

Town of Ayer
Board of Selectmen
Ayer Town Hall – 1st Floor Meeting Room
Ayer, MA 01432



Broadcast and Recorded by APAC

Tuesday December 19, 2017
Open Session Meeting Minutes

Present: Christopher R. Hillman, Chair; Jannice L. Livingston, Vice – Chair;
Gary J. Luca, Clerk (Participating Remotely until 7:40 PM)

Robert A. Pontbriand, Town Administrator
Carly M. Antonellis, Assistant to the Town Administrator

Call to Order: C. Hillman called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM. C. Hillman stated that G. Luca would be participating remotely via telephone and all votes will be taken by roll call.

Executive Session Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, sec. 21(a): A motion was made by C. Hillman and seconded by G. Luca to enter into Executive Session pursuant to G.L. Chapter 30A, section 21(a) Exemption #3 (Litigation Strategy) *Worthen Dale v. Town of Ayer*. C. Hillman further stated that to discuss this matter in Open Session would be detrimental to the Town's negotiating strategy and to reconvene in Open Session at the conclusion of Executive Session. **By Roll Call:** C. Hillman, aye; J. Livingston, aye; G. Luca, aye. **Motion passed 3-0 by Roll Call Vote.**

Reconvene in Open Session: The BOS reconvened in Open Session at 7:08 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance: BOS members and meeting attendees stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements: None

Review and Approve Agenda:

Motion: A motion was made by J. Livingston and seconded by G. Luca to approve the agenda. **By Roll Call:** C. Hillman, aye; J. Livingston, aye; G. Luca, aye. **Motion passed 3-0 by Roll Call Vote.**

Moment of Silence: C. Hillman asked for a moment of silence in honor and memory of Mr. Peter K. Johnston. Peter was an Ayer volunteer firefighter retiring as a Deputy Chief; served on the Ayer Planning Board for many years; he was a Ayer Boy Scout Troop 3 Leader; worked for the Ayer Post Office; was involved with St. Mary's and many civic and community efforts over the years.

Review of Warrants: J. Livingston stated that she signed the following warrant on behalf of the BOS:

2017-12-12	Accounts Payable	18-10	\$2,062,870.48
2017-12-18	Payroll	18-12	\$326,296.86

Public Input: None

Alicia Hersey, Program Manager, Community Development Office: A. Hersey was in attendance to request the Board's consideration of Lien Subordination Request CASE #05-298E. She stated that the borrower is seeking to obtain a new mortgage to pay off their first and second mortgages to obtain a better interest rate.

Motion: A motion was made by G. Luca and seconded by J. Livingston to approve lien subordination request CASE #05-298E not to exceed \$215,935. **By Roll Call:** C. Hillman, aye; J. Livingston, aye; G. Luca, aye. **Motion passed 3-0 by Roll Call Vote.**

Superintendent Mark Wetzel, Department of Public Works: Town Engineer Dan Van Schalkwyk was in attendance for Superintendent Wetzel.

Execution of the Ayer Dog Park Construction Contract – D. Van Schalkwyk stated that the DPW received nine bids for the Ayer Community Dog Park on Snake Hill Road and the low bidder was RAE Contracting, LLC from Methuen, MA with a bid of \$191,130. The Town received a grant from the Stanton Foundation in the amount of \$172,017 to cover 90% of the project costs.

Motion: A motion was made by J. Livingston and seconded by G. Luca to execute the contract for the Ayer Community Dog Park with RAE Contracting, LLC in the amount of \$191,130. **By Roll Call:** C. Hillman, aye; J. Livingston, aye; G. Luca, aye. **Motion passed 3-0 by Roll Call Vote.**

Adoption of Heavy Commercial Vehicles Exclusion – D. Van Schalkwyk requested that the BOS amend the Town Traffic Regulations and vote to adopt the Columbia Street Heavy Commercial Vehicle Exclusion from Central Ave. to Main St.

