

Selectmen's Meeting
Tuesday, May 6, 2003

1st Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall, Main Street, Ayer, MA

7:00p.m. Open Session

The Board met with Vice-Chair James Fay, Selectman Maxant, Selectman Bresnahan and Selectman Morrison. Selectman Sullivan absent-vacation.

Public Input: Pauline Conley -Water Rates-deferred at this time to Mr. Sampson

Joseph Sampson -Water & Sewer Rates-Mr. Sampson agreed to speak under the Water & Sewer portion of agenda

Agenda Item #1. Senator Resor--The Board welcomed Senator Resor to the meeting. Senator Resor stated the purpose of her visit this evening was to review with the Board the status of Local Aid and -timing schedule. Senator Resor advised to the Senate hoping to have school aid formula from Ways & Means within next few weeks and will keep the Board appraised, taking the same approach assuming funding appropriations close to final. House Ways & Means budget used old formula and that would be worse case with Senate not making any further local aid cuts. Presently working on Municipal Relief Package for help on mandates-issues to be worked out as the budget process closes. Senator Resor to submit proposals-i.e. changes in student busing requirements/sidewalks will be a big help to large cities. House still deliberating on amendments doesn't know when Senate will get, guessing first week in June. Joint Conference Committee to review prior to Governor's endorsement for distribution to Cities & Towns. Selectman Maxant urging the Senator's assistance re: Prevailing Wage Rates stating wages are driving all capital costs, needs change. Senator Resor responded would likely raise 30B bid limits. Senator Resor advised the Board to recent Court Grant re prescription drug program being in jeopardy, serious problem this year. Senator Resor in closing stated she would send out report depicting Massachusetts as the highest tax paying state in the county. The Board thanked Senator Resor for taking time out of her busy schedule to come in to meet with the Board.

The Minutes of 4-15-03 were read and amended changing the date for the Council on Aging Blood Drive from May 12, 2003 to May 13, 2003. The Minutes were approved with amendment. Motion to approve the Minutes of 4-15-03 made by Selectman Bresnahan, 2nd by Selectman Maxant, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

Agenda #2. Fy-04 Water & Sewer Rate Vote-Selectman Bresnahan opened the discussion by presenting to the Board new rate options. Selectman Bresnahan explained the sewer capital needs are driven by large (industrial/commercial) users and as such they should pay a slightly higher percentage of cost.

Proposed new rate options:

<u>Water:</u>	<u>Step</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Sewer</u>	<u>Step</u>	<u>Rate</u>
	1	1.69		1	3.73
	2	2.10		2	4.28
	3	2.48		3	4.87

Selectman Maxant commenting rate increases are due to combined effect of higher capital costs and to percentages between small and large users.

Joseph Sampson/Cains Foods Inc.-Requested the Board consider a "Phase-in" of these increases by reducing rate for the first quarter and in October new rates would go into effect --this would allow relief in rates for next four (4) months for businesses and allow them time to budget change. Mr. Sampson stated there is no recommendations from the Ayer Industrial Association due to unique needs of individual businesses. Town Accountant Lisa Gabree advised to this request changing consulting cost (who makes the software adjustments for the town) stated it can be done but will cost more, which has not been budgeted. Mr. Sampson suggested the businesses might be willing to cover cost of additional expense. Pauline Conley expressed her appreciation to Selectman Bresnahan for the additional effort put into the options presented but stated this is a one (1) year fix and rate will need to be addressed annually. Ms. Conley advised the Board to billing errors with some SIU' i.e. not receiving bills in years, 1/4 of Town residents not metered. With these adjustments made & corrected could cause proposed rates to fluctuate percentages higher for the SIU's, ...so with these points in mind, she is not adverse to the new proposed rates presented by Selectman Bresnahan. Town Accountant, Lisa Gabree stated Consultant Woodcock

agreed to Selectman Bresnahan's logic being appropriate and supports the three-step proposal. Selectman Morrison
BOS5-6-03/PG.2

