

Selectmen's Meeting  
Ayer, Ma  
May 8, 1990

7:30PM OPEN SESSION

Present: Chairman Slarsky, Selectmen Jones and McKinney, Tim Higgins, Executive Secretary

Minutes of April 10, 1990, Selectmen Jones made a motion to approve the minutes of April 10th, seconded by Chairman Slarsky, all in favor and motion was passed. Minutes of April 24, 1990, Selectman McKinney made a motion to approve the minutes of April 24th, seconded by Selectman Jones, all in favor and the motion passed.

Weekly Warrant: The Board signed the Payroll and Expense Warrant, it was agreed by the Board to hold up a payment to Whipple Co. until the Selectmen received clarification from Town Counsel.

Town Treasurer - Thomas Callahan  
RE: Signing of the Wright Rd. Bonds

Mr Callahan explained that due to the current fiscal situation State Grants are on hold and now the Town will have to borrow the money for the Sandy Pond Wright Rd., Sewer Project, for 6 months, at 6.88% interest, he explained that the State should distribute the money by July Chairman Slarsky asked that there be no pre-payment penalty. Selectman Jones made a motion to approve signing the Bond based upon the recommendation of the Treasurer, for the Sandy Pond/Wright Rd Sewer project for 6 months with 6.88% interest, the motion was seconded by Selectman McKinney, all in favor and the motion passed.

Mr Callahan advised the members that \$1.5 million might be needed if the tax rate was not set at this meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING TAX RATE CLASSIFICATION

Present: Edward Cornellier and William Schneider, Board of Assessors.  
Selectman Slarsky read the notice of the Public Hearing as it was published.

Mr. Cornellier gave a packet to the Board outlining the

classification (see packet on file dated 5/8/90) Mr. Cornellier advised the Board and those present that the Assessors are prepared to go forward with the tax bills after this meeting. He stated that the shift in the tax burden would be from Residential to Commercial., also that at present the Town is worth \$414,040,516, Mr. Schneider read the various classifications as proposed. Chairman Slarsky asked for comments from the audience. Several businessmen asked that the Board consider changing the rate. Chairman Slarsky closed the public hearing at 8:20PM, at this point the Board agreed that a decision should be made on the Tax Rate at this meeting. Selectman Jones noted that the Board tries to be fair and that to go with a flat rate would mean that homeowners rate would go up by approximately \$2.00, (per \$1,000). Selectman McKinney stressed the importance of setting the Tax Rate now. Selectman Jones than made a motion to stay with Multiple Rate 2, seconded by Selectman McKinney (rate: Res. \$6.79 and CIP \$12.04), in addition Chairman Slarsky stated that he recognized the need of business and community to work together , but that people should not be forced out of their homes, that he agreed with his colleagues on Multiple Rate 2 to be the same as in the past, all in favor and the motion passed.

School Committee:

PL874 Discussion Present: Charles McGuane, Neville Markham, Jack Berberian and Col. Philip Michaud and the Town Accountant

In a discussion it was determined that the Town had been limited by the government in gaining funding, it was pointed out that the Town was not receiving sufficient funding from the Federal Government, and that the exact amount is in dispute as to the Government's proporationate share, but that the Town is making a favorable tax effort in working with the Department of Revenue and the Department of Education. Selectman McKinney noted that the Board is not attacking Ft. Devens, but that something should be done, even if it would take going to Washington again. Chairman Slarsky noted that we are being impacted because of inequities. It was agreed by the members that a task force should be appointed composed of people chosen by the school committee and the Board of Selectmen. The Committee would look over figures, people need to be aware of what does exist. Tim stated that letters have been sent to the legislature for action to change the benefits that the Town of Harvard receives from the Federal Government. The Board recommended that Col. Michaud be on the task force. The task force would also check into Lottery Funds. Everyone was in agreement with the idea of the task force and that this should be done promptly.

