

SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1996
2ND FLOOR MEETING ROOM
TOWN HALL, MAIN ST., AYER, MA. 01432

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

The Minutes of Jan. 30, 1996 were amended to read. Page 3, paragraph 5 change sentence to read as a motion made by Selectman Slarsky 2nd by Selectman Hamel.

The Minutes of Feb. 5, 1996 were read and accepted.

The Executive Session minutes of Feb. 13, 1996 were read and accepted.

The minutes of Feb. 13, 1996, were read and accepted to stenographer Barbara Hurley's record beginning.

The Weekly Warrant was examined and approved in the following amount: \$376,824.86

Chairman Miller requested if there was anyone present who wished to be heard. Mr. Barry Grafton and Mr. Ravi Bhatka requested to speak re: the F.D. Guest House RFP.

Chairman Miller announced Rep. Robert Hargraves Office Hours this evening from 7-8p.m. at the Ayer Town Hall stating Rep. Hargraves Aid, Diane Trauber was in Room #7 at telephone # 772-8219 to take calls from constituents.

Chairman Miller congratulated the Asst. Building Inspector, Bruce Wincheser upon his graduation from Nursing School and upon his passing the examination by the Council of Registered Nurses. The Board signed off a Certification of Recognition to Mr. Winchester upon achieving his goal..

TOWN CRIER: Chairman Miller made the following announcements:

1. FY-97 Budget, Town Reports, Special Articles, & non-money articles due in by 2-29-96.
2. Last day to take out nomination papers being 3-1-96, papers must be returned by 3-4-96 and last day to withdraw being March 20, 1996.
3. Public Hearing scheduled for 2-28-96 at 6:00p.m. at the Ayer Town Hall, re: FY-97 Water & Sewer Regulations, the public encouraged to attend.
4. Public Information Meeting 2-28-96 at 7:30p.m. at the Ayer Town Hall, re: Oakridge Drive Sewer Main Project all residents of that area are encouraged to attend.
5. Dog Licenses are due by March 1, 1996 otherwise a \$10.00/per dog penalty will be charged.
6. Tax Collector reported that 1996 Excise Tax Bills will be going out on 2-29-96.

The Board met with Douglas Freidrich and Frank Harmon of the American Legion. Mr. Freidrich passed out cemetery regulations re: Veterans Act Article 159 Care of Graves to the Board. Mr. Freidrich explained the Legion's problem with the local cemeteries not supplying the Legion with updated cemetery plot plans. Mr. Freidrich also advised the Board to grave markers not being visible which creates undue stress on relatives who cannot locate graves of loved ones. Mr. Freidrich also requested the Board's assistance with obtaining a current list of Veterans buried at each of the two cemeteries in Town. The Board requested Mr. Kreidler research who is responsible Care of Graves under Dept. 400 re: expenditures as well as who is responsible for supplying cemetery plot plans to Legion and to contact Town Clerk re: obtaining a current list of deceased Veterans buried in the Town's cemeteries. On another matter the Legion advised the Board to new policy they will be instituting this Memorial Day re: the flags placed on Veterans graves. Mr. Freidrich stated that the flags will remain up for only thirty (30) days and then removed due to the increasing cost for replacing the flags each year. The Board agreed to this new policy and thanked the Legion for coming in.

The Board met with Ravi Bhatka, owner of the Ayer Motor Inn and Barry Grafton owner of the Caza Manor Hotel re: The RFP for the Fort Devens Guest Quarters. Mr. Bhatka stated he was before the Board again to get an update on the present status of the RFP. Mr. Bhatka stated his concern and Mr. Grafton's was to try to stop the Fort Devens Commerce Center from putting a hotel in stating unfair competition. Selectman Slarsky requested if Mr. Bhatka had submitted anything in writing to the Commerce Ctr. Mr. Bhatka stated he had given copies of all the documentation he had given to the Selectmen to Mr. Hickey at the Land Bank. Selectman Slarsky asked if he had anything back from the Land Bank in Writing? Mr. Bhatka stated he has received nothing back in writing.. Chairman Miller interjected that there may be different strategies working toward marketing distinct clientele. The Board requested Mr. Kreidler schedule Mr. Bhatka & Mr. Grafton on the next Joint Boards of Selectmen's Agenda re: this issue. Selectman Hamel stated their complaint would be more appropriately lodged with this Board.

