

Selectmen's Meeting
Tuesday, January 19, 1993
2nd Floor, Town Hall, Main Street, Ayer, Ma.

7:30P.M. Open Meeting

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

The Minutes of January 5, 1993 were read and approved.

The Weekly Warrant was examined and approved in the following amount: P/R: \$341,946.97

The Board met with Murray Clark and Francis Callahan of the Ayer Industrial Commission.

Mr. Clark gave the Board a brief background of the re-organized Industrial Commission activated approximately 8 to 10 months ago.

Mr. Clark stated the Commission has a solid track record of attracting clean and prosperous industry to the Town. The result has been a greatly expanded and diversified tax base, employment opportunities and other economic spin offs in the community. In this respect the Commission hired a consultant to market the community for attracting industrial employers to Ayer. Scope of this project will be to prepare a conceptual layout or marketing booklet. This booklet to include statistics, demographics, utilities, as well as the Towns permit approval process etc. Mr. Clark stated the Commission approached the Selectmen back in November 1992 for \$8,000.00 to fund this position from UDAG. The Commission has found that this was not enough. The Commission appealed to the Ayer Industrial Assoc. and the Chamber of Commerce, both organizations donated \$2,000.00 a piece, to fund the continuation of this project. Mr. Clark stated the Economic Summit conducted earlier today targeted the same Industrial resources as the focus of new economic growth for this area.

Mr. Callahan stated the need at this time is for the creation by the Town, of a three (3) member development authority that could encompass a loan program from UDAG/grant funds geared at assisting development. Mr. Callahan stated Ayer is unique having access to UDAG funds. The Board expressed their pleasure with the economic summit and expressed optimism with the suggestion of the town hiring a coordinator to oversee all such development.

Everything would be coordinated under one umbrella. The Board requested to review this proposal with the Chamber and consider which route would be in the best interest of the town. The Board rescheduled this discussion for two weeks. The Board to meet again with the Industrial Commission on February 2, 1993, the next Selectmen's Meeting.

The Board set back the continuation of the Water/Sewer Public Hearing until later in the evening.

SUPT. REDFIELD'S REPORT: (SEE REPORT DATED 1-19-93)

1. Supt. Redfield introduced Paula O'Brien, Pretreatment coordinator for Hoyle Tanner & Associates. Supt. Redfield stated the Town's Pretreatment Account is almost depleted as of December 31, 1992. Supt. Redfield advised the Board for HTA to continue to perform these services the Town needs to secure \$15,000.00 of additional funds as well as amend Amendment #1 to extend this contracted dollar amount.

The Board stated their displeasure with this coming before them without warning. Supt. Redfield stated he had submitted reports to the Board through their packets. Chairman Jones stated that the reports the Board receives are too thick to expect the Board read each document submitted. Ms. O'Brien stated the \$15,000.00 was due to the additional training and documentation required to instruct the Town's larger companies how to comply with DEP/EPA's Pretreatment Program. Ms. O'Brien stated the Town awarded a three (3) year contract to HTA for \$190,000.00 to establish the Pretreatment Program for effluent especially from food processing plants in Town before discharging into the town's sewer system. The extra money (\$15,000.00) would take care of administering the program for the third year of the contract. Selectman Slarsky stated his concern with Hoyle Tanner requesting to exceed contract funding. Ms. O'Brien stated the money ran out due to EPA requirements and getting industrial participants up to speed on what was required. Ms. O'Brien stated the contract was open-ended regarding adjustments to costs or expenses and overtime. Selectman Slarsky requested of Ms. O'Brien this being the case, Hoyle Tanner would not be interrupting service to the Town--commitment/pretreatment while this issue was being addressed. Chairman Jones stated since there will be ongoing costs for monitoring and administering the program-- money from the Town should be a Town Meeting item. The Board requested Ms. O'Brien submit in writing a breakout of all the associated expenses in the \$15,000.00 request before them. The Board took this matter under advisement pending documentation.

The Board met with William Redfield regarding the continuation of the Water & Sewer Rules & Regulation Hearing and Rates for 1993. Chairman Jones opened the discussion by reiterating the proposed rates presented to the Selectmen on January 5, 1993 by the Water and Sewer Rate Study Committee.

Standard water:	residential	\$.90/100 cubic feet	-.20 increase
Demand	"	\$1.60/100 "	-.60 increase
standard sewer:	residential	\$2.00/100 "	no change
demand		\$2.00/100 "	\$1.90 decrease

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Chairman Jones stated he was not at all satisfied with the 20,000 cut off for low users. Chairman Jones stated this figure was calculated based upon the national average for a family of four (4). Chairman Jones stated he felt that the Town was penalizing the larger family, which is not the intent and would like to see this figure raised to 26,000 single family. Selectman Slarsky requested single family homes be abated the high user fee. Exempt single families from the higher rate. The Board requested of the Water/Sewer Study Committee members if they would go back and calculate the numbers to reflect revenues should the cut off figure be doubled between high & low users. Mr. Higgins to review the possibility of exempting all single family users from having to pay the higher rate.

