

Selectmen's Meeting
June 5, 1990
Upper Meeting Hall

7:35PM Open Session

Present: Selectmen Jones and McKinney, Tim Higgins, Executive Secretary (Note: Chairman Slarsky arrived at a later time in the meeting)

Selectmen Jones opened the meeting, the first order of business was to review the minutes of 5/8/90. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Selectman Mckinney, seconded by Selectman Jones, and passed, secondly the Board reviewed the minutes of 5/22/90, a motion to approve these minutes was made by Selectman McKinney, seconded by Selectman Jones, all in favor and the motion passed.

The Board signed the Weekly Warrant, Expenses: \$484,426.73, Selectman Jones noted that a large portion of this was for Bonds and interest pertaining to Scully Rd and Sandy Pond/Wright Rd. Sewer Projects. Payroll: \$37,051.54

The next item on the agenda was regarding Commuter Rail Station relocation. Selectman Jones recognized Mohamed Khan from the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission. Mr Khan explained that the commuters using the train from Ayer averaged about 155 per day, and that the MRPC rented parking space from Mr. Berry at \$5000 a year plus an additional yearly expense of \$1200 for plowing. He stated that he would be attending a meeting on 6/14/90 with the MRTA and would like to honor this Board's wishes as to relocating the train station, noting that Shirley did not want to regionalize, but that Ft Devens would be willing. Selectman Jones acknowledged that he had heard complaints from Shirley and that this Board had already met with two representatives from the trains, and with Mr. Phil Morris from Ft. Devens. One of the major concerns was how to get people from down town to the train, also that this could mean an additional 300 people in that area parking, and that these vehicles may create traffic problems. Mr

Khan suggested using the MART Shuttle Bus, and no costs would be involved, since this would free up money now used for renting parking spaces (which he noted had space for 60 vehicles only)., he continued that it looks like the land at Ft Devens would be approved, also that the Commission can do a study and provide the data to the Board. Mr Khan noted that the MBTA had assured Shirley that they would keep a "flagstation". Selectman Jones asked what would happen if none of this came to fruition, Mr Khan replied that commuters would increase and the downtown could become choked. Chairman Slarsky arrived at this point, after further discussion he asked that Mr. Khan submit proposals

He also noted that the whole terminal could go out of Ayer. Mr Khan reminded the Board that he was at this meeting for guidance and to start talking about a regional station. After further discussion, of transporting elderly to the station, traffic hazards, etc, Selectman Jones made a motion that Mr. Khan pursue the plan to move the station, Selectman McKinney agreed that the Board should sanction the idea of moving the station, all in favor and the motion passed.

Tim Higgins Report:

Tim explained that he and Mr Redfield had been in contact with the State DPW concerning the W. Main St. Bridge reconstruction. He noted that there were three major concerns 1) if Jan of 1992 would still be the expected bid date, if the DPW received a waiver from the Federal Highway Administration allowing a 30MPH design speed rather than 50MPH, also if right of ways had been obtained. Selectmen McKinney noted the bad conditons of the bridge, that a 21 month delay would be too long, it was agreed that it would be a good idea to lobby the federal representatives. Tim noted that the Board of Health would be conducting a hearing regarding the reduction of hours for the Transfer Station. Tim stated to the Board that the Designer Selection Committee for the new Police Station had chosen four firms, and that he and Chief Connors would be conducting interviews on June 4th, the four candidates would be ranked on qualifications only and that once the number one firm was picked a fee would be negotiated, if no agreement is reached than negotiations would have to be made with the seconded ranked candidate and so forth. The Board reviewed the list of the four candidates. Tim advised the members that the recommendations would be ready for the next meeting. Tim informed the Selectmen that the Town Beach would be open July 1. In Item 5, Tim noted that a cub master had requested using the DPW yard for a bon fire/cookout. The Board granted their approval for this also.

Mr Higgins noted that although James Wood had submitted his letter of resignation from the ZBA, but that he would stay on the Board until the matter of N.E. Milling becomes resolved, in the meantime however, Tim informed the Selectmen that the Board of Assessors has recommended the appointment of Mr Wood to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mr. Schnieder. Chairman Slarsky asked that a letter of thanks be sent to Mr. Schnieder, Selectman Jones moved to appoint Mr. Wood to the Board of Assessors, seconded by Selectman McKinney and the motion passed.

Tim noted that he is waiting for the recommendations of names from the Advisory Board for the task force on PL874 funding. He explained that the date for the first meeting would be the third week in June. Chairman Slarsky asked that a target date be set

for the report and it should be before school starts, he asked that the matter be taken care of in two to three meetings or within thirty days. Selectman McKinney stated that the committee should work with the numbers, address the amount of the deficit and Harvard's Federal/State Aid. Mr. Higgins stated that an executive session had been scheduled later in the evening for the selectman to review the tentative agreement that has been reached with the DPW union. He also noted that the Chamber of Commerce would be giving the Selectmen a check in the amount of \$7800 for the DARE program. In other matters, Mr. Higgins noted that Mr. Berry from Carlins had requested a one-day beer and wine license for a Charity Open Golf Course, with proceeds going towards Loaves and Fishes, but the event would not be scheduled until August 10th. Tim advised the Board that he would have more information on this at a future meeting. Mr Higgins asked the Chairman to sign a proxy from the MMA to amend their By-laws to insulate the president from liability, Selectman Jones moved that the proxy be signed, seconded by Selectman McKinney and the motion passed. Mr Higgins informed the Board that the traffic count on Sandy Pond Rd., had been improperly done and that the count would be redone.

