denoting property values as a measure of success excerpts from MA Municipal Assoc. read into the record. Selectman Morrison moved the Board approve Mr. Suhoski's letter of support for continued efforts with other members of congress to maintain the CDBG Program under HUD and urge the program be funded to its existing level and

a. Supt. Madigan stated it must be agreed that the wastewater connection will be possible only when the RVH pump station is available which must be approved by MADEP and the actual construction schedule of RVH. Supt. Madigan also stated that Water and Sewer Connection Fees also need to be agreed and recommended the following:

Water: 3" water connection-\$5K

Sewer: at a minimum 4 x \$1,500 (four buildings) or \$6K should be charged

Construction Costs: all costs to provide Water & Sewer to Littleton Lyne Apartments should be borne by Littleton Lyne Apartments entirely. Supt. Madigan summarizing stating status of Ridge View Heights (RVH) critical to the request for Water & Sewer Permits for Littleton Lynn Apartments (LLA). The Board took this matter under advisement.

3. Water & Sewer Rates Proposal for FY-06- The Board reviewed the Water & Sewer Study Committee's Criteria for developing the proposed FY-06 Water & Sewer Rates. (see attached)

WATER: The Board reviewed with Ms Gabree the projected Water Rate increases from FY-04 through FY-11. Ms. Gabree depicted scenario which utilized all by \$61K of the \$313K surplus certified in 6-30-04. The graph included UDAG transfers through 2007 raising rates approximately 7%-8% from FY-06 to FY-11. The graph showed the annual rate increase dropping beyond 2011 and yearly increases to stabilization increasing. Ms Gabree stated UDAG funds were being utilized to soften the rate for residents so they would not be hit with huge increase through FY-07 with rate dropping thereafter.

SEWER: The Board reviewed the projected Sewer Rate increases criteria prepared by the Committee and presented by Ms. Gabree who reviewed with the Board the scenario from FY-2004 -FY2011 which included General Fund Subsidy of \$70K in FY-05, \$20K for FY-06 and nothing thereafter. Ms Gabree stated with a \$20K subsidy the Sewer rate increase for FY-06 will increase by 4%-5%, FY07-rates will increase by 4%-5% with \$45K to stabilization. Increases for years 2008-2011 include \$100K - \$150K additions to stabilization and rates increasing from 2% to 4% annually. The Board thanked Ms. Gabree for her invaluable assistance and presentation and extended their appreciation to the Committee members for all their hard work: thank yous were extended to Ms. Scheipers, Ms. Martha Craft, Mr. Joseph Sampson, Supt. Michael Madigan, and Chairman of the Board of Selectmen Paul Bresnahan. The Board voted to schedule the FY-06 Water and Sewer Rate Public Hearing for Monday, March 21, 2005 at 7:00p.m. at the Ayer Town Hall, 1st Floor Meeting Room. Motion to schedule Public Hearing made by Selectman Morrison 2nd by Selectman Maxant, VOTE: unanimous, so moved

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

1. Change Order #3-Fire Station Construction Contract- Ms Scheipers presented Change Order #3 which includes approval for extra structural steel and associated additional work-additional work associated with water service installation in street (plus detail pays and negotiated time extension) in the amount of \$76,469.89 which has been approved by the Committee and recommended for approval. Selectman Morrison moved the Board approve Change Order #3 and authorize the Chairs signature, 2nd by Selectman Fay, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.
Ms. Scheipers reviewed with the Board Selectman Maxant's contention that UDAG Funds is not a permitted use of funding for the new fire station. Ms. Scheipers produced a letter of support re the use of UDAG Funds submitted by Shaun Suhoski advising the Board to funding towards construction of the new fire station being an eligible activity and permitted use under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. (see attached memo dated 3-1-05 from Shaun Suhoski).
2. Pro Rate of Alcohol Fee Request- Ms Scheipers advised to a request from George Archer being received re pro-rating his Beer & Wine Alcohol License Fee. The Board voted not to recommend to Pro-rate Mr. Archer's fee for the new Beer & Wine License request. Motion made by Selectman Morrison, 2nd by Selectman Fay, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

Selectmen's Questions/New Business:

Selectman Maxant- reflected on Bulletin Board in front of Town Hall for Meeting Postings and would like to have it restored.

Selectman Fay- Reminded Board to Shriver Job Corp Graduation on 3/4/05 at 10am and welcomed their participation.

Chairman Bresnahan- Cecil Report- requested the report include a Table of Contents and page numbering. Chairman Bresnahan urged the Board to read the report and schedule a half hour at the next Selectmen's Meeting to discuss where we going with the parking facility.

Ms. Scheipers updated the Board to the Board of Health being urged by the Recycling Committee to increase the rate of the Transfer Station Stickers/bag tags. The Board of Health stated they are not prepared to make a recommendation due to reports from DPW not being submitted to Board of Health re revenues to date generated by the permits/bag tags and expenses incurred. The Board requested the Town Administrator contact the DPW for timely submission of information to the Board of Health.

9:00p.m. Selectman Fay moved the Board adjourn from Open Session to enter into Executive Session pursuant to MGL Chapter 39 Section 23B re Exemption #3 DPW Supt. Contract and Eastern General, 2nd by Selectman Maxant, VOTE: Selectman Maxant aye, Selectman Morrison aye, Selectman Fay aye, Chairman Bresnahan aye, so moved.

9:00p.m. Open Session ended.

Cornelius F. Sullivan DATE: 4-5-05
Cornelius F. Sullivan, Clerk
AYER BOARD OF SELECTMEN