The Board reviewed with Supt. Redfield stated the only change to the Water & Sewer Regulations under the industrial wastewater discharge is the inclusion of three (3) additional items which limits have been set for industries: beryllium, toxic organics and oil & grease. The Board rescheduled the Water/Sewer Rate & Rules & Regulations hearing to be continued for February 2, 1993.

Under another matter the Board requested status of Town's vehicles being repaired at the DPW. Supt. Redfield stated a lot of the smaller repairs can be done but due to lack of special equipment larger repairs could not be performed.

Selectman Slarsky requested if the Town of Shirley had been contacted re: joint usage? Mr. Higgins to review possibility of local co-op for regionalizing services between the Towns.

The Board met with Nicholas Sifakis, Chairman of the Cable Commission and Town Counsel, Robert Gardner re: citizens complaints, increases in rates and poor service. The Board advised the floor that at the recent Mass. Municipal Association Meeting the Association had conducted workshops re: Cable T.V. The new Cable Act of 1992 gives communities the power to set rates and that area Town can now exercise some power with Cable TV suppliers. The Board reviewed with Town Counsel the 1992 Cable Act and presented to Mr. Sifakis material from the MMA Meeting to review. Town Counsel stated that the Board should invite Alan Davis, Nashoba Cable President to the next Selectmen's meeting to discuss residents concerns about rate increases as well as complaints re: lack of service, delays, repairs and of inability to contact Nashoba's Offices. Town Counsel added that Nashoba Cable was requesting an abatement for relief on taxes. The Board reviewed with Mr. Sifakis current practice on his part re: receiving complaints. Mr. Sifakis stated he is a sounding board re: complaints. Mrs. Lewis stated when a resident contacts the Selectmen's Office she sends the residents a form for them to fill out stating the nature of the complaint. That form then is forwarded to Mr. Sifakis to contact Cable on behalf of the resident and exercise his power to clear

problems as soon as possible and also serves as a paper trail re: complaints, service, etc.

Mr. Sifakis stated he was limited in his capacity due to having no one else on the Commission. The Board requested interested citizens wishing to serve on this commission contact the Selectmen's Office or Mr. Sifakis.

Selectman Slarsky requested at this time if Mr. Sifakis or Town Counsel received free cable for being on the Cable Commission. Town Counsel Stated he did not and Mr. Sifakis stated he as well did not. Selectman Slarsky read into the minutes a letter dated 1-19-93 from Kathy Richardson, Director of Customer Service, Nashoba Cable addressed to Selectman Slarsky, "To confirm our conversation of today 1-19-93, I would like to restate in writing that Nashoba Cable has never provided free cable service to any Cable Advisory Committee member in the Town of Ayer and it has never been our policy to do so". Selectman Slarsky stated this situation was brought to him from a resident alleging Commission members received free cable and he wanted to set the record straight. Town Counsel advised the Board that the FCC allowed communities to set rates and handle complaints but would need a statement from the Selectmen alerting the Commission that Ayer would be undertaking this authority. This statement to be prepared by Town Counsel for the Board's endorsement February 2, 1993.

The Board voiced complaints called into them re: interruptions during football games, etc. Mr. Driscoll of Littleton Road stated his displeasure with Cable's office and not being able to reach them to report problems with his service.

The Board again appealed to Town residents to contact the Selectmen's Office if they were interested in serving on this commission.

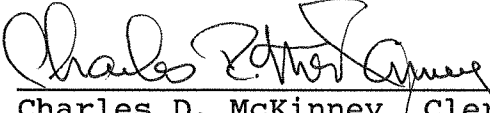
The Board met with Fire Chief Paul Fillebrown Sr. regarding recommending Donna Laggis to the position of EMS Coordinator. Chief Fillebrown stated Mrs. Laggis has been associated with the Ayer Fire Dept. Ambulance since 1981. Chief Fillebrown stated Mrs. Laggis is the Town's delegate presently to these meetings as well as responds to emergency calls, attends training sessions, coordinates and teaches CPR and is a first responder. Chief Fillebrown stated he included a one hundred dollar (\$100.00) budget with this appointment. Selectman McKinney moved to accept the recommendation by Chief Fillebrown and appoint Donna Laggis to the position of EMS Coordinator, seconded by Selectmen Slarsky, VOTE: Unanimous, so moved.

On another matter Chairman Jones advised all those present on the status of the 4th of July Committee stating that there is now a Steering Committee. The Committee was looking at a budget of

approximately \$20,000.00 to pre-pay bands, fireworks, etc.
The Committee was moving right along.

9:30P.M. Selectman McKinney moved the meeting be adjourned,
Seconded by Selectman Slarsky, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

9:30P.M. Selectmen's meeting adjourned.



Charles D. McKinney, Clerk

DATE: 2/2/93