Supt Redfield's Report:

Supt Redfield presented his report to the Board. He noted that an executive session would be held later to discuss employee management strategy. He informed the members that he would give permission for the cub scout leader to use the DPW yard. As part of his report he noted that SEA recommended that the Town should start preparing to fund and implement the design and construction of a new iron and manganese removal water treatment facility and upgrade the mechanical equipment at the Grove Pond Wells. He presented charts for the Board's review for the Standpipes, and noted that due to the inadequate pumping capacity the water level in the standpipes does not fully recover during the evening hours. Selectman Jones asked about remedying the situation and Mr. Replied that it would cost between 3-4 million dollars for the design and construction of new water pumping and treatment facilities, which would be a long term solution and that now the Town would have some options including voluntary water use restriction., starting up Grove Pond Wells when water is needed to supplement the Spectacle Pond water pumping capacity or purchase water from a neighboring water distribution system (Ft Devens or Littleton) Selectman Jones asked about maintenance on the stand pipes, Supt Redfield stated that there could be considerable sludge at the bottom but that he does not have the manpower to shut them down. He asked for permission to use Grove Pond but Chairman Slarsky asked that before a decision was made that the casing screens be checked at the #2 well, and that Grove Pond should not be used unless in a case of extreme Emergency. Supt Redfield stated that any water use restriction may be questioned by DEP Water Division because the Town could use Grove Pond Wells, Chairman Slarsky stated that we could cross that bridge when we came to it, that the Town can challenge DEP.

Supt Redfield stated that he would come back at the next meeting with a more complete report about the problems at #2 well. In other matters, the selectmen voted that the letter drafted to EPA concerning the Wastewater Industrial Pretreatment Program be signed and sent. Chairman Slarsky signed the letter. Supt Redfield presented the board a repair schedule for the hydrants, and advised that the fire station had a similar list. He noted that Paul Curtin had received a lay off notice and that John Loomer would be transferred to the Waste Water Treatment Facility. Selectman Slarsky questioned Mr. Redfield as to why a DPW employee at the WWTF had gone over Mr. Redfield's head to report on conditions at the WWTF to DEP and EPA. Mr Redfield assured the Board that he had spoken to this particular individual and that this would not happen again, and the Board expressed their concerns that employees should go through proper channels that this particular problem could incur expenses to the Town. The Board asked to be informed if this situation happens again.

N.E. Milling

Present Jim Friedman, Atty Lilienthal, Town Counsel and Supt Redfield.

Atty Lilienthal explained N.E. Milling Co.'s concerns that the firm wanted to do it's expansion work before the wheat crop would be in. N.E. milling is requesting that the Board sign off on the company's relocation of a drainage easement in order to accommodate new construction to increase capacity. Supt Redfield stated that he must review the plans to see that changes he had asked for had been incorporated, and that Town Counsel would also review the easement documentation. Mr. Lilienthal continued that N. E. Milling had been working with various Town Boards on the relocation and that 3 additional towers would be added to the site, that the particular easement, would also be internal, he asked that in the interest of time, that the Selectman sign the modified document. Selectman McKinney made a motion to sign, subject to a review by Atty Gardner and Supt Redfield, seconded by Selectman Jones, and it was agreed that Atty Gardner would come back at the next meeting. Selectman Slarsky asked about costs and construction, Mr. Lilienthal explained that the cost would be 900,000 and completion should be in August.

Chief Connors - Reserve Officer List.

Present: Mark Coulter, Paul Cormier, Dana Beavais

Chief Connors presented the list of candidates to the Board. Seelctman Jones asked if they had all been interviewed and had background checks done, Chief Connors replied in the affirmative. Officer Cormier was recognized by the Chairman, Officer Cormier stated that a name had been removed based on back ground information report which may be misleading, based upon the interpretations. Chief Connors stated that he would get a

written letter regarding this. After a discussion the Board decided that this had to get going, and they agreed to appoint two officers now, John Dristilaris and Edward Denmark and noted that once the other matter had cleared up, that a third reserve officer would be appointed. Selectman McKinney made a motion to approve the two candidates as recommended by the Chief, and that the Board of Selectmen review the list of the other candidates, seconded by Selectman Jones and the motion passed.

At this point on the agenda, Selectman Jones made a motion to enter into Executive Session, pursuant to MGL Chapter 39 Section 23B, only to come back into Open Session and then to Adjourn, seconded by Selectman McKinney and all in favor and the motion passed. (note: there are four scheduled Executive Sessions)

9:30PM Adjourn from Open Session


