

Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, March 13, 1995
2nd Floor Meeting Room
Town Hall, Main St., Ayer, MA

7:30P.M. Open Session

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

The Minutes of February 6, 1995 were read and accepted. The Minutes of February 27, 1995 were amended to reflect conflict of interest statement re: Selectman Slarsky, ambulance rate discussion.

The Weekly Warrant was examined and approved in the following amount: P/R: \$355,682.95

Chairman Hamel requested if there was any one present who wished to be heard:

Selectman Miller requested to address the Comprehensive Plan Update as well as the Administrative Assistant's position. Selectman Slarsky requested to address the FY-96 Budget meeting schedule and new Police Station discussion.

Chairman Hamel called for a motion to accept the Agenda with the four amendments, Selectman Miller moved to accept the Agenda of 3-13-95 as amended, 2nd by Selectman Slarsky, VOTE: unanimous.

The Board met with the 4th of July Committee. Present for the discussion: Charles Jones, Pauline Conley, Peter Johnston and John Conway.

Discussion focused around the need to conduct a Town event or join with Fort Devens for the base final celebration. The group reported on the recent meeting at Fort Devens. The Committee stated the need for the Town go forward with our own celebration stating cancelling the event would have a negative effect and be difficult to rekindle for future activities. The Committee stressed the need to have seed money in order to contract out fireworks, rides, police details etc. The cost to put on a Townwide function is approximately \$25,000.00. The Committee stated planning the event would be less taxing on the volunteers and contributions may be more readily made, knowing there are funds available from the Town. Selectman Miller voiced his support for seed money having had first hand experience with last years event stating various methods of defraying the cost have fallen short which resulted in inadequate financing being generated as was evidenced last year. The Board was advised to chamber director Ann Karayianis's request, from the Fort Devens Meeting, for the Town to

select a representative to serve on the Fort Devens celebration. Pauline Conley stated she would serve. The Board to take this request under advisement as well as the seed money the Committee is requesting (50% funding). This in the form of a Special Article for the upcoming Town Meeting.

The Board also stressed the Town's concern that no department, i.e. Police, Fire be augmented to work on Devens for the 4th, stating the base is outside the perimeter of the Town of Ayer's protection. Each department would have to be contacted re: contracting of services for the event.

Selectman Slarsky requested the Board meet with the Town Accountant and review the Town's finances re: Fy-96 Budget. Selectman Slarsky suggested the Board meet with the Town Accountant on Friday, March 17, 1995 at 8:00a.m. The Board also agreed each member to meet individually with the DPW, Fire & Police Depts re: FY-96 Budget request, capital requests and Union negotiations. Chairman Hamel to meet with the Fire Dept., Selectman Miller to meet with the DPW and Selectman Slarsky to meet with the Police Dept.

The Board met with Chief of Police Arthur Boisseau and Lt. Donald Haapakoski regarding the feasibility of building a new Police Station. Chief Boisseau stated he and the department are eager to bring this into fruition. The town has the land but unfortunately the plans/design have to be updated. The Board requested the Chief go forward with bidding out the updating of the plans to get realistic numbers for this new construction. Town Counsel stating the Designer Selection Committee would be required. Selectman Slarsky stated the need is there and the Board should consider a Debt exclusion be placed on the ballot. Selectman Miller agreeing stating the need for more municipal office space is of a major concern to the Board and also of the inadequate conditions the police are working under presently. Selectman Slarsky moved the Board include a Debt Exclusion question be placed on the election ballot for April 24, 1995, 2nd by Selectman Miller, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

The Board on another matter met with the Police Chief re: the need for policing of abandoned buildings in the Town. The Board's concern being the safety and liability issues. Selectman Slarsky requesting the Building Inspector take a more aggressive role re: having the buildings secured properly and made safe. The Board requested the Comprehensive Plan develop a contingency plan to include a policy to update the listing on these properties & implement Tax Takings where necessary.

Selectman Miller took this opportunity to advise Town of Ayer residents to the Comprehensive Plan Meeting being scheduled for Thursday, March 30, 1995 at 7:00p.m. at the Ayer Town Hall and of residents invited to participate.

the Beer & Wine License for the Players Club Grille located at the Shaker Hills Golf Course, 2nd by Selectman Miller, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

SUPT. OUELLETTE'S REPORT: See report dated 3-13-95

ACTION ITEMS:

Supt. Ouellette reviewed with the Board his drafted letters to be mailed out re: delinquent Water/Sewer bills. The Board reviewed the list of delinquent users as well as the letters and requested Town Counsel review prior to mailing.

The Board was directed to the two new DPW vehicles parked out front for their inspection. (plow & pick up truck)

The Board was advised to Mr. Rollins last day of employment with the DPW being 3-17-95. The Board requested Mr. Rollins receive a letter of appreciation for his ten years of service to the Town.

The Board was advised to Earth Day being Saturday, April 22, 1995 and of the DPW activities being conducted which included Conservation efforts as well.

The Board discussed correspondence received from Groton School re: possibility of tying into the Town of Ayer sewer. The Board stated the School be sent a letter stating the Board would not consider a private request. The Town of Ayer recently rejecting a intermunicipal request for the same Town.

The Board met with Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Connors re: a dog impounded at the Ayer Dog Pound. Present for this discussion was Town Counsel Robert Gardner.

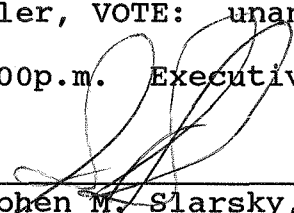
The Board was advised to latest developments regarding the dog a cocker spaniel which had been involved in a dog bite incident. The Board reviewed the liability issue with the Connors stating the Town's exposure should the dog bite again. Town Counsel advising the Board to same situation whereas a suit had been taken out in Pepperell re: the Town releasing a known dog with a history of biting and of subsequent litigation resulting to that municipal. Mr. Connors presented his home insurance. The Board stated that insurance would not be sufficient for a third party incident. The Connors stated they had been in contact with the Cocker Spaniel Rescue League re: the league assisting them in their efforts to adopt the dog. Mr. Connors requested the Town turn the dog over to the League. Town Counsel stated the League would have to submit a letter to hold the town harmless should the dog be released to them. The Connors stated the Rescue league had stated Tufts Veterinary Hospital would evaluate the dog.

The Board requested Tufts be contacted re: evaluating the dog and to submit a letter insulating the Town against future liability and the Town would release the dog to Tufts.

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Selectman Slarsky moved the Board adjourn from Open Session to enter into Executive Session pursuant to MGL Chapter 39 section 23B re: pending litigation to adjourn and reenter Open Session for the sole purpose of adjourning the meeting, 2nd by Selectmen Miller, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

10:00p.m. Executive Session



Stephen M. Slarsky, Clerk
AYER BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Date

4/10/95

OK

Cdml

4/11/95