Echoed the Town Accountant's statement and further stated Selectman Bresnahan's proposal is a good compromise. Selectman Bresnahan moved the Board vote to approve the new Three (3) Step Water and Sewer Rates as proposed by Selectman Bresnahan in a memo dated 5-2-03 as follows:

Water:	1	1.69	Sewer:	1.	3.73
	2	2.10		2.	4.28
	3	2.48		3.	4.87

2nd by Selectman Maxant for discussion. Selectman Maxant stated he would prefer two steps for water, wanting to provide the best deal possible for low users and encourage development of wells for high end users i.e. 1.03/2.63, no second. VOTE: on Selectman Bresnahan's original motion: unanimous, so moved. Selectman Bresnahan moved to request the Town Accountant and DPW to check if possible to implement on 7/1/03 at lower rate and then adjust rate later in year to achieve full necessary revenues, re: ability to implement and cost to implement and report back in fifteen days, 2nd by Selectman Maxant, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

Selectman Bresnahan moved the Board delay capital spending commitment (remove word permit) for wastewater project to Fy-05, 2nd Selectman Maxant VOTE: unanimous, so moved. The Board requested to check with Tata & Howard if this delay will effect SRF Funding.

Town Accountant Lisa Gabree advised the Board to consultant proposing service fees be charged. The Board took this matter under advisement until May 12, 2003 at 6:30p.m. 1/2 hour prior to Town Meeting at the High School.

Agenda Item #4. Town Administrator's Report

1. Reserve Fund Transfers:

1. Town Counsel: The Board voted to authorize a \$25K Reserve Fund Transfer for Town Counsel Expenses: Motion made by Selectman Bresnahan, 2nd by Selectman Morrison VOTE: unanimous, so moved.
2. Unemployment Insurance Contribution- The Board authorized \$13,500.00 for a Reserve Fund Transfer for unforeseen rate change for Fy-03. Motion made by Selectman Bresnahan, 2nd by Selectman Maxant, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.
2. **Sewer Permits**-The Board approved the Sewer connection permits for Washington Street and Moore Drive per the recommendation of supt. Madigan advising to sewer capacity being set aside for these connections. Selectman Bresnahan moved the Board approve the sewer connections as recommended by Supt. Madigan and authorize the Vice-Chairs signature, 2nd by Selectman Maxant, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.
3. **Anderson Funeral Home**-The Board voted to approve the request of Brian Anderson endorsed by Supt. Madigan in a Memo to the Board dated 5-6-03 approving Mr. Anderson's latest request advising DPW/BOS to 4" fire suppression system not being required, the Board based this approval upon the following: conditional upon no objections from the Planning Board and petitioner's right of appeal. Motion to approve made by Selectman Bresnahan 2nd by Selectman Sullivan, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

FYI's-DPW-DPW Meter Reader position, Fy-04 Budget Public Statement, Habitat for Humanity, Stratton Hill "gift" conservation land.

New Business


1. The Board signed off the Sunday Entertainment, Common Victueller's License and Amusement License for PYO d/b/a The Brew Locker Sang Bea approved on April , 2003.
2. The Board reviewed the Town Accountant's memo re: change to Omnibus Article resulting from Agreement with School Committee.
3. The Board reviewed recent complaints re: brush dump being closed requesting to re-open the brush dump for weekend of May 17th & 18th. The Board also requested the issue of improving service re trash disposal be forwarded to DPW.

4. The Board again received complaints re: truck traffic on Sandy Pond Rd. requesting the Police Chief re-look this issue and report back.

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5. The Board requested DPW respond to time schedule for sweeping side streets.
6. Selectman Bresnahan updated the Board to the need to have the cannon returned to the front of Town Hall lawn for Memorial Day .

9:30p.m. Selectman Bresnahan moved the Board adjourn the meeting, 2nd by Selectman Maxant, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

 DATE: 5/9/14

Frank F. Maxant, Clerk
AYER BOARD OF SELECTMEN