

Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, August 17, 1998
Ayer Library-Lower Level Conference Room-East Main St., Ayer, MA

7:15p.m. Open Session

The Board met with Chairman Hamel, Selectman Bresnahan and Selectman Sullivan.

Chairman Hamel opened the meeting by apologizing for the late opening stating the Board had met earlier at the Town Hall and had to make their way over to the library from that meeting.

Public Input:

Chairman Hamel requested if there was anyone present who wished to meet with the Board under Public Input. The following people wished to meet with the Board:

1. Ruth Nemzoff candidate for Governor's Council-introduction.
2. Grover Baker and Jack Madigan re: hooking up to Town's sewer from Littleton Rd. to Bennetts Brook. Supt. Girouard stated there is no stub at that location but a new stub could be placed there to tie in the three (3) properties originally presented to the Board on a conceptual plan in 96. Supt. Girouard stated a plan- developed by a certified engineer, showing the design would have to be done. Selectman Bresnahan moved the Board approve the tie in contingent upon the receipt of a certified Engineers design/plan being developed and submitted to the Town's Engineer, John Deline for his approval, 2nd by Selectman Sullivan, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.
3. Thomas McLain and Frank Maxant, re: trains idling in switching area (Depot Sq.) and unattended on numerous occasions in downtown Ayer-fumes and safety concern. Mr. McLain to submit documentation to the Board re: dates and times of trains idling and being unattended. Selectman Bresnahan moved once this documentation has been submitted to Mr. Kreidler the Board would offer a letter be sent to Guilford Transportation requesting an explanation, 2nd by Selectman Sullivan, VOTE: unanimous, so moved. The Board thanked Mr. McLain for bringing this matter before the Board.

Supt. Girouard's Report: see report dated 8-17-98

Action Items:

1. **Highway:**

1. The Board reviewed with Supt. Girouard the updated project schedule. Supt. Girouard to prioritize projects re: street repair/13-15-streets on current list-- will present to the Board in September -the fall construction listing. The Board took the replacement of sidewalk construction of bituminous vs. concrete under advisement, and the guardrail replacement/repair report.
2. The Board voted to award the contract for the design and engineering for the Traffic Light on Central Ave. to Bruce Campbell & Assoc. for the bid award of \$11,750.00. Motion made by Selectman Bresnahan, 2nd by Selectman Sullivan, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.
3. Supt. Girouard stated John Deline is presently working on a proposed parking plan for Main Street, to attempt to lessen the loss of existing parking spaces-which may result in the loss of crosswalks in the impacted parking zone. This report to be presented in September.
4. The Board reviewed complaints re: missing traffic signage and traffic on West St./Chandler Machine area, Berm on Pine Ridge Rd. and of construction debris left on residents property along Oakridge Dr., repairs to street and sidewalk being made by Ayer businessman and need to advise him to protocol of Town re: repairs being made to Town streets and also received an update to the flooding situation on Highland Avenue.

2. **Water:** The Board reviewed with Supt. Girouard the status of the modified water ban and status of the Grove Pond Wells(G.P.). Supt. Girouard stated G.P. has been on line for three weeks numbers reflect less draw now than prior to ban. Reports have come in with excellent arsenic, iron and maganese removal, and reports exhibiting figures showing G.P. Wells are now producing higher amounts into the distribution system which will now allow the Spectacle Pond Wells to rest several days a week. The Board

reviewed with Supt. Girouard the analytical results of the G.P. Wells Filtration and process of testing conducted.

3. Waste Water: The Board was advised to DEP extending the deadline for I&I Study. DEP to impose the 4 to 1 removal ratio beginning 9/30/98 as well as allowing the Town to utilize accumulated sewer bank gallons for future use, but would have to formalize this request in writing to DEP.

2. The Board was advised to DEP requiring the chlorine Analyzer being installed in the Towns Wastewater Treatment Facility and pricing coming in at \$7,565 not including plumbing & Electrical services estimated at an additional \$500 and for controller unit estimated at \$800.

