

Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, November 1, 1993
2nd Floor Meeting Room
Town Hall, Main Street, Ayer, Ma.

7:30P.M. Open Session

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

Chairman Slarsky requested if there was anyone present who wished to be heard. The following people requested to be heard: William Oelfke, re: MSCP program, Henry Pruden re: letter he wrote to Board of Selectmen, John Avila re: clarifying statements

made at the last Selectmen's Meeting and Chairman Slarsky also wished to speak re: the Mass. Municipal Assoc. Meeting in Jan./94.

Chairman Slarsky called for a motion to accept the amended agenda. Selectman Hamel moved the Board approve the amended Agenda of Nov. 1, 1993 as stated, Seconded by Selectman Jones, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

The Board reviewed and approved the weekly warrant in the following amounts: P/R: \$57,350.50
Exp: \$2,264,149.10

The Board approved the minutes of 10-18-93 and 10-23-93. The Minutes of 10-4-93 were amended to reflect a statement submitted by Selectman Hamel to be inserted to page 2 first paragraph of the minutes of 10-4-93.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Chairman Slarsky stated he wished to address the Board to the importance of attending the Mass. Municipal Assoc. (MMA) Meetings held each year for the Selectmen/Mayors in the whole state of Massachusetts. Chairman Slarsky elaborated that 351 Towns belong to the MMA. This years focus is towards local government-meeting the challenge and making a difference. This years focus is on how to improve your community's governance, the trade show features a market place for the latest products and service tailored to each community, over 100 vendors will be there. Chairman Slarsky urged the Board members to attend.

Chairman Slarsky requested from William Oelfke what he wished to discuss with the Board. Mr. Oelfke stated he was here this evening to congratulate the MSCP Program. Mr. Oelfke stated recently the Town's Mass. Small Cities Program/Rehabilitation portion has been getting poor publicity and he felt it was incumbent upon him to speak up and say something positive. Mr. Oelfke stated he had neighbors and aquantenances that were fortunate to be in the Rehabilitation Program. These people were on fixed income, most retired and who otherwise

would/could not have had their property fixed up. Mr. Oelfke stated these people have new windows, roofs, plumbing, heating fixtures and are so happy to have been selected into the Town's program. With all the bad publicity re: this program Mr. Oelfke stated he just wanted to set the record straight that this is a wonderful program

The Board thanked Mr. Oelfke for his positive statement.

The Board requested what Mr. Pruden wished to discuss with the Board. Mr. Pruden stated he had written a letter to the Selectmen re: Selectman Hamel and a possible conflict of interest charge due to her involvement with the Historical Commission at the October 18, 1993, Selectmen's Meeting. Chairman Slarsky requested to have the letter read into the record. Selectman Jones read into the record Mr. Henry Pruden's letter dated 10-14-93. Selectman Hamel stated she had responded to Mr. Pruden in a letter to him dated 10/31/93. Selectman Hamel shared what she had written to the Board. Selectman Hamel stated she had apologized if she had offended anyone. She also stated she outlined the Historical Commissions debt to the Masons being under \$2,500. for partial payment of a fire alarm system, which has been placed in a separate account for payment when differences between the two groups have been settled. Selectman Hamel stated she also wrote that in addition to the \$1.00 a year rental fee the Masons would be expected to pay a portion of the utility bills for the building. Selectman Hamel stated she promised not to vote on any matter involving the Historical Commission at Board of Selectmen's Meetings. Selectman Hamel read her response to Mr. Pruden.

Mr. Prudens letter had requested Selectman Hamel resign her position as Selectman or the position she holds on the Historical Commission.

Chairman Slarsky requested if Selectman Hamel would object to the State Ethics Commission being contacted to determine if a conflict of interest exists as a means to clarify the situation. Selectman Hamel stated she had no objections.

The Board reviewed the Special Town Meeting Warrant of 11-22-93.

Chairman Slarsky reviewed with the Board Fort Devens Legislation meeting dates scheduled for this week with the Joint Board's in an effort to get draft legislation into the State Legislature by Tuesday, November 9, 1993. The Board stated meetings would be held 11/4/93 at the Ayer Town Hall, November 8, 1993 in an effort to move forward with a consensus. Chairman Slarsky expressed his concern what will be presented? and who will be developing and making the presentation on Tuesday? The Board has not been provided a draft of the actual legislation which is supposed to reflect Bret's outline. Selectman Hamel stated a consensus

appears to be developing to support a concept that blends the objectives/intent of Brets outline with the basic framework of the Knisely bill. The critical issue is to ensure that the DEC is empowered to be the policy making body and that all other players i.e. Land Bank take their direction from the DEC. Selectman Jones stated Representative Walwrath has submitted a bill to reserve a place in line- the bill that was submitted is the old Westover bill.

The Board reviewed the Groton Street matter involving a property owner wishing to keep a portion of land that was part of the Towns public thoroughfare, which surfaced when he tried to remortgage his home and found the land survey indicated a strip of land still existed in father's name. The Board stated they had met on Saturday, October 23, 1993 and took a site walk of the problem area. Selectman Jones expressed his concern re: the property in question is a small sliver of land but a critical piece between Groton St. and Pleasant St. This sliver if taken back would make a turn from Washington Court onto Groton St. very difficult. Creating a hardship for emergency and safety vehicles in an emergency situation. Chairman Slarsky elaborated on a test run conducted on the 23rd by the Fire Dept. which only strengthened the Fire Chief review that closing off that section of roadway would impact the Dept. should they have to respond to a fire. Selectman Hamel expressed her concern for the homeowner that a porch built by another homeowner was also built on town land and other intersections exist about town. Selectman Hamel stated the Board would be setting a precedent by deciding to take property to reconfigure this one adding there must be ways to do things without hurting people. Selectman Hamel stated the homeowner lost out on his first loan and had to settle for a higher interest rate and she felt if he was offered a fair market value for the land he would not be satisfied.

Chairman Slarsky called for a motion, Selectman Jones moved the Board start Eminent domain proceedings for the Town to acquire the land fifteen feet into the corner of the roadway at the intersection of Groton St. and Pleasant St. Vote: Selectman Jones aye, Chairman Slarsky aye, Selectman Hamel no, motion carried.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: see report dated 11/1/93
No action items.

Selectman Jones moved the Board adjourn the Meeting, Seconded by Selectman HAMEL, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

9:10p.m. Meeting adjourned.



Charles Jones, Clerk

Date: 11/15/93