The Board met with Murphy Insurance representatives: Thomas Lynch, Mark Gauthier, Pauline Correia and Thomas Murphy regarding an menu of employee benefits. Mr. Gauthier gave a presentation of benefits currently offered by Murphy Insurance re: Automobile Insurance stating Plymouth Rock has accepted the Town of Ayer for a 10% discount on personal automobile insurance-this discount is given to all policy holders with a good driving record rated step 9 or 10. A Town of Ayer employee with a step 9 or 10 could save up to 20%. Payment plans could include payroll deductions. . Murphy also offers a life insurance program to supplement the group as well as offering HMO's Group life,etc. Mr.Kreidler requested Murphy to stay on track re: purpose of meeting with the Board this evening being to discuss personal automobile insurance coverage to Town of Ayer Employees at a 10-20% discount over their present coverage. Mr. Murphy to meet with the Town Treasurer and Mr. Kreidler to review plan

The Board reviewed with Mr. Kreidler the Town Administrator's Contract presented on 2-27-96.. Selectman Hamel moved the Board approve the contract as presented 2nd by Selectman Slarsky, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

The Board reviewed the Economic Development Director's contract with Diane Sullivan. The Board took this contract under advisement for two weeks review by Town Counsel. Ms. Sullivan requested the Board address the MSCP Program coordinator's salary to be included in her contract of \$2,000.00. The Board also requested Ms. Sullivan to amend her contract to state that the position is to be funded through UDAG and reviewed on a yearly basis.

The Board met with Police Chief Arthur Boisseau and Lt. Donald Haapakowski, re: the status of the new Police Station. The Chief ran through the timeframe from the Annual Town Meeting Vote approving the construction of a new police station to the present status which is the RFP for the Project Manager being advertised the week of February 1, 1996 to closing date of March 1, 1996. The Chief stated the RFP was listed with the Central Register and hoped to have the architect and project manager on board by the middle of April 1996. The Chief stated the next step is to form a committee for the actual building design. Once this committee is in place the bidding process could begin for actual construction. Bidding process was projected to be completed by July 1996 and actual construction completed a year later in 1997. The Chief presented the Board a list of potential Committee members. The Board took this list under advisement and instructed the Town Administrator to contact potential member re: interest.

The Board met with Fire Chief Paul Fillebrown, re: awarding the contract to Greenwood Fire Apparatus, Inc. the distributor out of North Attleborough, MA for the Bid amount of \$418,164.00 plus equipment price of \$11,336.00 for a total bid award of \$429,500.00 Chief Fillebrown stated he receive only one (1) bid. Seven Companies took out bids with only Greenwood coming in . Fire Chief Fillebrown stated if the Board awarded the contract and approved of \$100,000.00 for a down payment Greenwood would take off an additional \$7,200.00 off their price. Selectman Hamel moved the Board award Greenwood Fire Apparatus the bid for the new ladder truck for the bid amount of \$429,500.00 with equipment and to

include the down payment language re: \$7,200.00 discount, 2nd by Selectman Slarsky, VOTE: unanimous so moved.

On another matter the Fire Chief relayed to the Board that he had made arrangements with the Supt. of Public Works to deliver the old ladder truck to the DPW with the understanding that the chassis be salvaged and the stipulation that the aerial ladder not be utilized under any circumstances.

The Board met with the Fire Chief and Town Counsel re: legal assistance for the repairs/rehabilitation to the Fire Station to house the new ladder truck. The Chief stated he needed some direction re: advertising for this work., he does not have the technical experience necessary re: modifying the building. The Board instructed the Chief to contact local contractors and Ross Assoc. re: a conceptual plan. Town Counsel stated the Chief could ideally request the specifications be written by a consultant but that person should not be able or allowed to bid the job as part of the design selection process. The Board also requested the Chief contact Ralph Richardson re: acquiring the property abutting the station.

9:30p.m. The Board took a five (5) minute recess.

9:35p.m. The Chairman called the meeting back into Open Session.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

ACTION ITEMS:

1. The Board was advised to a possible tax incentive be given to elderly citizens of the community who volunteer their services. Mr. Kreidler stated a number of communities in Massachusetts have this program /By-law in place. i.e. Westford, Chelmsford, Lexington, etc. Mr. Kreidler said he would prepare information for the Board's review for the next Selectmen's Meeting.
2. The Board was advised to Communities Opportunities Group offering their services during the next few months due to the resignation of John Columbus and the new position status of Diane Sullivan. The Board approved to enlist the services of Communities Opportunities Group for the next two months to manage the Town's current MSCP Grant. The Board was also advised to the advertisement being placed in the Beacon, Boston Globe & Lowell Sun for the Grant Administrator's position for the MSCP Program with a closing date of 3-14-96.
3. The Board met with Steve Joncas re: the Memorandum of Understanding. Mr. Joncas requested the Board give serious consideration to signing the MOU. Mr. Joncas reviewed with the Board what the MOU provides to the Town. Mr. Joncas stated the MOU provides for recreational lands to be managed by the Mass. Development Finance Authority (MDFA) but with the four towns given priority re: access and budgets. Another clause gives the towns a process for lands not used in the Devens redevelopment could be requisitioned by the individual towns to meet their needs. Mr. Joncas also outlined the prior meeting with the MDFA where a provision was made for looping a water system in the Fitchburg Rd., Area and on West Main Street to increase water pressure. The MDFA also provided for the towns utilization of water free of charge from McPherson well and an easement across Devens land to connect with Ayer's main on West Main St.

