

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



Broadcast and Recorded by APAC

Tuesday March 27, 2018
Open Session Meeting Minutes

Present: Christopher R. Hillman, Chair; Jannice L. Livingston, Vice – Chair; Gary J. Luca, Clerk

Robert A. Pontbriand, Town Administrator

Carly M. Antonellis, Assistant to the Town Administrator

Call to Order: C. Hillman called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

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

Review and Approve Agenda: R. Pontbriand stated that there were several amendments to the agenda: the Reserve Fund Transfer for the Accounting Department will be moved to April 3, 2018; the Form-Based Code Presentation by the Economic Development Director will be moved to May 1, 2018; and the DRAFT BOS Minutes from March 20, 2018 will be presented at the April 3, 2018 meeting.

Motion: A motion was made by G. Luca and seconded by J. Livingston to approve the agenda, as amended.

Motion passed 3-0.

Announcements: C. Hillman stated that the FY 2019 Water and Sewer Rate Public Hearing will take place on Tuesday, April 3, 2018 at 7:15pm in the 1st Floor Meeting Room of the Ayer Town Hall as part of that evening's Board of Selectmen Meeting.

Public Input: None

MART Project Update for the Commuter Rail Parking/Access Improvement Project: MART Deputy Director Bruno Fisher and MRPC Transportation Planner George Kahale were in attendance to answer questions from the BOS.

C. Hillman stated that the Town approved the conceptual plan in October and we still don't have the finalized design. B. Fisher stated that when the project was originally discussed, the Depot Square side of the project consisted of only the access corridor. According to the project engineer, Weston and Sampson, the addition of the Advocates Building and further design on Depot Square has caused delay with the project.

C. Hillman then asked if the work on both the Depot Square and the Rail Trail side of the project would happen simultaneously. B. Fisher stated that he thinks most of it can go on at the same time.

C. Hillman asked about the definitive schedule for awarding the bid. B. Fisher stated that the bid should be awarded by July 16, 2018.

Attorney Tom Gibbons, Park Street, asked about the retaining wall at the rear of his property. B. Fisher said he would contact Attorney Gibbons to further discuss.

Chief Robert Pedrazzi, Ayer Fire Department: *Recommendation to Increase the Town's Ambulance Rates* – Chief Pedrazzi stated that the Town has not raised the ambulance rates substantially since 2011. He is recommending that the Board increase the rate to Medicare plus 150%.

Motion: A motion was made by G. Luca and seconded by J. Livingston to set the Town of Ayer's Ambulance Rates to Medicare plus 150% effective immediately. **Motion passed 3-0.**

Mr. Kevin Johnston, Benefits and Payroll Manager: *Approval of Pregnant Workers Fairness Act Policy* – K. Johnston presented the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act Policy, as promulgated by the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination which takes effect on 4/1/18. K. Johnston explained that the presented policy codifies what the Town of Ayer already practices.

Motion: A motion was made by J. Livingston and seconded by G. Luca to approve the Pregnant Works Fairness Act Policy as presented. **Motion passed 3-0.**

Ms. Alicia Hersey, Community Development Program Manager: *Approval of Community Development Grant Extension and Office Budget* – A. Hersey was in attendance to request approval of using Program Income to support the Office of Community Development through August 2018.

Motion: A motion was made by G. Luca and seconded by J. Livingston to approve the extension of \$20,982 in Program Income to support the Office of Community Development through August 2018. **Motion passed 3-0.**

Host Community Agreement with Central Ave Compassionate Care, Inc.: John Hillier, Mark Hillier and Attorney Chris Lilly were in attendance on behalf of Central Ave. Compassionate Care. R. Pontbriand and C. Antonellis presented the DRAFT Host Community Agreement between the Town of Ayer and Central Ave. Compassionate Care. Provisions of the five year agreement include: funding the Youth Works Program (\$30,000.00); funding of additional charities for the benefit of the Town and surrounding communities (\$2,500.00); funding of the DARE program for the Ayer Shirley Regional School District (\$6,500); funding of SAFE (Student Awareness of Fire Safety Education) program (\$1,500); funding of a "Welcome to Ayer" sign in the general vicinity of the Ayer Rotary (\$12,000); collaboration with Town officials to develop the Devenscrest Emergency Housing Rehabilitation Program; hiring preference to residents of the Town.

The BOS and Central Ave. Compassionate Care had a general discussion about Cannabis Control Commission regulations and site requirements. BOS members thanked Mr. Hillier for all the work and commitment he has shown to the Town of Ayer.

Motion: A motion was made by J. Livingston and seconded by G. Luca to approve the Host Community Agreement as presented. **Motion passed 3-0.**

New Business/Selectmen's Questions: G. Luca presented photos of railroad ties being left around Town in proximity to the railroad tracks. G. Luca also asked about staff turnover at APAC, he would like further information.

Executive Session pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, sec. 21(a): A motion was made by G. Luca and seconded by J. Livingston at 8:54 PM to enter into Executive Session pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, sec. 21 (a) Exemption #2 (Non-Union Personnel Negotiations) Fire Chief Contract Renewal and to adjourn at the conclusion of the Executive Session. G. Luca further stated that to discuss these matters in Open Session would be detrimental to the Town's negotiating strategy. **By Roll Call:** C. Hillman, aye; J. Livingston, aye; G. Luca, aye. **Motion passed by Roll Call Vote 3-0.**

Minutes Recorded and Submitted by Carly M. Antonellis

Date Minutes Approved by BOS: 3 APR 18

Signature Indicating Approval: Jamie R. Livingston