

SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
TUESDAY, JULY 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 absent due to prior engagement.

The Minutes of July 5, 1994, were read and accepted.

The Weekly warrant was examined and approved in the following amount: P/R \$100,138.48.

Chairman Hamel requested if there was anyone present who wished to be heard.

Selectman Miller requested to address a letter received by the Board concerning Sculley Road traffic.

Chairman Hamel requested to respond to a request received earlier in the day from a Fort Devens Reserve Unit wishing to use Sandy Pond for a helicopter jump and picnic on 8/6/94, and also due to the announcement re: Mr. Higgins possibly leaving, appointing someone to cover the Joint Board's involvement re: Fort Devens.

Selectman Miller stated the Board had received a letter from concerned residents on Sculley Road regarding traffic and speeding on this narrow roadway which is inhabited by residential homes with small children. Chairman Hamel stated she had spoken with Chief Boisseau of the Ayer P.D. who had recommended a slow children sign be posted as well as a 20 mile per hour sign. Chairman Hamel also stated she had spoken with Selectman Slarsky re: this area and he had stated that the State is vested with speed controls on state roads & streets. Selectman Miller moved to have the DPW post a "SLOW - CHILDREN SIGN" and instruct Chief Boisseau to investigate the state requirements for the placement of a 20 mile per hour sign there as well, 2nd by Chairman Hamel, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

Chairman Hamel advised the Board to a request received earlier in the day from a Ft. Deven's Reserve Unit regarding the use of Sandy Pond for a Helicopter drop on August 6, 1994 beginning at 10:00a.m. to 6:00p.m. ending with a picnic. Mr. Joseph Osbaldenson, resident of Ayer requested the use on behalf of the U.S. Reserve Unit. The Board requested this matter be run by Town Counsel. The Board took this matter under advisement pending Town Counsel's review and approval.

Chairman Hamel requested at this time to address the possibility of appointing Rob Hubbard to the JBOS administrative position

should Timothy Higgins leave employment with the Town of Ayer in order to have representation for the Town of Ayer. Selectman Miller agreed with this appointment stating his concern for a contingency plan to be in place should Mr. Higgins leave. Selectman Miller moved the appointment of Robert Hubbard to serve on the JBOS, as the Town's Re-Use Director should Mr. Higgins accept employment with the Town of Lincoln, 2nd by Chairman Hamel, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

PUBLIC HEARING: MSCP Fy-94 Grant Application

The Board met with Vicki Paret, Director of the Town of Ayer's MSCP.

Ms. Paret opened the discussion by summarizing the proposals submitted for Ayer's 94 application.

1. Continuation of the Townwide Hous. Rehab. Program  
I year grant-\$70,000/ 2 year grant-\$140,000  
This activity meets threshold requirements-(CAS) (HUD).  
This round allows a new home program funds. Devenscrest neighborhood to be targeted for rehab funding.
2. Infrastructure improvements in Devenscrest area.  
I year grant \$394,000/ 2 year grant \$827,280  
Strong candidate for the Two Year Grant Program-Water & Sewer mains and services to individual homes to be replaced as well as roadway repaving.

Ms. Paret elaborated on this projects goals to meet requirements for funding, to date has a shortfall of 60 surveys of 230 applications sent out to Devenscrest residents needed to demonstrate 57% of low-moderate population. In order to demonstrate a statistically accurate sample the MSCP has coordinated a door to door request to those households who have not responded. Ms. Paret stated it is critical that the MSCP office receive 160 completed surveys to be sent in with the Town's application to meet requirements. Ms. Paret felt this door to door sampling would be successful.

3. Loaves & Fishes \$16,000.00 I year Grant only.  
Ms. Paret stated this activity meets all three thresholds for a one year activity only. Funding a Two year application would require a new program, such as a paid clerk to assist the program's activities. Ms. Paret felt after discussions with the Loaves & Fishes Council they would not wish to implement a paid staff person with a volunteer organization structure, which would preclude their being eligible for funding in a two year application. EOCD has a special condition for two year programs, while the 1st year would be the continuation of the Loaves & Fishes program providing the same services as in the Fy-92 project, the 2nd year must be defined as a new project with new services. Ms. Paret

