

SELECTMEN'S MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1994
2ND FLOOR MEETING ROOM
TOWN HALL, MAIN ST., AYER, MA.

7:30P.M. Open Session

The Board met with Chairman Hamel and Selectman Miller. Selectman Slarsky to be delayed due to earlier commitment.

The minutes of August 23, 1994 were read and accepted.

The Weekly Warrant was examined and approved in the following amounts: P/R: \$54,899.97
EXP: \$210,750.57

Chairman Hamel requested if there was anyone present who wished to be heard. Ms. Virginia Wood, Groton, MA., candidate for the 1st Middlesex District, requested to meet with the Board to introduce herself and discuss her experience/campaign. Mr. Richard Hargraves, of Groton, Ma. also requested to meet with the Board re: his candidacy for Representative for the 1st Middlesex District replacing Gusty Hornblower and Jill Coghland- Pepperell, MA. also seeking election as representative to the 1st Middlesex District.

Pauline Conley, Ayer resident re: problem with the Ayer School Dept.-School Bus policy relevant to safety concerns.

All three (3) of the candidates seeking election to the 1st Middlesex District met briefly with the Board to introduce themselves and state their background.

7:45p.m. Selectman Slarsky entered the meeting.

The Board briefly stated their concerns with regard to the Town of Ayer to each of the candidates and thanked them for taking the time to come out and meet with Board and wished them well in the election.

Pauline Conley-Ms. Conley stated she was before the Board this evening to discuss the cross-walk and also the placement of school bus stop signs at 75 Sandy Pond Rd., due to heavy traffic and excessive speeding, and to address why Middle School students have the inconvenient/unsafe requirement of being picked up at 6:50a.m. along with High School Students. Ms. Conley stated she had spoken to Supt. Ouellette re: having the crosswalk re-painted at 75 Sandy Pond Rd. for the convenience of students missing the first run at 6:50a.m. would then be able to be picked up on the other side of the street on the way back. This she found out later due to a personnel incident (having to transport her daughter) did not occur because the bus did not and will not stop to pick up late students per order of the School Bus Co.

Ms. Conley stated the DPW repainted the crosswalk within two (2) hours of her call and had placed an order for new "School Bus Stop" signs to be erected within a week. Ms. Conley expressed her sincere appreciation to Supt. Ouellette for his cooperation. On the other matter regarding the school bus schedule for Middle School students Ms. Conley was told by the School that the early morning pick-up for Middle School & High School students was predicated on the unavailability of 4 additional school buses in the FY-95 budget. Ms. Conley expressed her concern re: younger students riding with older students (3 to 4 kids on one seat) and of Middle school students having their school day schedule predicated on the High School schedule, i.e. 20 minute lunches for the younger students in order to maintain this bus schedule.

Selectman Slarsky stated this discussion was premature and should be directed to school officials. Ms. Conley stated she fully intended to contact the School administration office and request a copy of the bus contract as well as meeting with the director of the Middle School program. Ms. Conley to update the Selectmen regarding this matter.

Selectman Slarsky requested the Police Dept. investigate three (3) other areas in Town re: safety concerns: 1. Investigate the installation of a red flashing light at the corner of Fitchburg Rd. and Groton School Rd. this area recently the scene of a very serious accident, 2. Parking in front of Bookberry and obscuring vision from Washington St. intersection, 3. In front of Nautilus also a very dangerous intersection.

The Board approved two (2) Sunday Entertainment Renewal Licenses for Carlins Restaurant: 1 pool table, 1 juke box. Selectman Slarsky moved to approve the licenses, 2nd by Selectman Miller, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

The Board met with Timothy Taylor and Sean Farley re: the FY-95 Fire Dept. Union Contract. Mr. Higgins advised the Board that this contract was limited exclusively to the Wage Re-opener. This being consistent with other proposals a 4% wage increase. The Board approved a 4% raise for the Firefighters retroactive to July 1, 1994. Selectman Slarsky moved to approve the Fy-95 Fire Fighters contract, 2nd by Selectman Miller, VOTE: unanimous, so moved. Selectman Miller expressed the Boards gratitude for their patience.

