

Selectmen's Meeting  
Tuesday, March 12, 1996  
2nd Floor Meeting Room  
Town Hall, Main St., Ayer, MA

7:30p.m. Open Session

The Board met with Chairman Miller, Selectman Hamel and Selectman Slarsky.

The Weekly Warrant was examined and approved in the following amount: P/R \$353,750.27.

The Minutes of February 27, 1996 were read and accepted.

The Board approved a Seasonal Beer & Wine License for the Players Club located at the Shaker Hills Golf Course for 1996.

Chairman Miller requested if there was anyone present who wished to be heard.  
Mr. Murray Clark from the Ayer Industrial Assoc. requested to speak re: the Memorandum of Understanding concerning the Land Bank.

Selectman Miller requested to speak re: the Town's Charter-form of government.

Chairman Miller called for a vote to accept the Agenda. Selectman Hamel moved the Board approve the Agenda of 3-12 as amended, 2nd by Selectman Slarsky.

Town Crier:

Chairman Miller announced the upcoming Irish Presentation to be scheduled on Sunday, March 24, 1996 from 2-5p.m. at the Ayer High School auditorium. Mr. Miller welcomed all residents to attend this event with no charge to the public.

Chairman Miller also announced the Chamber of Commerce's Farewell to Col. Nuttal to be held on March 27, 1996 at the Commerce Center from 5:00-7:30p.m.

The Board met with Supt. Ouellette re: the Adopt A Road Program. Present for the discussion was Rafeal Quinnois, Master of St. Paul's Lodge and Al Wylding of the Lion's Club. Both of the groups planning to adopt a road in the Town of Ayer. Superintendent Ouellette reviewed with Mr. Quinnois and Mr. Wylding the Program guidelines as well as the contract which stipulated the conditions (safety, equipment furnished, do's and don'ts. The Board thanked both organizations for coming in and for their participation in this program.

The Board met with Diane Sullivan, Economic Development Director regarding her contract of employment. Town Administrator James Kreidler advised the Board to Special Town Counsel Henry Stewart reviewing the contract with minor revisions made. Selectman Hamel moved to approve Ms. Sullivan's contract 2nd by Selectman Slarsky, vote unanimous, so moved. The Board requested Ms. Sullivan prepare a six month plan of activities for the Board's review at their next meeting.

The Board met with Ayer Industrial Association re: requesting the Board to reconsider their vote regarding the Land Bank's Memorandum of Understanding. Present for the discussion were: Murray Clark, James Hashem and David Allen.

Mr. Clark speaking as a resident of the Town requested the Board to vote this evening to sign the MOU stating the Town had a lot more to lose by not signing it. Mr. Clark stated the Town has no plan at present regarding what to do with the Airfield. Mr. Clark stated hopefully the Mass. Development Finance Authority (Land Bank) would develop this parcel and after forty (40) years it would be returned to the Town of Ayer. By not signing the MOU the Town of Ayer loses faith with the other three communities. Mr. Allen expressed his concerns regarding the lateness of the objection. Mr. Allen also expressed his opinion that the Land Bank would be the appropriate agency to develop that large track of land, not the Town. Mr. Allen also stated his concern re: the loss of water from McPherson well and the revenues lost and improvements in water pressure also at risk. Mr. Hashem opened his discussion by congratulating the Board on the water negotiations and subsequent negotiations for the water system development he also warned the Board that they may have pushed the MDFA into a corner from which Ayer may have no way out.

Selectman Hamel stated that the Board had signed the MOU but with two (2) amendments. Selectman Hamel went on to state that she had had numerous promises that Ayer's requests would be taken into consideration, but nothing was ever done. Selectman Slarsky stated he had never heard of the MOU until three weeks ago. Selectman Slarsky stated that Ayer's stance does not jeopardize Fort Devens development and has no effect on new companies settling on the base. Selectman Slarsky stated his only interest was to protect the Town of Ayer. Selectman Slarsky stated that Ayer was still part of the Reuse Plan. Chairman Miller stated he was a minority vote and challenged a few of the earlier discussion stating that he had been assured that Harvard would sign the MOU this evening challenging Selectman Hamel that Harvard was doubtful about signing the MOU and also stated that these heated debates should have been held prior to December 7, 1995 stating now there is a breach of faith with our neighbors. The Board thank the Industrial Development Association for coming in.

On another matter Chairman Miller under Public Input requested to address the form of government the Board is running under. Chairman Miller suggested the Town Adopt a Open Town Meeting three (3) member Board of Selectmen. Chairman Miller stated his displeasure with meetings being held and decisions being made without a full board's vote or knowledge without a full Board's vote or knowledge. Chairman Miller directing a trip to Washington to the Board. Both Selectman Hamel and Slarsky denied having such meetings and Selectman Slarsky stated he had brought up the idea of the trip to Washington. Selectman Slarsky stated he was not going to debate the issue. Chairman Miller stated you are going to do what the ----you want anyway and left left the table to enter into a ZBA Hearing going on at the Town Hall.

8:15p.m. The Board called for a five minute recess.

8:20p.m. The Board reentered Open Session.

Selectman Hamel sat in for Chairman Miller during his absence.

Selectman Hamel requested the Fire Chief join them at the table. Selectman Slarsky going on record that he is a member of the Fire Dept. Call Dept. and stated as such he wanted to make the Board aware of a possible conflict of Interest. Selectman Hamel stated she was aware of his involvement with the Department and saw no conflict. Chief Fillebrown stated he was present this evening re: presenting the Board three options re: the renovations/addition to the Fire Station. the Board reviewed all three options with the Chief.

