

SELECTMEN'S MEETING
MONDAY, JULY 8, 1991
SECOND FLOOR MEETING HALL
TOWN HALL, MAIN ST., AYER, MA.

7:00P.M. The Board met with Chairman McKinney, Selectman Slarsky and Selectman Jones.

The Weekly Warrant was examined and approved in the following amounts:

Payroll: Fy-91 - \$496.25
 Fy-92 - \$73,784.02

Bills: Fy-91 - \$120,477.79
 Fy-92 - \$13,755.71

The Minutes of June 25, 1991 were read and accepted.

The Board met with the Ayer School Committee and Advisory Board re: EEO Funding.

Present for the discussion from the School Committee were: Pat Cassevecchia, Chairman, Charles McGuane, Martha Craft and Supt. of Schools, Neville Markham.

Advisory Board: Russell Brown, Chairman, Charles Miller, William Oelfke, Marion Smith and Joseph Osbaldeston.

Chairman McKinney opened the meeting by thanking the School Committee for attending the meeting regarding the EEO Funding. Chairman McKinney stated that the Board was aware of the EEO Grant being qualified for funding for FY-92. Mr. McKinney requested if the School Committee would consider giving back the \$80,000.00 appropriated at this year's Annual Town Meeting, due to deficit in Treasurer's Debt Service Account and the likelihood of further state aid cuts. The Board explained the Town will be entering FY-92 with a deficit balance and the Board preferred revisiting Town articles other than the omnibus article in order to make up the deficit.

Pat Cassevecchia, Chairman of the School Committee stated that the School Committee Members were not willing to give up the funding until the School Committee sees what the broad picture is for the upcoming school year. Selectman Slarsky stated that no other Town department was looked at for additional funding except the School due to the EEO grant being in jeopardy. The Selectmen acted in good faith and actively sought out support for the School's short fall of \$80,000.00, now with the new correspondence received from the State approving the School's EEO funding the \$80,000.00 would be used to eliminate the upcoming FY-92 deficit.

The Board took this matter under advisement pending notification from the Ayer School Committee.

The Board on another matter met with the School Committee, Advisory Board and Town Accountant regarding the FY-91 Vocational Education deficit of \$38,732.00. Supt. Markham stated the deficit was due to sign up of post graduates and students being much more significant in 91 than in past years. Voc. Ed. is more costly and most of the students attending are local, PL874 does compensate. The Vocational Education budget for FY-91 was appropriated at \$307,000.00 and came in at \$345,000.00 expended. Chairman McKinney requested total of Vocational students in Fy-91? Supt. Markham stated between 50-60 students.

Selectman Slarsky requested what was the Pl-874 Balance? Supt. Markham stated approximately \$132,954.00. Selectman Slarsky requested if this deficit could be taken from the PL-874 balance.

Town Accountant, Sharon Summers stated that it could not be transferred. Mrs. Summers stated that one other departments was in trouble, the Treasurer's Office with the Debt Service Account, and that this shortfall would be made up from FY-92 revenues.

Selectman Slarsky requested from the Town Accountant how much money was there currently in the Reserve Fund? Mrs. Summers stated \$18,000.00. Selectman Slarsky moved the Board approve the Reserve Fund Transfer of \$18,000.00 to the Vocational Education short fall. Mr. Slarsky stated the Reserve Fund was purposely set up for unforeseen expenditures such as this.

William Olefke, member of the Advisory Board stated his opposition of the transfer wishing to take the \$38,000+ Voc. Ed. Shortfall from the \$132,000.00 and to check the law to see if this transfer could be made.

7:45p.m. Joseph Osbaldeston entered the meeting, member of the Advisory Board.

Mr. Markham stated that in prior years there was never a problem, just the last few years local youths have been entering the program. Mr. Markham went on to state enrollment for Voc. Ed. is Feb. 1, and ends on April 1, in order to get a better handle on the enrollment for budgeting purposes.

Chairman McKinney called for a vote on the motion made by Selectman Slarsky from the Advisory Board. Russ Brown aye, Charles Miller aye, William Olefke no, Marion Smith no, Joseph Osbaldeston aye. Vote: 3-2 in favor of the Transfer of \$18,000 from the Reserve Fund to the Vocational Education deficit. Motion moved and passed.

The Board on still another matter met with the School Committee, Advisory Board and Town Accountant regarding regionalization status.