Selectman Slarsky took this opportunity to reminisce back to Mr. Higgins first Selectmen's Meeting joking with Mr. Higgins about the Agenda and subsequent actions. On a serious note the Board took this opportunity to present Mr. Higgins with a Plaque depicting Mr. Higgins tenure (six years) with the Town.

The Board met with Rob Hubbard, Economic Development Director who introduced the Industrial Development Finance Authority: Murray

Clark, Francis Callahan, William Marshall and Donald Haapakoski. The IDFA were presented a \$1 million dollar check from UDAG Funds to capitalize Ayer's small business Loan Fund. Mr. Hubbard stated in exchange for receiving the \$1 million deposit North Middlesex Savings Bank has agreed to service all loans made by the IDFA and prepare comprehensive monthly statements at no cost to the loan program. Mr. Hubbard presented a 4' by 8' check to the IDFA authority. Mr. Hubbard stated Reggio Register has been approved as the first recipient to receive funding under this program. The Board stated their pleasure upon presenting this check and reflected back to the Economic Summit which brought this whole program about. Mr. Callahan speaking on behalf of the Authority thanked the Selectmen for their commitment to economic development.

Selectman Slarsky requested Cablevision be invited back to meet with the Board re: inconsistency with transfer agreement and current policy the company is operating re: use of cable box for cable ready televisions.

The Board met with Rob Hubbard re: award to Phase 1 for the Master Plan Contract. Mr. Hubbard stated he had received three (3) bids: VHB-Waltham, MA. \$42,668, Adriene Dillion-Boston, MA., \$40,100, and the Landuse Collaborative-Hopkington, MA. \$49,490. Mr. Hubbard stated it was the opinion of the Selection Committee that VHB would be the most advantageous for the town of Ayer. VHB is currently working on Fort Devens and the Board requested that it is very important that the Town's plan is not mixed or confused with the Fort Devens Plan. The Board moved to award Phase I of the Master Plan Contract to VHB of Waltham, MA. for the bid award of \$42,668.00. Mr. Hubbard stated the digitizing of the Assessors Maps was a separate contract under 30B procedures, the Board moved to allow Mr. Hubbard to proceed with negotiations with UMAS and to meet with the Assessors re: digitizing the Assessors Maps.

The Board requested Mr. Hubbard plan to attend the Selectmen's Meetings for the next few weeks in the absence of Mr. Higgins.

The Board was advised to the request from the Council on Aging seeking to increase the van drivers salary from \$5.00 to \$7.00 per hour. There would be no impact to the Town as Montachusett Area Regional Transport would be funding this increase. Selectman Slarsky moved per the recommendation of the Council on Aging to increase the Van Driver's hourly rate of pay from \$5.00 to \$7.00 per hour, 2nd by Selectman Miller, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

Supt. Ouellette met with the Board re: rebidding of the Uniform Contract. Supt. Ouellette stated he had received only one (1) bid and that was from Kleenite-Ayer, MA. in the amount of \$16,000 for a two (2) year contract. The Board requested if the

bid met all criteria-Supt. Ouellette responded yes. Selectman Slarsky moved the Board award the Uniform contract to Kleenite, Ayer, MA. for the bid award of \$16,000.00 for a two (2) year contract, 2nd by Selectmen Miller, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.


Supt. Ouellette advised the Board to the re-bid of the Towns hauling of trash stating he had re-bid this project twice and BFI was sole bidder coming in at \$325.00. The Board after a short deliberation moved to accept Supt. Ouellette recommendation and award the hauling contract to BHI at \$325.00 per round trip. Selectman Slarsky moved the award, 2nd by Selectman Miller, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

Supt. Ouellette announced the receipt of a \$86,285.00 from Mass. Electric for energy conservation due to the new aeration system.

Mr. Higgins took this opportunity to thank the Board for their support and expressed his pleasure working for the Town the past six (6) years.

8:45p.m. Selectman Slarsky moved the Board adjourn from Open Session to enter into Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 39, Section 23b re: the DPW Superintendent's FY-95 Contract to adjourn from that Executive Session and enter into another Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 39, Section 23B re: the Fire Chief's FY-95 Contract to adjourn and re-enter Open Session for the sole purpose of adjourning the meeting, Selectman Miller 2nd this motion, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

8:45p.m. Executive Session



Stephen M. Slarsky, Clerk
AYER BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Date: 10/3/94