3. The Board was advised to letter being sent to DEP addressing current staffing and of plans to increase staffing pending Town Meeting Approval in May of 99.

4. The Board reviewed the Sludge Landfill -Supt. Girouard stated he will be better able to determine where we are re: capacity next week. Selectman Bresnahan stated his concerns and stressed the seriousness of this situation and requested the Town's Sludge Landfill be placed on the next Selectmen's Meeting.

5. The Board was apprised of high strength BOD's infiltrating the Towns system and of Town attempting to identify the origin-DEP also being contacted and made aware of situation.

Transfer Station

The Board reviewed the disposal of solid waste proposals from Ogden Martin & Waste Mngt. Supt. Girouard advised the Board to Ogden Martin coming back with a new proposal to include the compactors in their quote. The Board agreed with Supt. Girouard to stay with the Town's current method of disposal due to upcoming financial impacts.

The Board took this opportunity to comment on Guilford Transportation's Auto Unloading Facility Plan proposed for east of Willow Rd., Ayer, MA (Golden Triangle) and of letter submitted to the Board from the Planning Board from General Manager of the Littleton Water Department. Concerns were addressed re: quantity and quality of water at both Ayer & Littleton's well site-Zone II & Zone 111 Aquifers. Selectman Bresnahan requested a letter be sent to

The Board met with Robert Pena of the Communications Study Committee, re: proposing a town-wide mailing be made available to Town residents re: dissipation of information. Mr. Pena suggested all Town Boards, Departments, Committees and Commissions be contacted re: their input for a quarterly newsletter being sent out to town residents advising them to Town services, meetings, park activities, and overall community events to include the Pleasant St. School and Town Hall restoration projects. The Board moved to fund \$1,207.00 for the cost associated with this mailing i.e. labels, postage, supplies & copying. Motion made by Selectman Bresnahan, 2nd by Selectman Sullivan, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

The Board also requested Mr. Pena start the process to revamp the Town's Web Page. Mr. Pena to contact Denis McGillicuddy and invite him to participate in the group's discussions.

Public Hearings: New England Telephone & Mass Electric, Pole Petitions.

Selectman Bresnahan read the legal notices into the record. The Board met with George Boyle of New England Telephone (Bell Atlantic) and Peter Russo of Mass Electric. Mr. Boyle presented a drawing of the area re: N.E. Telephone & Mass. Electric's Jointly owned Petition # 963483 Dated June 24, 1998 for fifteen new J.O. poles and three (3) existing J.O. poles to be removed; and Mass. Electric's solely owned Petition #C5074 dated July 6, 1998

for 3 new S.O. poles. Mr. Boyle stated the utility petitions were before the Selectmen this evening to upgrade the present service to Groton Shirley Rd. as well as adding new service for the new 10 lot sub-division planned for that area. Chairman Hamel requested if there were any abutters present wishing to speak for or against the petitions. No one stepped forward. Selectman Sullivan requested the process re: having the lines placed underground, stating the Town of Ayer 's downtown district went underground in 1985 and would like to see future lines placed underground. Mr. Boyle stated the contractor would bear the cost associated with underground utilities. Selectman Sullivan suggested the Town place develop a By-law requiring all future utility lines be placed underground and require cost associated with this be born by the developers requesting power. The Board requested this be communicated to the DPW and Planning Board re: future utility easements. Chairman Hamel called for a motion to approve the petitions as presented. Selectman Bresnahan, moved the Board approve the petitions as presented, 2nd by Selectman Sullivan, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

Town Administrator's Report:

Action Items:

1. The Board approved the amended Planing Board/Zoning Board of Appeals and Conservation Commissions Administrative Assistant's Job description as presented, Motion made by Selectman Bresnahan, 2nd by Selectman Sullivan, Vote: unanimous, so moved.
2. The Board approved the Selectmen's AdHoc Committee Appointments as presented by Mr. Kreidler, Selectmen to cover for each other in the event one is unavailable to make a meeting, Motion made by Selectman Bresnahan, 2nd by Selectman Sullivan, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.
3. Selectman Sullivan requested this item be placed on the Agenda due to residents feeling ponds are being neglected and the use of chemicals to control the weeds dangerous due to the ponds all filtering into town wells. Selectman Sullivan stated the Town should look into another source to control the vegetation. Specifically he wanted the cost associated with the following options: cost to purchase a weedharvester, cost to rent a harvester, cost to contract service out as well as comparing costs re: chemical control vs. harvester. Selectman Sullivan requested this information be prepared for the next Selectmen's Meeting. Mr. Kreidler stated the Conservation Commission was contacted re: this request and toward this effort had requested to meet with the Selectmen and invited the Board to attend the next Conservation Commission's meeting scheduled for September 8, 1998. The Board due to their previous commitments for September 8th requested the Commission be invited to attend the Selectmen's meeting on 9-14-98. Mr. Kreidler to make available prior to the 9-14-98 meeting the cost associated with the options requested by Selectman Sullivan re: the harvester.
4. The Board met with Park Commissioner Laurie Brennan and Park Director Marvin McMiller re: mileage stipend of \$20.00 being paid weekly in his salary for mileage associated with the use of his own vehicle for Park Dept. associated duties. The Board advised Ms. Brennan to her Board being an Elected Office with complete authority to develop budgetary appropriations- i.e. travel line item-- as long as they stay within the constraints of their budget appropriation. The Board also encouraged the Park Dept. to strongly pursue getting a vehicle through the D.P.W. Mr. Kreidler to communicate this to to Supt. Girouard.
5. The Board set back the Town Administrator's Contract for later in the meeting.
6. The Board met with Chief Rizzo re: Park St. Traffic problems. The Chief reviewed with the Board traffic patterns experienced during peak travel i.e. 7:00a.m.-9:00a.m. and evening commute. The Chief stated patrolmen in cruisers/motorcycle and directing traffic have all been utilized on Park St. and after observing this traffic himself felt that the traffic moved along well by itself and he only utilized a officer on the motorcycle to observe traffic from the side streets worked well, without the use of officer actually directing traffic, which in some cases slowed up the process. The Board requested the Chief again look at this area after Labor Day when school buses are back on the roads. Selectman Bresnahan requested the Devens Re-Use Plan be re-looked due to funding being made available to study traffic patterns.

New Business:

1. The Board accepted the resignation of William Oelfke from the Personnel Board with regrets. The Board acknowledged Mr. Oelfke's effort having served on the Board since its inception and requested a letter of appreciation be sent to him expressing the Selectmen's gratitude for his service and commitment. The Board also took this opportunity to encourage Town of Ayer residents interested in serving on this Board to contact the Selectmen's Office.

2. The Board requested John Deline, Town Engineer and Mr. Kreidler to review and comment on the five year review of the Shepley Hill report.

3. The Board moved and seconded to approve the concept of North Middlesex Saving's Bank Park proposal between the bank and the Town Hall. Selectman Bresnahan stated there is no Conflict-of-Interest for him as a Trustee re: this proposal. Selectman Bresnahan moved the motion 2nd by Selectman Sullivan, VOTE: unanimous, so moved. The Board appointed Selectman Sullivan to serve as Liaison for the park.

9:45p.m. Selectman Bresnahan moved the Board adjourn from Open Session to enter into Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 39, Section 23b-Exemption #2 to re-convene the earlier Executive Session to adjourn to enter into another Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 39, Section 23b, Exemption #3 re: non-union contract to adjourn and enter into another Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 39 Section 23b Exemption #3 re; non-union contract to adjourn for the sole purpose of adjourning the meeting, 2nd by Selectman Sullivan, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

9:45p.m. Open Session adjourned.

DATE: _____

Paul D. Bresnahan, Clerk
AYER BOARD OF SELECTMEN