Motion: A motion was made by J. Livingston and seconded by G. Luca to adopt the Heavy Commercial Vehicle Exemption (The use and operation of heavy commercial vehicles, having a carrying capacity of more than 2.5 tons on Columbia Street from Central Avenue to Main Street, 24 hours per day, seven days per week). **By Roll Call:** C. Hillman, aye; J. Livingston, aye; G. Luca, aye. **Motion passed 3-0 by Roll Call Vote.**

Chief William A. Murray, Ayer Police Department: Lt. Brian Gill was in attendance for Chief Murray.

Radio Project Update and Request for UDAG Funding - R. Pontbriand explained the request for additional funding for the police department radio project. He is requesting that the BOS authorize the use of \$200,000 in UDAG funding. The project went out to bid and the low bidder's project cost was approximately \$200,000 higher than available project funding. R. Pontbriand is recommending that the UDAG account be replenished at a future town meeting.

Fire Chief Robert Pedrazzi stated that the project doesn't only improve the police communications systems, but it improves fire and DPW's as well.

G. Luca stated that when he first saw the request, he was livid but understands that the project needs to be done.

Motion: A motion was made by G. Luca and seconded by J. Livingston to approve \$200,000 in UDAG funding for the police department radio project and to replenish the UDAG account at the Spring Town Meeting. **By Roll Call:** C. Hillman, aye; J. Livingston, aye; G. Luca, aye. **Motion passed 3-0 by Roll Call Vote.**

Handicapped Parking Violation Fine – Lt. Gill stated that the provisions of G.L. c40, s22A were amended to provide for an increase in handicapped parking violations. Chief Murray are requesting that the BOS raise the fines from \$75 to \$100.

Motion: A motion was made by G. Luca and seconded by J. Livingston to amend the traffic regulations by increasing the handicapped parking violations from \$75 to \$100. **By Roll Call:** C. Hillman, aye; J. Livingston, aye; G. Luca, aye. **Motion passed 3-0 by Roll Call Vote.**

G. Luca ended his remote participation at 7:40 PM

Acceptance of DARE Gift Donation – Mr. John Hillier from Central Ave. Compassionate Care was in attendance to present a donation in the amount of \$6,000 for the Ayer Shirley Regional School District's DARE Program. Lt. Brian Gill and BOS members thanked Mr. Hillier for his contribution.

Motion: A motion was made by J. Livingston and seconded by C. Hillman, with great pleasure, to accept \$6,000 from Central Ave. Compassionate Care for the DARE program. **Motion passed 2-0.**

Alan Manoian, Director of Community & Economic Development: A. Manoian and IT Director Cindy Knox presented the updated and redesigned Economic Development website. Mr. Manoian reported that the website will go live on January 2, 2018.

Town Administrator's Report: R. Pontbriand gave a brief administrative update stating that the government reorganization home rule petitions have been assigned bill numbers at the State House and the Towns of Shirley and Ayer have signed an Inter-Municipal Agreement for dispatch services.

Certification of Unpaid Water Lien Accounts to Board of Assessors – R. Pontbriand requested that the unpaid water lien accounts be certified by the BOS and sent to the Board of Assessors.

Motion: A motion was made by J. Livingston and seconded by C. Hillman to certify the unpaid water lien accounts and to forward to the Board of Assessors. **Motion passed 2-0.**

New Business/Selectmen's Questions: C. Hillman asked if the Administration could look into giving tax incentives to companies that invest on Park Street.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Motion: A motion was made by J. Livingston and seconded by C. Hillman to approve the meeting minutes from December 5, 2017 and December 6, 2017. **Motion passed 2-0.**

Adjournment:

Motion: A motion was made by J. Livingston and seconded by C. Hillman to adjourn at 8:43 PM. **Motion passed 2-0.**

Minutes Recorded and Submitted by Carly M. Antonellis

Date Minutes Approved by BOS: 1-9-18

Signature Indicating Approval: 