

Wrapping up Business of 2018

Ayer Board of Selectmen Meeting

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Writer: Bryce Valliere, ASRHS Correspondent

The first important matter at this last Board of Selectmen meeting of 2018 was the recognition of four members of the Ayer Fire Department. On March 23, 2018, four firefighters from the town of Ayer rushed into an exploding building to attempt to rescue a victim from inside the building. While the victim unfortunately succumbed to the injuries he sustained, the town of Ayer and the state of Massachusetts are proud to recognize these brave men for risking their lives for the life of another. Massachusetts State Senator Jamie Eldridge represented himself, and Representatives Jennifer Benson and Sheila Harrington in awarding the four firefighters with citations and the Board awarded them certificates on behalf of the town of Ayer. These firefighters also received Medals of Valor from Governor Charlie Baker. Congratulations to Captain Jeremy Januskiewicz, Lieutenant John Bresnahan, Firefighter Brenton Bourne, and Firefighter Tyler Schwabe.

Ayer will be getting new voting tabulators. Nothing was wrong with the old ones, however, these new ones have features that will make the lives of everyone easier. For example, the new machines will not only spit out the ballot if an incomplete or invalid ballot is sensed, but it will also provide the reason why on a small screen on the voting tabulator. This means the voter will know why their vote was not counted without having someone come over and look at their ballot. This increases privacy for voters and makes the process easier for everyone involved. They will be set up in plenty of time for the annual town elections, and there maybe even be enough time for a public viewing of the machines prior to voting. Besides the new features reporting back the issue at hand, the process will be the same on these new machines.

There are a couple of budget adjustments that will be discussed in the upcoming Board of Selectmen meetings. They are somewhat last minute and there is little information regarding them at this time. One of the adjustments is related to the new OSHA requirements, effective February 1, 2019, and the other one is regarding updating some of the computers in town buildings to a new Windows operating system. Another budget discussion will take place regarding the community garden. Most of these will be discussed at either the meeting on January 2nd or January 15th meeting.

Speaking of the meeting dates, there will be a Board of Selectmen meeting on Wednesday, January 2, because Tuesday January 1, is New Year's Day. After that, the meetings will resume on Tuesday nights as usual. There is also the annual town meeting on May 13, and the possibility of a special town meeting on June 10. This date will be confirmed at some point in the next couple meetings.

The Board of Selectmen and the Ayer Shirley Regional High School Reporters hope everyone had a fantastic holiday and we wish everyone well in the new year.