Advisory Board: Charles Miller, Joe Osbaldeston, Marion Smith, Town Accountant

Sharon Summers, the Town Accountant noted that some budgets were in jeopardy. (see her report on file). She noted that these

included Town Hall Postage, the Fire Department, Historical Commission, the County Retirement Assessment, Town Counsel and Unemployment Compensation. She noted that there is \$150,000 in the Reserve Fund this year but that next year will be very limited. Chairman Slarsky stated that there would be no flexibility next year and no services if budgets go over their limits. Mrs. Summers added if the State payment of local aid money due in June, is not made, then the Town would start the fiscal year with a deficit. It was noted that Town Counsel's budget was extraordinary because of work related to Patriot Energy and excessive legal issues and litigations, and that his budget is hard to predict.

Transfer from Reserve Fund for Reserve Police Officers - Chief Connors, Mark Coulter.

Chief Connors asked for \$5,462 to be transferred from the Reserve Fund, for training, uniforms and weapons for three reserve officers. Mark Coulter stated that the regular force looks forward to having the extra officers. Marion Smith made a motion to transfer the \$5,462, seconded by Joe Osbaldeson all in favor and passed. Selectman Slarsky asked that the recommendation of the three officers be ready for the next meeting on the 22nd. Chief Connors stated that the additional manpower will be a great help in supplementing the force.

Transfer from Reserve Fund for Town Counsel:

The Advisory Board asked that Atty Gardner submit his bills monthly rather than quarterly. The Selectmen agreed that those services provided for legal matters pertaining to UDAG loans should be paid for from the UDAG loan account. Selectman Jones made a motion that \$22,777 be transferred from the UDAG Account, seconded by Selectman McKinney all in favor and passed. Joe Osbaldeson made a motion that \$28,757 be transferred from the reserve fund for Town Counsel expenses, seconded by Marion Smith and all in favor and passed. At this time Selectman Jones made a motion also to transfer \$28,575 from the reserve fund for Town Counsel's expenses, seconded by Selectman McKinney and passed.

Chairman Miller pointed out that there were two openings on the Financial Advisory Board and gave the Selectman the name of a Mr. Russell Brown who he recommended very highly. Selectman McKinney made a motion to appoint Mr. Brown based upon the recommendation of the Advisory Board Chairman, seconded by Selectman Jones and the motion passed.

Executive Secretary's Report (see report dated 5/8/90)

Tim noted that he had formulated a policy for legal services and presented a memo to that effect. Selectman Jones made a motion to accept the memo and policy, seconded by Selectman McKinney, all in favor and motion passed.

*Selectmen*

REQUEST FOR TRANSFER FROM THE RESERVE FUND  
(To be submitted in triplicate)

Date: 7 May 90

I. TO BE FILLED OUT BY DEPARTMENT REQUESTING TRANSFER:

Request is hereby made for the following transfer from the Reserve Fund in accordance with Chapter 40, Section 6, of the Massachusetts General Laws:

1. Amount requested: \$5,462.00
2. To be transferred to: Police department  
(Give Name of approp.)
3. Present balance in said appropriation: \$150,028.01
4. The amount requested will be used for (give specific purpose): Training and equipment for three reserve officers.
5. This expenditure is extraordinary and/or unforeseen for the following reasons: (Was not in the budget to fund the reserve officers.)  
Emergency officer shortage due to injuries.

*Philip L. Connor*  
Officer or Dept. Head

II. ACTION OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting 5/8/90 Number Present and Voting 3

Transfer voted in the sum of \$ 5462

TRANSFER DISAPPROVED \_\_\_\_\_

*Charles W. Hill*  
Chairman, Advisory Comm.

III. ACTION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Date of Meeting 5/8/90 Number Present and Voting 3

Transfer voted in the sum of \$ 5462.00

TRANSFER DISAPPROVED \_\_\_\_\_

*Stephen M. J.*  
Chairman, Board of Selectmen

REQUEST MUST BE MADE AND TRANSFER VOTED BEFORE  
ANY EXPENDITURE IN EXCESS OF APPROPRIATION IS INCURRED.

