

Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, April 6, 1998
2nd Floor Meeting Hall
Town Hall, 1 Main Street, Ayer, MA

7:00p.m. Open Session

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

The Minutes of 3-23-98 were read and accepted with one amendment.

Public Input: Chairman Norstrom requested if there was anyone present wishing to speak. Chief Fillebrown requested to meet with the Board.

Town Crier: Chairman Norstrom read into the record the calendar for April 1998.

The Board met with Fire Chief Paul Fillebrown. The Chief stated he was before the Board this evening regarding the procurement of government surplus/equipment & Supplies received by the Fire Dept. Chief Fillebrown presented a list of items the Station acquired.

Chairman Norstrom took this opportunity to recognize Fire and Police personnel who took part in the emergency situation at Tiny's Restaurant on Sunday, March 29, 1998 when a man suffered a life threatening heart attack. Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Police: Jessica LeBlanc, Neil Archambault. Fire Dept.: Paul Fillebrown Jr., Timothy Johnston, Bob Bozak, Jeremy Januskiewicz, Robert Pedrazzi, Deputy Fire Chief-Peter Johnston, John Mayo and EMT-Debbie Cole. Chairman Norstrom also recognized Mark Coulter the off duty police officer who was at the restaurant at the time and began CPR until help arrived. The Board congratulated all of the above on their professional and expeditious rescue.

The Board met with Supt. Kevin O'Malley and School Committee Members: Viola Barnes, Daniel Sallet, Anne Garber. Dr. O'Malley opened the discussion by thanking the Selectmen for meeting with them this evening. Dr. O'Malley stated the School Committee was before the Selectmen this evening to request their support for the School Department's Over-ride of \$494,792 for operational expense. Dr. O'Malley stated cuts have been made totaling \$900,000. Without the override the School Department would not have the resources to bring Ayer Students into the 21st century. Much work must be done to prepare students for the Statewide Assessment. Dr. O'Malley stated the Town has a good system and spoke on behalf of the Committee to understand their standpoint and the rational behind the override. The Board of Selectmen each individually voiced their support for the over-ride. Chairman Norstrom called for a motion to support the Ayer School Department's Over-ride. Selectmen Hamel moved the motion to support the override, 2nd by Selectman Bresnahan, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

Public Hearing: Fy-99 Budget

The Board met with Town Accountant-Lisa Gabree re: the Fy-99 Budget. Chairman Norstrom re-opened the Public Hearing, stating this is a continuation of the March 30, 1998 Public Hearing. The Board was presented a cover sheet and draft budget.

Mr. Kreidler welcomed Fire Chief Fillebrown and Police Chief Rizzo to the table. The Board reviewed with the two department heads the draft FY-99 Budget. Mr. Kreidler advised the Board to the five year plan being used as a guide re: capital spending/projects no funds have been proposed re: this report due to not having the cost breakout at this time. The Board reviewed Special Articles : i.e. additional funding \$5,000 for the traffic light on Central Ave. due to prior Town Meeting funding being inadequate to complete the project. Special Article re: Fire Station Feasibility Study, Equipment/clothing for personnel, Hazmat trailer. The Board opened the discussion to the floor. Cornelious Sullivan requested a cost component with the proposed five year capital project list, stating the residents would like to hear the costs of these projects. Mr. Kreidler stated the danger in doing this at this time- and that he would take direction from the Board to place estimates on the projects before Town Meeting, as there would be no benefit to do so at this time. Selectman Bresnahan reiterated that at most the numbers would be rough estimates and this article needs to be done intelligently stating a lot more work needs to be done.

Mr. Kreidler advised the Board to the Advisory Board meeting with four departments i.e. DPW, Fire, Library and Police Dept. and of the need by the Police Dept. to request additional funding due to labor issues.

7:55pm The Board closed the Public Hearing on the FY-99 Budget and continued this Hearing to 4-21-98.

Chairman Norstrom welcomed Rep. Hargraves to the meeting. Rep. Hargraves gave a brief run down of the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen's & Town Administrator's trip to Washington; meeting with Congressman Meehan, Senator Kennedy and himself.

Representative Hargraves stated he will be in the Town Hall this evening conducting office hours should Ayer residents have questions or concerns he could help them with.

Town Administrator's Report:

Action Items:

1. The Board after meeting with the Police Chief and Lt. Denmark and addressing the Board's concerns, moved to approve the Police Dept. Motorcycle Grant for a one year pilot program. The two officers training to be at no cost to the Town as well as the Departments Overtime associated with this training. Motion made by Paul Bresnahan to approve the motorcycle pilot program, 2nd by Selectman Hamel, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.
2. Board was updated to the latest developments re: Shepley Hill and of Fed. Gov. now looking at alternate sites located on Devens-and that there is a JBOS Meeting re: notifying all the Towns to this latest development. Selectman Bresnahan advising the Board to Dr. O'Malley denying allegations made by PACE re: Ayer students rated high with attention Deficit Disorder.
3. The Board was advised to Nashua River Watershed's grant proposal re: water issues and growth-community planning issues.
4. The Board was advised to DEC members Murray Clark & Charles McKinney expressing their desire to continue serving on the DEC.
5. The Board of Selectmen signed the Election Warrant for 4-27-98
6. Mr. Deline to review & comment on the Draft Phase II Facility Plan for Selectmen's Meeting of 4-21-98.
7. The Board was advised to the Planning Board's Public Hearing on 4-15-98 and the GIS 4-9-98 meeting

Selectman Hamel requested update on the dogs situation. Mr. Kreidler advised the Board to Town Clerk stating she had been contacted by the dogs owner who had requested relief from a full years licensing fees for his dogs or kennel fee based upon the fact that he would only be in Ayer a few more months. Mr. Kreidler stated 9 out of the 10 dogs had been immunized but the problem remains as to which dog bit the boy. Lt. Denmark stated the Leash Law should be amended to be more specific and that he was checking with the D.A.'s Office-the dogs have been seen out running -but by the time investigated -dogs are back.

BOSMIN4-6-98

The Town does not have a full-time Dog Officer. Mr. Kreidler advised to his latest conversation with the dog owner being somewhat threatening.

Supt, Girouard's Report: See report dated 4-3-98

John Deline sat in for Gary Girouard who is on vacation.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. The Board was advised to summer hours beginning at the DPW: 6:30a.m. to 2:30p.m.
2. The Board was advised to DPW procuring Gov. Surplus items to include 2 pick-up trucks.
3. The Board was advised to all sewer connections previously approved being released. Mr. Deline also advised the Board to excess of 74,743 gallons/ of water capacity in bank reserve.
4. The software problem at the DPW still being addressed-still searching-looking now at utility Company's software i.e gas, electric. Selectman Bresnahan requesting if billing is late to give the residents notice- the DPW should include a note apologizing for the substantial billing
5. Mr. Deline advised the Board to HTA's sewer use regulations being drafted to amend the town's present by-law, Kopleman & Paige to review this language.
6. The Board was advised to the Town's Recycling efforts being given a Grade C by the State. Mr. Deline advising to major changes at the Transfer Station to include new equipment, bulk storage instead of hauling.
7. The Board approved of a Water & Sewer Permit for Lot 1 Snakehill Rd. and a sewer permit for 7 Wachusett Ave.

Selectman Hamel moved the Board adjourn from Open Session to enter into Executive Session pursuant to MGL Chapter 139 Section 23b Exemption # 3 to adjourn from this Executive Session to re-enter into Open Session for the sole purpose of adjourning the Meeting.

9:15p.m. Open Session closed.