

Anna Simmons
BOS 11/19/2019

Many important points were made on November 19th's Board of Selectmen's meeting. First off, Stephanie McGregor, General Manager of the new Alltown Fresh, presents the board with an application for a Victualler's license for the new Global Montello gas station in Ayer. The estimated opening date for this gas station is set to be December 18th. Not only will it be a gas station, but there will also be fresh food, coffee, and an area to sit, eat and relax.

Chief William Murray of the Ayer Police department addressed to board to discuss the change of the policemen's uniform. The major change discussed was transitioning from the standard duty belt worn around the waist to a load bearing vest. The reason for this change is for comfort and safety reasons, as the duty belts create discomfort, especially in the lower back. A powerpoint and video explained the importance of the changes. The video explained the three main curves in the human spine. The curve in the lower back is supposed to be around 50 degrees, and the heavy duty belts were causing this curve to increase, creating discomfort. As Chief Murray explained, the heavy tools in the belt weighed down on the back, and when sitting in the car, the policemen would have to arch their back so they could fit properly into the seat. He also explained how reaching for certain tools required awkward turning, creating further discomfort and potentially long-term back issues. The change to load bearing vests was so that there is easier access to tools, and to prevent any back issues or uneasiness. There will be no cost to the town for the new vests, as policemen are willing to invest themselves, and there will also need to be new training to change muscle memory when policemen have to reach for something that was originally in the duty belt.

Finally, Town Manager Robert A. Ponibriand discusses the concern of the intersection by the Nashoba Valley Fitness center. In the last month, there have been four accidents at this intersection. While it was mentioned to make this a four- way stop, there will instead be a reconfiguration. Similar to the stop sign on Central Avenue near the Nashoba Club restaurant, there will eventually be blinking LED light stop signs to make the intersection safer. The estimated price for the reconstruction is said to be \$35,000. This includes the price of the stop signs and for design and engineering.