

Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, May 26, 1998
2nd Floor Town Hall
Main Street, Ayer, MA

7:00p.m. Open Session

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

Chairman Hamel opened the meeting by requesting if there was anyone present wishing to be heard under Public Input. Diana Vita requested to meet with the Board to update the Selectmen on the 4th of July Celebration.

Public Input:

Diana Vita, Chairman of the Ayer 4th of July Celebration Committee.

Ms. Vita presented the Board an Update re: the activities to be held on the 4th of July: Parade, Park, vendors-food/crafts/amusement/games and Fireworks. Ms. Vita also advised the Board to the parade starting at 2:00p.m. this year- due to some of Ayer's participants performing in other communities at 10:00a.m. Ms. Vita also stated that the Committee will be meeting every Thursday evening from now through July 4th at 7:00p.m. at the Town Hall, 2nd floor, Room 7 and urged citizens to come to the meetings stating volunteers are needed for preparation and clean up. The Board thanked Ms. Vita for coming in.

The Board met with Gerald Smith of Aquatic Control Technology, re: the Town's Pond Management Program, specifically, Sandy Pond, Fletchers, Pine Meadow, Nuttings Grove. Two major tasks are included in the program for 1998, A comprehensive water quality monitoring program for Sandy Pond and Fletcher's Pond, and a maintenance program for Fletcher's Pond, Pine Meadow Pond and Nuttings Grove Pond. Mr. Smith stated this is not a one step process, much monitoring needs to be done. He identified which of the ponds are in need of chemical treatment this year. Sandy Pond nor School House Pond require treatment this year. There are some areas of purple loosestrife that should be treated around the shoreline of Pine Meadow Pond-the shoreline of Nutting Grove Pond will be for treatment of the stems and stumps using Rodeo. The Sonor treatment of Fletcher's Pond in 1996 provided good control over the submersed vegetation, but monitoring the re-growth of fanwort and milfoil weed still is in process and perhaps the entire pond will need to be treated with Sonor in 1999. This season they recommend selectively treating some of the floating leaf waterlilies to thin out some of the dense areas and maintain the "open water" in front of houses and shorelines. Herbicide/algicide treatments are performed by their certified applicators using only EPA/state registered and approved materials.

Mr. Smith analyzed the cost of the 1998 Pond Management Program to be:

Water quality & monitoring/assessment:	\$12,070
10-12 acres of waterlilies treatment/Fletchers Pond	\$ 4,350
Treatment of purple loosestrife/Pine Meadow	\$ 2,500
Treatment of shoreline veg./Nutting Grove	\$ 1,000
Total cost FY-98:	\$19,920

The Board thanked Mr. Smith for coming in this evening to address the Board's concerns with regard to the treatment process and of the chemicals to be used in this program. Mr. Smith advised to Town Counsel presently reviewing the contract.

Selectman Bresnahan took this opportunity to advise the Board to his discussions with HCI Systems, Inc. developer of innovative and comprehensive Property Operations Management-solutions for municipal government. Information such as fixed asset inventory, facilities conditions, capital budgets, comparative analyses, resource deployment, and preventative maintenance, tracking, emergency and crisis repairs, insurance premiums, liability exposure, legal, accountability and staff productivity etc. to achieve operating expense savings. Selectman Bresnahan stated there would be no cost to the town no financial

commitment. Risk free solution for municipal leaders to achieve targeted benchmarks and projected savings and operating expense. HCI Systems is only offering this program to qualified municipalities who submit an application by June 30, 1998.

Selectman Bresnahan moved the Town submit an application to HCI at no financial obligation to the Town, 2nd by Selectmen Sullivan, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

On another matter Selectman Bresnahan requested Lisa Gabree be appointed Year 2000 Coordinator (Y2K) to collect information from all Town departments, Committees, Boards and Commissions to change over to the Year 2000. Selectman Bresnahan requested all Town Depts, Boards, Committees and Commissions be sent a memo informing them to Lisa Gabree being appointed Y2K Coordinator and direct them to submit in writing what hardware/software systems they are currently using to include fire/police/dpw alarms.

Motion made by Selectman Bresnahan, 2nd by Selectman Sullivan, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

Supt. Girouard's Report: see Report dated 5-26-98

The Board requested the Superintendent update the Board regarding the status of the Water Ban. Supt. Girouard advised the Board to a possible 2-4 week delay with bringing Grove Pond wells on due to delivery of materials being delayed critical to the completion of the plant. Once everything is in place tests must be run and final approval given by DEP. The Board contemplated purchasing water from Devens for this additional 2-4 weeks with a cost analysis to be negotiated with Devens for this water as well as installing a meter to measure the usage at a cost of \$5,000.00. Mr. Kreidler also cautioned the Board to looking into more technical concerns as to whether the eight inch mains linking the two communities would be adequate to deliver the quantity of water needed. Mr. Kreidler stated additionally this new pressure would stir up deposits of iron and manganese in Ayer's wells. The board requested Supt. Girouard to get a cost analysis and review with Devens the technical concerns concerning piping the water and report back to the Board as soon as possible. The Board also reviewed with Supt. Girouard the status of Town wells. Supt. Girouard stated the demand for water in Ayer is pushing close to 2 million gallons a day. When Grove Pond Treatment Plant comes on line it will be certified at 1.5 million/gallons per day. Spectacle Pond wells & plant is certified for 660,000/gal per day which brings demand close to supply. The Board reviewed with Supt. Girouard the need for further conservation measures for water. The Board reviewed partially lifting the ban to allow for an even/odd numbered residence watering. The Board also reviewed the need for the drilling of a satellite well at Spectacle Ponds wells to allow for maintenance to be done on one of the wells with a bent shaft, this work to be done in the fall, after the largest demand for water in the summer months is over. The Board requested Supt. Girouard update the residents on a weekly basis via cable/newspapers re: progress/water status. Selectman Sullivan suggested the Board should think about a building moratorium and stop accepting water tie-ins. Town Administrator Jim Kreidler advised the Board to the Planning Board being the vehicle to address this matter with Town Meeting's approval.

