

“Designations, Contaminations and Fire Stations”

Ayer Board of Selectmen Meeting

March 20, 2018

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At March 20th's town meeting the Board of Selectmen welcomed Darlene Buelow of Fitchburg, Janet Providakes of Ayer, Matthew Cauley of Shirley, Jennifer Law of Westminster and Kyle Gordon of Ayer to the Ayer Police Force. Chief William A. Murray also spoke on the pay gap between Lieutenants and Sergeants on the force. The Board moved to change this, enacting a pay raise to Lt. Gill of the APD.

The Board also addressed the contamination of Grove Pond Well number eight, which had been taken out of service due to contamination of the water. It has now since been reactivated, with the goal of draining out the contaminants. PFAS, the contaminants, were only detected in small quantities- but have been warned to have an effect on infants and pregnant/nursing women. As of now they will be ready to obtain any papers needed to reveal the source of the contamination (which is also affecting the Macpherson Wells and Spec Pond) and will be posting state-mandated fact sheets on PFAS on the town website.

Additionally, Alan Manoian discussed with the Board the fate of the town's beloved 1934 historic fire station, in the hopes of it being restored to its original architectural integrity. A small committee put together by Mr. Manoian himself carefully reviewed all six of the requests for proposal put forward towards the fire house. The two most outstanding proposals; \$50,000 offered from Calvin Moore of Ayer and \$100,000 offered from Wetherfield LLC of Chelsea MA, were brought before the board. Mr. Moore, who attended the meeting, stated that he is “ready to hit the ground running” if he were granted the deed to the firehouse, and promises to maintain the historic dignity of the firehouse. However, he faced some hesitation from the board, and Mr. Manoian states that “it's not a healthy thing for one of two families to own all of town,” strongly suggesting that it is time to bring new corporations into Ayer to assist in restoration and development. In the end, Mr. Calvin Moore proposal was accepted.