stated in her discussions with Cindy Wells, President of Loaves & Fishes the Board is not comfortable with making a commitment for a new project for the 2nd year. At this time Mr. Edward Kelley member of the Loaves & Fishes Council stated it was premature to commit to a new project at this time. Frank Maxant also agreed to the Loaves & Fishes Program staying with volunteer staff members. Ms. Paret stated the application due date is August 1, 1994 and that the decision must be made tonight as this is the last Selectmen's meeting prior to the 1st of August. Supt. Donald Ouellette stated his support for the 2 year grant. Supt. Ouellette stated if the Town went with the 2 Year program all of the infrastructure improvements to the Devenscrest area would be completed with the funding provided in the grant (\$827,280) in a one year time table as opposed to the Town approving a 1 year MSCP program for (\$414,000) which would slow down the project as cause major delays awaiting funding for year two. Robert Hubbard, Economic Dev. Director, supported the Town submitting a 2 year grant application-to make the application more competitive stating housing will be a major problem, and the Town would make a positive statement towards economic development with a two year program. Chairman Hamel requested if Loaves & Fishes thought about applying for a Medical Program i.e Dr. office visits, medicine etc. Selectman Miller stated he is sensitive to the value of the Loaves & Fishes Program but is reluctant to loose double the funding \$1,274,000 in lieu of funding a \$16,000 program. Selectman Miller moved the Board approve the MSCP Fy-94 application Option #3 for \$1,274,200.00 funding a two year program, 2nd by Chairman Hamel, Vote: unanimous, so moved. Chairman Hamel requested other funding sources be investigated towards funding the Loaves & Fishes Program.

Reverend Philip Goff came into the meeting. Rev. Goff apologized for his late entrance due to attending another meeting. The Board discussed with Rev. Goff the situation arising from the MSCP only being able to fund one year of the Loaves & Fishes Program and of the possibility of the Program considering a Medical Program or the Clerk. Rev. Goff stated the history of the program and of the reluctance to engage an employee with the church responsible for pay roll and of the program being run for the past eleven years by volunteers. Rev. Goff stated he regrets the loss of the funding which provided enormous help to residents especially towards utility bills and rent and at the same time would not want to jeopardize the Town losing \$1.2 million dollars of assistance. Selectman Miller stated the Board had elected to vote to support the MSCP Fy-94 application for the two year grant due to this being the more fiscally responsible option for the Board to take. Rev. Goff praised the MSCP program & staff. The Board to investigate other possible

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funding sources to support the Loaves & Fishes Program. Ms. Paret requested if the Board wished to target the Hous. Rehab. funds to the Devenscrest area. The Board moved to target FY-94 Hous. Rehab. funds to the Devenscrest area owner/occupied units first and the remainder to be spent townwide. Motion made by Selectman Miller 2nd by Chairman Hamel, Vote: unanimous, so moved.

The Board thank Ms. Paret and the Loaves & Fishes Council for being present and input at the public hearing.

The Board reviewed and endorsed two (2) Subordination Agreements submitted by Town Counsel for Roger McPadden & Cheryl Forshay enabling the home owners to obtain a bank loan by permitting their mortgage to take precedence over the Certificate not to Encumber under the Assistance Agreement with the Ayer Housing Rehabilitation Program.

The Board met with Advisory Board members Chairman William Oelfke, Linda Garant and Coleen Norstrom re: 6/13/94 Town Meeting follow up and the August 2, 1994 Special Town Election for the override of Prop. 2 1/2 for \$250,000.00.

Ms. Garant stated the Committee was present this evening to discuss Town's options re: Town Election votes to approve the Override and State funding comes in higher than originally projected. The Board stated a Special Town Meeting would be conducted to determine options. Should the citizens vote no for the override there would be 3% cuts across the board. Selectman Miller stated \$43.00/yr is total of override per household to have public safety-services. Should the override fail cuts will be made on need basis-ratified at Town Meeting. Selectman Miller stated he had been contacted by residents who worked to support the library and school and who would also be promoting the override. Selectman Miller stated he is working on a one page handout which he hoped would be distributed throughout the community. Chairman Oelfke stated he also would be writing a letter to the papers for publication prior to the election.

Ms. Garant addressed Fy95-budget problems the Advisory Board were confronted re: the Police and Fire Dept. The Police Dept. is in need of a new cruiser and the Fire Dept. is in desperate need for breathing apparatus-8 suits were damaged fighting fires. Police estimate: \$17,000 for a new cruiser and Fire Dept. \$16,000 for the breathing apparatus. Ms. Garant stated the Advisory Board's support re: funding both of these urgent items. The Board to take this matter under advisement pending the override election results. Ms. Garant stated the Advisory Board also wished the Selectmen to pursue the Financial Management Team proposed a year ago. The Team to consist of a member of the Selectmen, Town Clerk, Town Acct., Treasurer, one member of the Advisory Board, one member of the Assessors, and Town Administrator to build

rapier and open the lines of communication. Selectman Miller to work with the Advisory Board to develop purpose statement.

Ms. Garant stated the Advisory Board also wished the Selectmen consider a Personnel Board. Ms. Garant stated problems encountered during Fy-95 budget meetings with Department heads.

Ms. Garant stated this Board could establish equity re: Town employees pay scales. Selectman Miller stated this area is under investigation by the Board. Chairman Hamel stated the Board's past discussions re: hiring a consultant and poling communities. Selectman Miller agreed with the Board stating the need for such a service.