Selectman Bresnahan stated that the Selectmen may be forced to slowly/gradually eliminate the water ban at the end of June with the new information to date with an odd/even watering residence schedule.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. The Board approved the Addendum to Tater & Howard's Contract DEP-RTN-2-11756 -for remediation of the former underground storage tank at the DPW not to exceed , \$39,500.00-Motion made by Selectman Bresnahan, 2nd by Selectman Sullivan, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.
2. Board approved a sewer permit for 146 Oakridge Drive, and 44 Pineridge Dr. Ayer, MA
3. The Board requested looking into halting sewer connections until the water ban is over. The Board requested Town Counsel to research if Selectmen as Water Commissioners have the same authority to halt sewer tie-ins as they did with water. Mr. Kreidler advised the Board to Capacity issue with the water

Economic Development Director's Report: see report dated May 24, 1998

Action Items:

1. The Board moved to approve a six (6) month extension to the HOME Program to allow for the remainder of the Federal Grant Award \$60,000.00 to be utilized for Town of Ayer residents for home repairs. Motion made by Selectmen Bresnahan, 2nd by Selectman Sullivan VOTE: unanimous, so moved.
2. The Board moved and seconded to meet on Friday, May 29, 1998 at 9:00a.m. with Diane Sullivan to review restrictions on building use and building ownership prior to committing funds to match the state grant for the Pleasant St. School. (\$132,000.00)
3. The Board moved and seconded to move forward with Diane Sullivan's proposal and have her report back in two weeks, re: MBTA commuter rail stop in downtown Ayer.
4. The Board to review MRPC's work plan and to comment at the next Selectmen's meeting June 8, 1998.

Police Chief's Report

Action Items:

1. The Board voted to award the Town of Ayer's Processing of Parking Violations (tickets) Contract to Municipal Management Assoc. of Marlborough, MA at a cost of \$1.27/per ticket and to approve Municipal Management Assoc. to perform Registry of Motor Vehicle Marks and Clears. Motion made by

2. Selectman Bresnahan, 2nd by Selectman Sullivan, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.
2. The Board approved of the IBPO Patrolman's Union Request for matching funds of \$5,558.85 to equip the New Police Station's Physical Fitness Room. Motion made by Selectman Bresnahan, 2nd by Selectman Sullivan, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

Town Administrator's Report

Action items:

1. The Board requested to include on the Fy-99 Appointment List the Ad-Hoc Committees the Selectmen have representation on.
2. The Board requested citizens interested upon serving on the Government Study Committee to contact Mr. Kreidler in writing.
3. The Board approved the Mass. Electric Easement for Pirone Park submitted by the Park Department. Motion made by Selectman Bresnahan, 2nd by Selectman Sullivan, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.
4. The Board requested the JOB Corp. posting re: positions available at the center be posted outside the Selectmen's Office for residents availability.
5. The Board approved of the Park Dept. moving from the 3rd floor to 2 Columbia St. the former Police Station-to occupy the chief's old office and secretary's area, a wooden ramp to be constructed at 2 Columbia St. for handicap access. Motion made by Selectman Bresnahan, 2nd by Selectman Sullivan, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.
6. The Board was advised to alternate sites being screened for the consolidation of Landfills at Devens, more information also to be discussed by BRAC on Wednesday, June 3, 1998 re: off site disposal as well. Mr. Kreidler to keep the Board updated on this recent development.
7. The Board approved of Mr. Kreidler starting the process to petition the legislature to ban the train whistles at crossings in the Town of Ayer. The Board also request Guilford Industries be sent a certified letter addressing problems with gates in the Town of Ayer which create dangerous safety concerns. The Board also requested to get a copy of the Dept. of Transportation and Federal Railroad Div. report re: National Whistle Ban Survey.
8. The Board requested a copy of the Town's Bond Rating be posted outside the Selectmen's Office on the bulletin board showing the favorable rating given to the Town 4.73 up from 5.013.
9. The Board requested Town Departments submit in writing their priorities for future needs and the Selectmen to also develop their individual goals/priorities as well.
10. Mr. Kreidler advised the Board to the next JBOS Meeting to be hosted by Ayer on Wednesday, June 3, 1998 at the Ayer Town Hall starting at 7:00p.m. Mr. Kreidler reviewed with the Board the preliminary Agenda for this meeting.
11. Selectman Sullivan requested a correction be made to the Mosquito spraying announcement which ran in the paper advising residents to contact the Town Clerk's Office not the Central Mass Mosquito Control Office if they do not want their property sprayed.

Selectman Bresnahan requested a letter be sent to the Town Treasurer requesting Health Insurance monitoring be strictly adhered to/enforced to avoid future violations.

Selectman Bresnahan moved to adjourn the meeting 2nd by Selectman Sullivan, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

11:30p.m. Selectmen's Meeting closed.

DATE:

Paul Bresnahan, Clerk