REQUEST FOR TRANSFER FROM THE RESERVE FUND  
(To be submitted in triplicate)

Date: 5-8-90

I. TO BE FILLED OUT BY DEPARTMENT REQUESTING TRANSFER:

Request is hereby made for the following transfer from the Reserve Fund in accordance with Chapter 40, Section 6, of the Massachusetts General Laws:

1. Amount requested: \$ 28,757
2. To be transferred to: Town Counsel  
(Give Name of approp.)
3. Present balance in said appropriation: \$ 6,922.20
4. The amount requested will be used for (give specific purpose):

*See attached invoice.*

5. This expenditure is extraordinary and/or unforeseen for the following reasons:

*To cover the overage in the account  
to 4-19-90.*

*[Signature]*  
Officer or Dept. Head

II. ACTION OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting 5/8/90 Number Present and Voting 3

Transfer voted in the sum of \$ 28,757

TRANSFER DISAPPROVED \_\_\_\_\_

*[Signature]*  
Chairman, Advisory Comm.

III. ACTION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Date of Meeting 6/8/90 Number Present and Voting 3

Transfer voted in the sum of \$ 28,757

TRANSFER DISAPPROVED \_\_\_\_\_

*[Signature]*  
Chairman, Board of Selectmen

REQUEST MUST BE MADE AND TRANSFER VOTED BEFORE  
ANY EXPENDITURE IN EXCESS OF APPROPRIATION IS INCURRED.

Tim explained that the Town of pepperell had once again asked for Mr. Halligans service's, regarding noise readings, Selectman Jones stated that he felt this would take up too much of the Building Commissioners time.

Tim continued that the ABCC had received three more alleged violations concerning the Rotor Klub. He concluded that the American Legion had asked about Board members participating in the Memorial Day parade, and that they should contact Mr. Bob Lewis.

Supt. Redfield's Report (see report dated 5/8/90)

Mr Redfield stated that since it was so late, he would ask that the Board read his report that he would discuss the last two articles. #5: He asked permission from the Board to prepare lay off notices for the DPW employees who would be laid -off, this was granted, and #6: CDM Amendment No. 2 Spectacle Pond Wells, Treatment Facility And Standpipes; Supt Redfield asked that the Board authorize \$15,923 for increases in cost Selectman Jones made a motion to authorize the additional expense, but that the expenses should be itemized, the motion was seconded by Selectman McKinney all in favor and passed.

Tim noted that negotiations with the DPW Union were concluded and that the contract would be signed soon.

Fire Hydrants - Selectman Slarsky asked for a schedule of when hydrants will be back in service, or an anticipated date, and that the Fire Department should be notified.

Supt Redfield noted that bids had been put out for supplies for next year.

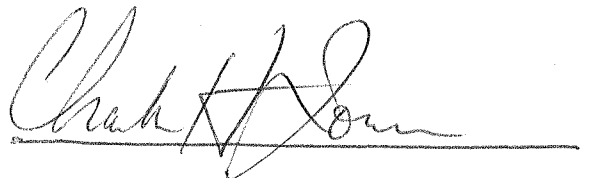
Chief Connors - Light Duty postponed

Labor Strategy Local #346 (A)

At this time Selectman Jones made a motion to adjourn from Open Session, and to enter into Executive Session pursuant to MGL Chapter 39 Section 23B and noting that the remainder of the meeting would be for two more Executive Sessions, he made the same motion for the next two Executive Sessions, and he continued that the Board would not go back into Open Session except to adjourn the meeting of May 8, 1990, these motions were seconded by Selectman McKinney, all in favor and the motions passed.

10:20PM Adjourn from Open Session

5/8

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Charles H. Jones", is written over a horizontal line.