

FINAL
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 5, 2000
2nd Floor Meeting Room-Main St., Ayer, MA

6:00pm Open Session

The Board met with Chairman Sullivan, Selectman Bresnahan, Selectman Pena, Selectman Witherow and Selectman Fay.

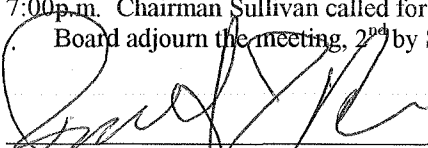
Agenda : Economic Development Director, re: Fy-00 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

The Board met with Shaun Suhoski re: CDBG Program. Mr. Suhoski updated the Board to this grant cycle being increased to \$600,000.00 its highest level since Fy-95, and the deadline for filing of applications being 8-25-00. Mr. Suhoski advised the Board to requirements of eligibility besides meeting with the Selectmen this evening also require a Public Hearing be conducted re: public comments from the community 1. Meeting one of three national objectives, 2. Be eligible under Title I of the Housing & Community Act of 1974, 3- is consistent with locally approved plan-97 Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Suhoski stated historically Ayer has sought assistance primarily for its housing rehabilitation program suggesting the Town include a more diverse mix of projects with a scaled down rehabilitation component. Mr. Suhoski reviewed the application changes with the Board. Executive Order 418 Affordable Housing opportunities-requiring a Housing Certificate to apply for non-competitive grants, the certification provides a 10% scoring bonus, Submittal of ADA transition plan-removal of architectural barriers, 15 year recapture period, and new Federal EPA lead paint abatement regulations. Mr. Suhoski offered his recommendation of what the Town's Fy-01 CDBG application might contain: Housing Rehabilitation 10 units @ \$20,000/ea= \$200,000.00, Infrastructure Improvements West Main St or Moore Drive \$150,000.00, Architectural barrier removal (Town Hall elevator) \$94,000 and Public Social Service (Loaves & Fishes/Sylvia's Haven \$10,000.00 including general administration 18% or \$70,000.00 for a total grant application request of \$600,000.00. Mr. Suhoski stated the whole point of tonight's meeting was to get direction from the Board of Selectmen as to the types of activities desired for inclusion in the application advising to the State allowing up to \$750,000.00 if the application is limited to one major public infrastructure project perhaps W. Main St.?? Mr. Suhoski stated due to all the abovementioned changes he felt it prudent to discuss this application with the Board to determine what they feel is worthy projects for the Fy-00 CDBG Grant application. Selectman Pena noting one item which could be purchased was blighted land suggesting the Park & Main Street area site suggested for the new Fire Station. Mr. Suhoski feeling it could qualify as spot blight (spot/slum blight) which is one of the national objectives for a public facility. Mr. Suhoski advised the Board to State Funding a year behind Federal Funding Programs and to catch up the State is putting another Grant Round out in early spring 2001. Mr. Suhoski advising Board to apply for both rounds and hopefully be successful for at least one round. Selectman Witherow requesting if grant eligibility included recreational projects. Mr. Suhoski stated the Park Feasibility Study could be submitted but would have to meet the national objective benefiting 51% of low-moderate households which would require an income survey for the whole town. Selectman Pena reviewed the three options regarding the Federal National objective threshold: benefit a majority of low-moderate income people, aid in the prevention/elimination of slums & blight, and critical need stating this would certainly fall under critical need. Mr. Suhoski feeling this would not qualify. Selectman Pena then suggesting our Wastewater Treatment Facility. Selectman Bresnahan expressing his concern with the Town not having an ADA Transitional Plan questioning how important that is. Mr. Suhoski advising by law the Town is to have one on file. Mr. Kreidler advising to Disabilities Commission having a "Self Evaluation" for all Town buildings which will be helpful compiling the Town's Transition Plan prior to grant submission. Selectman Bresnahan also questioning the 15-year recapture under the Housing Rehabilitation component requesting if applicant has to sell home before the 15 years who gets the money? Mr. Suhoski advising it is earmarked as Program Income and goes back into the program for utilization. Selectman Fay requesting if the Pleasant Street School be considered a blighted area? old abandoned school. Mr. Suhoski suggested it could be eligible under spot blight, he would have to look into. Chairman Sullivan reviewed with Mr. Suhoski the West Main St. & Moore Drive infrastructure requesting if this is far enough down the lines to be competitive, i.e. design, development, drawings., Mr. Suhoski stated he did not have enough information re: Moore Dr. but West Main project the Board has authorized Tata & Howard to move on the