Chairman Mckinney requested what the Board of Selectmen could do to help the School Committee toward this effort? Selectmen Slarsky requested what the actual number of students would be if Fort Devens closes? Is there a break down of elementary through high school students. Mr. Markham stated 760 students approximately. How many students per class to maintain quality of education without regionalizing? The School Committee to come back with these numbers in August/91. Mrs. Cassavecchia stated that the School Committee will be meeting the third week in July to appoint a member to this Committee. Selectman Slarsky requesting if an Ad-Hoc Committee should be formed to assist this Committee. Mrs. Cassevecchia stated that 7/24 the School Committee would be meeting and the Committee is not suppose to get involved with regionalization. The Board requested to meet again with the School Committee in August and hopefully with the Regionalization Committee at the same time.

8:00P.M. PUBLIC HEARING-MARK KNOWLTON CLASS II LICENSE

The Board met with Mark Knowlton former owner of Mark's Auto at 63 Park Street, Ayer, Ma.

The Board requested what is a brokers license? Mr. Knowlton stated that he would not be selling used cars to the public he would be dealing directly with dealers, the auction and private companies wishing to use a broker rather than dealing with a car dealership. The Board requested how many cars would be stored at the 63 Park St. site. Mr. Knowlton stated he would be buying and selling vehicles at the car auction and that he would be cleaning and reconditioning the vehicles only at the site and selling the vehicles on Friday of each week. Selectman Slarsky stated the Town of Ayer only issues a Class II License not a Brokers License and that the License he would be issued would be a Class II License. Mr. Knowlton stated that he was satisfied with a Class II License stating he wants to retain his Dealership plates.

Chairman McKinney requested if there was anyone present to speak for or against this License? no one came forward to speak for or against the application. Selectman Slarsky moved the Board approve the Class II License for Mark Knowlton D/B/A East Coast Auto Brokers and place a five (5) car only restriction on site at any one time. Selectman Jones second the motion. VOTE: Unanimous, so moved.

Selectman Jones moved the minutes of 6/25/91 be amended to reflect Mr. Knowlton' correct address of 63 PARK ST, Ayer, Ma.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT:

1. The Board was updated to State Aid numbers: Mr. Higgins stated the conference committee has recommended two (2) major categories which the Governor may veto which would significantly

reduce the Conference Committees recommendation. Overlay EXemption: (\$125,489) and secondly defraying 1/12 of teachers salary until 93 (\$139,866) both are controversial and may be withdrawn. If both categories remain the Town's total aid would be \$3,536,761 which would be greater than the Town's projection of \$3,494,725.

2. The Board was advised that the Park Commissioners appointment of 6/25 was invalid. Town Clerk Bea Briggs stated the general laws prohibits jointly appointing two elected officials to fill one position. Park Chairman Januskiewicz was advised of situation and advised to present one candidate to the Board to fill the unexpired term of Karin Dynice.

3. The Board was advised of Tri-Party Agreement submitted by George Carpenter on behalf of GAC Homes Inc. re: Lots 4, 5, & 6 sewer project on Wright Rd. Requesting the Board to enter into a Tri-Party Agreement between GAC, the Town of Ayer and the Cooperative Bank of Concord in lieu of bonding. The Board entered into a short discussion re: this request. Selectman Jones stating that this proposition would run into legal expenses for the Town by using Town Counsel to draw up the paperwork and reviewing all documentation. Selectman Slarsky suggested the Board refuse the Tri-Party Agreement and request bonding to be held/secured by the Town. Selectmen Slarsky moved the Board deny the Tri-Party Agreement presented by GAC Homes, Inc. motion seconded by Selectman Jones, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

4. The Board was advised to Harvard's Board of Selectmen hosting a meeting on Saturday, July 13, 1991 at 10:00a.m. at the Hildredth House at 10:00a.m. to consider re-use of Fort Devens. Selectman Slarsky and Selectman Jones both stated that they would be unavailable to attend this meeting and requested Mr. Higgins contact Harvard to possibly reschedule the meeting for Monday, July 15, 1991-7:30p.m. at the Ayer Town Hall. Mr. Higgins to advise Shirley and Lancaster as well.

5. The Board was advised of correspondence received from Tracy Eliades and the Town of Groton enclosing a certified copy of the Groton Annual town Meeting Warrant authorizing the Groton Board of Selectmen or Wastewater Committee to enter into agreement to allow Westridge Farm Assoc. to be served by an extension of the Town of Ayer Sewer Lines. The Board was advised that the Groton Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to support this article due to the fact that the property abuts the hospital which is served by an extension of the Ayer sewer lines.

Chairman McKinney requested the Board acknowledge receipt of the Groton Board's letter by letter, and to have Town Counsel review.