Selectman Hamel educated Mr. Joncas on the Town of Ayer owning Moore Air Field stating that the peninsula of land including the airport had not been a part of Devens originally and that between WW11 and the Korean conflict the army had not needed the field and turned it back to the Town, and the town had operated it for a time until the army asked for it back. Selectman Slarsky stated this is a monumental decision to come to grips with in five minutes. Selectman Slarsky stating it didn't even allow for resident's review or opinions. Selectman Slarsky stated the Town had fought long & hard for this land it had been requesting this land since 1992 and that this land is entirely located in the Town of Ayer. Chairman Miller remarked on values gained by working with the Land Bank stating the Town did not

have the money or the skill nor political muster to take this on alone. By working with others Ayer has come up with things of tremendous benefit to the town. The Town stands to gain by signing the MOU and could lose the political clout the area has now gained by not signing. Chairman Miller requested the Board give serious consideration to the fact that the Town of Ayer couldn't muster the resources to maintain the ballfields and we can't muster the resources to maintain an airport. Selectman Slarsky moved the Board

Selectman Hamel requested the Board wait until Thursday morning at 7:30a.m. and perhaps over the next twenty four hours something could be settled to satisfy all parties concerned through additional language. Selectman Hamel moved the Board meet on Thursday, February 29, 1996, at 7:30a.m. in an emergency meeting re: the MOU, 2nd by Selectman Slarsky, VOTE: Unanimous so moved..

4. The Board awarded the 1995 Annual Town Report to Len Art Press for the bid amount of \$4,892.00. Mr. Kreidler stated 4 bids were received. One bid was not acceptable, not meeting the Town's specifications the other two: out of town bids received were from: Wm. Brown Printing of Providence, R.I. and Weber Enterprises of Shelburne Falls, MA Mr. Kreidler stated that the difference of bids from High Bid of Len Art Press of \$4,892.00 to that of lowest bid Weber Ent. of \$4,656.80 was \$162.00. Selectman Slarsky stated in the interest of time and being that Len Art is a local printer with the convenience of delivery and receipt of the reports the Board could award the bid in the best interest of the Town. Selectman Slarsky moved the Board award the Bid to Len Art for the bid award of \$4,892.00, 2nd by Selectman Hamel, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

The Board met with Chief Boisseau regarding the Temporary Sergeants position. Chief Boisseau advised the Board that two candidates were on the sergeants list Harvey LaPrade and John Dristilaris and on 2-28-96 Mr. LaPrade withdrew his name for the temporary Sergeants position. Chief Boisseau requested Mr. Dristilaris be appointed to fill the Temporary Sergeants position. Selectman Hamel moved to appoint John Dristilaris to the temporary sergeants position, The Chairman called for a second, hearing none he removed himself from the chair and 2nd Selectman's Hamel's motion. VOTE: Selectman Hamel aye, Chairman Miller aye Selectman Slarsky abstained. Selectman Slarsky stated he abstained due to legal research needing to be done by labor counsel re: ensuring the Board that language be developed ensuring the position is temporary in nature and not a permanent position and can be taken away without any cause and he felt he didn't have sufficient information to make this appointment. The Board rescinded their motion and appointment. Selectman Hamel moved the Board meet on Thursday morning 2-29-96 at 7:30a.m. to vote on this appointment and pending clarification of this temporary appointment language from Labor Counsel Henry Stewart.

The Chief on another matter requested the Board appoint Everett Clark to the vacant fulltime Telecommunicator's position. The Chief stated Mr. Clark had previously worked for the Ayer Police Dept. and was qualified with the operations as well as E-911 certified. Selectman Hamel moved the Board upon the Chief's recommendation appoint Everett Clark to fulltime Telecommunicator. 2nd by Selectman Slarsky, vote: unanimous, so moved. The appointment language to include the customary contingencies.

SUPT. OUELLETTE'S REPORT: (see report dated 2-27-96)

1. The Board approved the Debt Exclusion for a Referendum Ballot Question to be placed on the April 22, 1996 Election Ballot for the capping of the Town's landfill. Motion made by Selectman Hamel to support and approve the referendum be placed on the April 22, 1996 Election Ballot, 2nd by Selectman Slarsky, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

2. The Board was advised to dead fish at brook on Oakridge Dr. Supt. Ouellette stated the Div. of Fish & Wildlife had advised the Supt. that fish had died from loss of oxygen due to ice freezing and natural gasses of the pond mixing.

3. The Board voted to approve the completion of the Myrick St. reconstruction for \$111,000.00. Funding to come from the Town's UDAG Approp. The Board moved to conduct a Special Town Meeting one half hour before the Annual Town Meeting to request to replace this funding of \$111,000.00. from UDAG. Motion made by Selectman Slarsky 2nd by Selectman Hamel, VOTE: unanimous.

4. Supt. Ouellette requested the board's input re: the color of the Town's new standpipes. The Board requested the residents be allowed to pick the color being that this is an issue people tend to get worked up about.

11:30p.m.

Selectman Slarsky moved the Board adjourn from Open Session to enter into Executive Session pursuant to MGL Chapter 39, section 23B Exemption #2, 2nd by Selectman Hamel, VoTE: unanimous, so moved.

11:30p.m. Open Meeting ended

Pauline J. Hamel DATE: 3-12-96
Pauline J. Hamel, Clerk