Option 1. Remove the roof on the right side of the building-raise wall 3', put on new roof, bring door out to corner of present station-remove 6" of floor. Cost \$125,000.00

Option 2. Remove the front of station, lower floor 6-12" moving inside heating pipes, lower driveway 6" raise rear support beam, cost: \$100,000.00

Option 3. put up a temporary addition on the left side of the building to give the building enough room for new ladder truck as well as storage space-Cost: \$85,000.00

to \$95,000.00. The Board moved to approve Option #3. to construct a temporary addition to house the new ladder truck up to \$95,000.00 This funding to come from UDAG funds. Motion made by Selectman Slarsky, 2nd by Selectman Hamel, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

SUPT. OUELLETTE'S REPORT: (SEE REPORT DATED 3-12-96)

ACTION ITEMS:

1. The Board approved of the new Stand Pipes be painted "Voyager Blue" per consensus of the residents of the area and the school Dept.
2. The Board approved Mass. Elec. contract to replace the Town's streetlights with new sodium vapor lamps.
3. The Board requested Supt. Ouellette submit more information re: Ayer receiving composition material to cap the landfill from Routhier's Tire Recycling Facility.
4. The Board approved the Chapter 90 Roadwork resurfacing Project re: Oakridge Dr., Devenscrest and Central Ave. for summer of 1996. at a cost of \$197,992.00.
5. The Board approved a sewer connection for 6 Birch St.
6. The Board approved of the requested Supt. Ouellette run the Recycling Fund Grant by Town Counsel.

The Board took this opportunity to congratulate the DPW work crews for an outstanding job done with snow removal., and requested letters of appreciation be written to all employees.

9:00p.m. Chairman Miller reentered the meeting. Chairman Miller apologized to the public for his language earlier in the evening.

The Board was advised to Public Hearing conducted on 2-28-96 re: the proposed changes to the Sewer Regulations. The new change would allow a sweep clean out instead of a manhole. The Board approved this change. Motion made by Selectman Hamel 2nd by Selectman Slarsky.

The Board met with Chief Boisseau re: Dog Officer update. The chief stated he has met with the Dog Officer regularly and submitted to the Board violations forms to be utilized by the Dog Officer and the Police Dept. A Part Time Dog Officer Job description to be finalized with plan of action to force payments re: violations of Town By-law in Court.

The chief advised the Board to the 1st meeting of the Police Study Committee being conducted last Wednesday at 4:00p.m. with list of members developed by Chief & the town Administrator. The Committee to review 7 contract received by the Department and report back on Thursday, March 21, 1996 at 4:00p.m.

The Board reviewed the Tax Rebate Program prepared by town Administrator James Kreidler for possible adoption by the Town. This program would allow senior citizen from Ayer who work for the Town receive credit on property taxes. The Board requested the Town Administrator prepare to conduct a public Hearing regarding an article for inclusion of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. The Town Administrator to run this by the Town Acct. re: revenues assessment.

The Board reviewed a Personnel By-law prepared by Town Administrator James Kreidler. The Board stated their appreciation to Mr. Kreidler for this research as it being one of the goals of the Board Mr. Kreidler to run this proposal by Labor Counsel, and to conduct a Department Head Meeting as well. Mr. Kreidler advised the Board to this being the next step beyond the classification study in process.,

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

1. Mr. Kreidler also advised the Board to Sub Committee meeting on 3-13-96 to review the 8 applicants and revisit scope of plan re: cost of construction appraised at \$3.5 million the committee to look at other studies and report back to the Board.
2. Mr. Kreidler advised the Board to Grant Administrator's position closing date being 3-14 96 with 12 applicants being reviewed.
3. Mr. Kreidler advised the Board to the next Open Space & Recreation Meeting being held on 3-27-96 and of the \$25 million setaside under the States Open Space Bond Bill and of the need of the town to have an Open Space Plan on file to qualify for funding. Mr. Kreidler advised the Board to his working with Diane Sullivan re: this application. The Board requested Mr. Kreidler instruct Diane Sullivan to begin immediately on this application and to recruit people possible from the Conservation Commission and citizens willing to work on this plan. Mr. Kreidler stated that towards this end Diane Sullivan had prepared a Task Force to include Colleen Norstrom of the Planning Board-Administrative Assistant Jennifer Lewis himself and Diane.

Mr. Kreidler advised the Board to parking problem re: commuter rail users taking up the entire parking lot adjacent to the Federated Church. Mr. Kreidler advised the Board to the Fire Chief having concerns re: emergency parking for his volunteer in case of fire. The Board instructed Mr. Kreidler to post the municipal parking lot to exclude commuter rail vehicles every day except Sunday and to look into a sticker system to allow town hall employees parking spaces in this municipal lot.


The Board instructed Mr. Kreidler to meet with the Town Treasurer and Accountant and to begin collecting Police Academy money from the cadets in the present program. The Board approved of \$50.00 a week to be taken out of their pay while they are attending the academy. Motion made by Selectman Slarsky 2nd by Selectman Hamel, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

Mr. Kreidler to run the Land Banks proposal for the Town to participate in the regional wastewater facilities plan by Special town Counsel Judy Pickett and to schedule time on the 3-26-96 Agenda to meet with Atty Pickett.

The Board was advised to the last item re: Woodford of Ayer being taken off the Board's Agenda by Town Counsel. Town Counsel is dealing with the transfer of the property with Atty. Larkin and the new owner re: collecting arrears in water & sewer prior to transfer of ownership. The Board instructed Mr. Kreidler to schedule an Emergency Meeting if Town Counsel needed one to sign off lien.

9:30p.m. Selectman /Slarsky moved the Board adjourn from Open Session to enter into Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 39 Section 23b Exemption #3 re: IBPO Grievances, 2nd by Selectman Hamel, Vote: unanimous, so moved.

9:30P.M. Open Session ended.

  
Pauline Hamel, Clerk

DATE: 3.26.96