next phase of the design, and we would be far enough along re: engineering specifications. Chairman Sullivan requesting Mr. Suhoski check into the Moore Drive Project to see where we would stand re: design/development and make the Moore Drive project part of this application. The elevator at Town Hall was also discussed as being part of the Town Hall restoration & a matching grant would reduce the Town's expense with the restoration.. Selectman Bresnahan requesting if the Park Dept's current building could be utilized under the architectural barriers portion of the grant i.e handicap restrooms, Mr. Suhoski stated yes it would meet a National objective. Selectman Pena restating a survey must be conducted to apply for the grant ie. Moore Dr. or W. Main St.. Mr. Suhoski responded yes. Selectman Pena moved the Board authorize Shaun to conduct the necessary surveys for the Moore Dr. & W. Main St. projects as presented to the Board this evening. Selectman Bresnahan requesting a friendly amendment to the motion- to broaden it to apply to any neighborhood that might be included in the CDBG grant application, VOTE: unanimous, so moved. Chairman Sullivan requesting if it makes his grant application more competitive if it has a more of a mix re: projects. Mr. Suhoski stated the application is based on need. Selectman Fay requesting if this grant might help the elderly i.e. Woodford closing. Mr. Suhoski advised of another grant meant to subsidize limited clientele which might be considered later. Chairman Sullivan called for a motion to direct Mr. Suhoski to develop the projects outlined on Page 3 for funding under the FY-2000 Community Block Grant Application. Selectman Pena moved the motion, 2nd by Selectman Fay, VOTE: unanimous, so moved. Selectman Bresnahan requested the Board direct Shaun to look into any other projects considered feasible and submitted within the CDBG grant application deadline i.e. toilet facilities @ Town Park to be rehabilitated, 2nd by Selectman Pena VOTE: unanimous, so moved. Selectman Bresnahan also moved the Board direct Shaun to look further into the W. Main St. Project, which is the only project which qualifies for \$750,000.00 CDBG Grant Funding, 2nd by Selectman Fay, VOTE: unanimous, so moved. Selectman Witherow took this opportunity to request if the Fire Station could also be considered under this application such as West Main St. Mr. Suhoski stated it would have to qualify town wide as well as income and not just elimination under blight could be eligible.

2. **DPW Permits:** Selectman Bresnahan advised the Board to a number of permits which have just come in this morning. Selectman Witherow suggesting these permits be taken up on July 11, 2000 prior to interviews re: Supt. Director position. Selectman Bresnahan updated the Board to a street opening permit requested by Cablevision re: the Silas B. Nutting Elderly Housing. The Board met with Jody Gaudet of Cablevision re: temporary line at 18 Pond St. (elderly housing) stating original line was damaged and Cablevision would like to fix that cable and place it underground, Dig Sage has been contacted. Chairman Sullivan requested it this could wait another week Mr. Gaudet agreed to delay of one week.
3. **Cablevision Extension Renewal:** The Board met with James Carrington, Chairman of the Cable Commission re: 2nd renewal extending the contract to 11/7/00 requiring the signature of the Board to keep the contract in effect until the Commission completes its ascertainment. Selectman Bresnahan moved the Board extend the Cable Renewal License extension to 11-7-00, 2nd by Selectman Fay, VOTE: unanimous.

7:00p.m. Chairman Sullivan called for a motion to conclude the meeting. Selectman Bresnahan moved the Board adjourn the meeting, 2nd by Selectman Witherow, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.


Robert J. Pena, Clerk
AYER BOARD OF SELECTMEN

DATE:  August 22, 2000