Ms. Garant further addressed the need to educate Town officials on the process when requesting capital expenses in their budgets. Ms. Garant stated problems with the Building Dept. requesting a computer/software and contracting out the Sealer of Weights and Measures from his department. Both line items fell within the scope of capital expenses. Selectman Miller stated all departments were distributed handouts re: preparation of Fy-95 Budgets.

Ms. Garant stated along this same discussion-Fy-95 Budgets were still to date not received from the Animal Control Officer or Animal Inspector. Chairman Hamel stated the JBOS have discussed the possibility of having a regional dog pound at Devens once the base has closed and would have further information later re: this option. The Board stated both Animal Control & Animal Inspector Fy-95 budgets were level funded.

Ms. Garant as a final item requested the Board strongly look to Devens regarding acquiring property. The Police Dept. needs a new station, the library, etc. Chairman Hamel stated the Police Chief has requested the M.P. Station and the JBOS was also looking at regional shared usage re: Park & Recreational functions.

The Board thanked the Advisory Board re: their input and advised the Board of meetings to be scheduled to address issues of shared concern.

The Board approved the Summer Selectmen's Meeting Schedule:  
SELECTMEN'S MEETINGS: July 19, 1994, August 9, 1994, August 23, 1994, and September 13, 1994 AND THEN AGAIN ON EVERY OTHER TUESDAY.

SUPT. OUELLETTE'S REPORT: See Report dated 7-19-94

**ACTION ITEMS:**

1. Supt. Ouellette informed the Board that Ayer's request for road resurfacing has been approved by Mass. Highways. The project is expected to come in at \$700,000 to \$1 million dollars of grant funds.

The State will pay for resurfacing from the Ayer-Groton town line on Rt. 111, past Tiny's on Rte.2A, including downtown Ayer, over the railroad bridge to Carlton Circle finishing up at the Ayer-Littleton town line. Supt. Ouellette stated the Town is required/responsible for acquiring any necessary right-of-way takings and easements as well as to prepare any environmental documents. Selectman Miller moved the Board take easements necessary and undertake any environmental documentation required, 2nd by Chairman Hamel, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

2. The Board approved the Chairman's endorsement on a Sewer connection to 166 Central Avenue, Ayer, Ma. Selectman Miller moved the motion, 2nd by Chairman Hamel, Vote: unanimous, so moved.

3. The Board moved to accept the following DPW bids per Supt. Ouellette's recommendation:

1. Diesel Fuel: Shattuck Oil
2. Rock Salt: Easton Salt Co. at \$39.69/ton.
3. Uniforms: Unifirst Corp. 2 Yr. 11 mo. Contract at \$6,000.00/yr.

4. The Board was advised to maintenance update of DPW equipment.

5. The Board was advised to catch basins presently being cleaned. Contractor to be on site mid August/94. Catch basins to be recleaned November/94.

6. The Board was updated on swap table pad being laid by Aug. 9, 1994 at the Transfer Station and of Moores to take over and complete the shed.

7. The Board was advised to grant received from DEP and Ogden Martin in the amount of \$2,100.00 to pay Robert McLaren's salary as recycling co-ordinator.

8. The Board was advised to Town receiving Boston Harbor Clay for capping the landfill.

9. The Board approved of the Supt. soliciting bids for the replacement of Town's standpipe. Selectman Miller moved to approve the Supt. of Public Works solicit bids for the replacement of the Town's 600,000 gal. standpipe for a 1.5 million gallon standpipe, 2nd by Chairman Hamel, Vote: unanimous.

10. The Board was advised to DEP/John Desmond allowing a ground discharge re: the backwash at Grove Pond. Supt. Ouellette stated this will keep some of the cost down. A new sand filter bed in the old gravel bed will be required which will be done under a compliance schedule. This will allow concentration of the plant and work on the wells later.

11. The Board approved of the ITT contract being rebid for a three year contract.

12. The Board was advised of Spectacle Pond going down 7-7-94 due to a power outage. Supt. Ouellette stated the standpipe fell to 0. Grove Pond had to be turned on for 3 hours, if the Town had a fire during this time it would have been disastrous. With this in mind Supt. Ouellette is meeting on F.D. 7-27-94 re:

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possibility of long term arrangement with F.D. supply the Town water in an emergency situation this only as a contingency plan. The Board approved of his attending this meeting only for informational purposes.

Supt. Ouellette advised the Board to his goals & objectives being enclosed in his report for his review.

The Board thanked Supt. Ouellette for his report.

Chairman Hamel read a letter of thanks to the Police Dept. re: submitted from Littleton for Ayer's assistance on 6/27/94.

Chairman Hamel also reminded the Board to Nashoba Valley's Grand Opening invitation for Thursday at 6:00p.m.

10:25p.m. Selectman Miller moved to adjourn the meeting, 2nd by Chairman Hamel, Vote unanimous, so moved.

10:25p.m. Selectmen's Meeting adjourned.

Date; \_\_\_\_\_

Charles Miller, Acting Clerk  
AYER BOARD OF SELECTMEN