SUPT. REDFIELD'S REPORT:

1. The Board approved and endorsed letters submitted from Supt. Redfield to the Ayer Housing Auth., Montachusette Transit

Authority and the Ayer School Dept. for snow removal services for the winter season 1991-1992.

2. The Board was advised of Hoyle Tanner & Assoc. request to modify the insurance coverage to a \$1,500,000 limit with a \$75,000,00 deductible changing the Agreement, Article VIII Part C4 from \$2,000,000 limit with a \$250,000 deductible. The Board requested Supt. Redfield run this item by Town Counsel Selectman Jones moved the Board take this under advisement until Town Counsel has a chance to review.

3. The Board was presented a draft technical review charter for the Fort Devens Hazardous Waste Superfund Cleanup currently being reviewed by Town Counsel, Tim Higgins and Supt. Redfield. The Board was also advised of Supt. Redfield's request to Fort Devens Technical Review Com. to install an additional observation well off the southeast corner of the landfill between the landfill and the railroad tracks to filter trace contaminants found in any sample analysis of the observation wells, a seismic refraction analysis will be performed to determine the depth of bedrock and the strata of aquifer and soil characteristics underlying and adjacent to the landfill site.

4. The Board was advised of the continuation of the Boston Gas Petition being extended to cover Groton Harvard Rd. A Public Hearing will convene on August 19, 1991 to outline route and requirements.

The Board met with N.E. Telephone representative Michael Fred re: West Main St. PAVEMENT CUT. The Board approved a road cut for repair to existing conduits on the corner of Union St. & W. Main and required disturbed area to be covered with infra red patch. Motion moved by Selectman Jones seconded by Selectmen Slarsky, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

The Board met with Chief Connors regarding Reserve Officer Appointments. Chief Connors recommended the following individuals: Mark Richards, Todd Crumpton, Laurretta Hoffman and Ronald Hernandez. All of the above individuals passed an oral board and all were rated based upon training, education and experience. Chief Connors stated all the candidates will be required to pass a physical exam and psychological screening, plus attend the Reserve Academy Training Program. Equipment and uniforms as well as training to be paid for by the Town from the Police Dept. FY-92 budget. Selectman Slarsky moved the Board accept the recommendations of Chief Connors and appoint Mark Richards, Laurretta Hoffman, Todd Crumpton and Ronald Hernandez to the positions of Reserve Police Officers with the conditions and requirements in place, seconded by Selectman Jones, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

Chief Connors requested at this time the Board sign a temporary waiver for newly appointed patrolman, Edward Denmark allowing him to work as a police officer until he enters the Police

Academy which he is scheduled for in October 1991. The Board expressed their concern re: liability but were assured that this was permissible. Motion to Sign the waiver was made by Selectman Slarsky, Seconded by Selectman Jones, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

The Board met with Mass. Electric Representatives, Brian Pelletier and Ronald Plutnicki, P.E. District Manager. re: continuation of discussion relevant to rate increase for the community. Mr. Plutnicki submitted to the Board a cost breakout for the Ayer underground project. (West Main St.) Selectman Slarsky opened the discussions by asking why this documentation was NOT submitted earlier for the Board's review as promised by Mr. Plutnicki on June 25, 1991. Mr. Plutnicki stated that internal office problems prevented the information from coming in earlier. Selectman Slarsky stated the documentation lacked specificity. Mr. Plutnicki stated that Mass. Elec. was not obligated to approach the Board, that he was doing so as a courtesy. Selectman Slarsky request the Board submit a letter to Mass. Elec. requesting not to implement the surcharge until such time as the information has been provided and adequately explained and reviewed by the Board. Seconded by Selectmen Jones, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

The Board met with Fire chief Wellman Parker regarding EMT/Firefighter position. Chief Parker requested the Board appoint Paul Fillebrown to the EMT/Firefighter position vacated by Clark Paige. Chief Parker stated the Fire Dept. Committee met on June 25, 1991 to review the candidates and make a recommendation on the selection for the EMT/Firefighter position.

The Committee recommended the appointment of Paul Fillerbrown Jr. of Ayer, Ma. The Chief stated he received five (5) applications for this position. Selectman Slarsky based upon the recommendation of Chief Parker moved the Board appoint Paul Fillebrown to the position of EMT/firefighter to the Ayer Fire Dept. With requirements and conditions in place, seconded by Selectman Jones, Vote: unanimous, so moved.

9:05P.M. Selectman Jones moved the Board adjourn, seconded by Selectman Slarsky, Vote: unanimous, so moved.

9:05P.M. meeting adjourned.