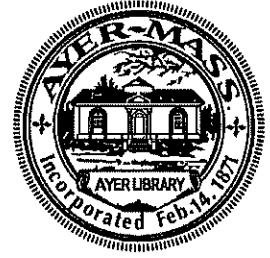


Town of Ayer  
Board of Selectmen



Special Joint BOS Meeting with Shirley BOS  
Shirley Town Hall – 7 Keady Way, Shirley, MA

Wednesday, October 11, 2017  
Open Session Meeting Minutes

Ayer BOS Attendance: Christopher R. Hillman, Chair; Jannice L. Livingston, Vice Chair; Gary J. Luca, Clerk

Shirley BOS Attendance: Holly Haase, Chair; Enrico Cappucci

Also in Attendance: Robert Pontbriand, Ayer Town Administrator; Patrice Garvin, Shirley Town Administrator; Ayer Fire Chief Robert Pedrazzi; Ayer Police Lt. Brian Gill; Ayer Finance Director Lisa Gabree; Shirley Fire Chief Dennis Levesque; Shirley Police Chief Samuel Santiago; Mr. Frank Pozniak, Executive Director of State 911; Ms. Monna Wallace, State 911

Call to Order: The Ayer Board of Selectmen were called to order at 7pm. The Shirley Board of Selectmen were called to order at 7pm. The meeting was held in the First Floor Meeting Room of the Shirley Town Hall located at 7 Keady Way, Shirley, MA.

The Board of Selectmen met to discuss the proposed concept of creating a regional dispatch center for the two Town's to be located and operated out of the Ayer Police Station.

P. Garvin provided an overview of the Shirley situation in which due to funding constraints the Town cannot afford to update its necessary dispatch capital equipment for which the cost is \$125,000 nor can it continue to fund dispatcher shifts. It has become a public safety issue.

R. Pontbriand provided an overview of Ayer's position on the matter, that the Town of Ayer has a state-of-the-art dispatch center that could accommodate Shirley. The issues to be resolved are: for both Town's BOS to agree to the concept; both Town's to negotiate a formal memorandum of agreement; and to implement the regional dispatch. The key concern for the Town of Ayer is that Shirley's assessment cover their costs.

F. Pozniak from the State informed the meeting that there is a competitive state grant available to meet Shirley's \$125,000 in capital equipment needs. However in order to apply for the grant, a signed, memorandum of agreement between the two Town's creating the regional dispatch needs to be in place.

Shirley Fire Chief stated that the Town cannot continue to fill dispatch shifts because of costs. The Devens Regional Dispatch Center would not take us. We work well with Ayer and we cannot continue in this way as it is a public safety issue.

Shirley Police Chief stated that we cannot sustain dispatch and we work well with Ayer and this is the logical decision to resolve the issue.

Ayer Fire Chief stated that both Town's work well together and this makes sense as long as the assessment is acceptable for covering costs and all of the radios and equipment on the Shirley side are tested and interface with Ayer's equipment.

H. Haase stated that Shirley needs to move forward and start the process.

J. Livingston asked if Shirley is willing to commit to the process and move forward tonight?

E. Cappucci stated that he would like to see the numbers first but that we need to move forward.

C. Hillman stated that this is a serious public safety issue not only for Shirley but for Ayer and we need to resolve this sooner rather than later.

G. Luca concurred with C. Hillman.

The two Boards of Selectmen agreed to move forward with the concept of a regional dispatch.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by G. Luca and seconded by R. Capucci to authorize both Town Administrator's to prepare a DRAFT Intermunicipal Agreement for the creation of a regional dispatch for the Town's of Ayer and Shirley for review and consideration by both Boards of Selectmen. The Motion passed 5-0 with the three Selectmen from Ayer in the affirmative and the two Selectmen from Shirley in the affirmative.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by C. Hillman and seconded by H. Haas to adjourn the joint BOS meeting. Motion passed 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8pm.

Minutes for the Ayer BOS recorded and submitted by: Robert A. Pontbriand, Town Administrator

Date Minutes Approved by BOS:

7 NOV 17

Signature Indicating Approval:

