



Town of Ayer

***Ayer Select Board Meeting Highlights from December 1, 2020**

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic and in accordance with Governor Baker's Emergency Order temporarily suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law; Public bodies otherwise governed by the OML are temporarily relieved from the requirement that meetings be held in public places, open and physically accessible to the public, so long as measures are taken to ensure public access to the bodies' deliberation "though adequate, alternative means".

- The Ayer Select Board Meeting called the meeting to order in Open Session at 6:00pm. The meeting was conducted using public remote participation technology which consisted of a live broadcast of the meeting on Channel 8 as well as a live stream on www.ayerpublicaccess.org and by Zoom conferencing technology. The Public was instructed to call in remotely to a teleconference number or via Zoom conferencing technology if they wanted to provide any public input or ask any questions.
- The Select Board (SB) conducted the FY 2021 Tax Classification Public Hearing with the Board of Assessors. The SB voted (3-0) by roll call vote (S. Copeland, Yes; S. Houde, Yes; J. Livingston, Yes) not to approve an Open Space Discount Exemption on recommendation of the Board of Assessors. The SB voted (3-0) by roll call vote (S. Copeland, Yes; S. Houde, Yes; J. Livingston, Yes) not to approve a Residential Exemption on recommendation of the Board of Assessors. The SB voted (3-0) by roll call vote (S. Copeland, Yes; S. Houde, Yes; J. Livingston, Yes) not to approve a Small Commercial Exemption on recommendation of the Board of Assessors.
- The SB voted (3-0) by roll call vote (S. Copeland, Yes; S. Houde, Yes; J. Livingston, Yes) to adopt a CIP Shift Factor of 1.54 and a Resident Shift Factor of 0.746434 for FY 2021 on recommendation of the Board of Assessors. *(Note: This will set the FY 2021 Estimated Tax Rate at \$14.14 for Residential and \$29.17 for CIP).*
- The SB was joined by the Board of Health to conduct a Joint Meeting for a joint appointment to fill a vacancy on the Board of Health. The Joint Meeting interviewed two candidates and voted (5-0) by roll call vote (P. Papineau, Y; P. Peters, Y.; S. Copeland, Yes; S. Houde, Yes; J. Livingston, Yes) to appoint Mr. Steven Slarsky of Ayer to the vacant position on the Board of Health.
- The SB voted (3-0) by roll call vote (S. Copeland, Yes; S. Houde, Yes; J. Livingston, Yes) to approve a change order in the amount of \$76,684 for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade on recommendation of the DPW Superintendent. The SB reviewed and discussed the proposed/draft Out of Town Water and Sewer Connection Policy and the proposed Devens Wastewater Agreement Renewal outline with the DPW Superintendent and took public input as well.
- The SB received an Administrative Update and COVID-19 Preparedness Update from the Town Manager. The SB voted (3-0) by roll call vote (S. Copeland, Yes; S. Houde, Yes; J. Livingston, Yes) to make the following appointments on recommendation of the Town Manager: Ms. Lois Bisson to the Cultural Council for an unexpired term until June 30, 2021; Ms. Marianne Cooper to the Cultural Council for an unexpired term until June 30, 2022; and Ms. Margaret Durand to the Historical Commission for an unexpired term until June 30, 2021.

- The SB voted roll call vote (S. Copeland, Yes; S. Houde, Yes; J. Livingston, Yes) to consent to Town Counsel (KP Law) representing the Town of Ayer in the matter of a proposed intermunicipal agreement with the Town of Westford for the garaging of Ayer's old fire engine.
- The SB voted (3-0) by roll call vote (S. Copeland, Yes; S. Houde, Yes; J. Livingston, Yes) to approve the 2021 License Renewals. The SB voted (3-0) by roll call vote (S. Copeland, Yes; S. Houde, Yes; J. Livingston, Yes) to commit the tax lien for 128 Washington Street as part of the Town's ongoing property enforcement/clean-up of the property.
- The SB agreed to change their December 15, 2020 Select Board Meeting date to Monday, December 21, 2020 at 6pm.
- The SB voted (3-0) by roll call vote (S. Copeland, Yes; S. Houde, Yes; J. Livingston, Yes) to approve the November 2, 2020 meeting minutes.
- The SB voted (3-0) by roll call vote (S. Copeland, Yes; S. Houde, Yes; J. Livingston, Yes) to adjourn the meeting at 8:27pm.

**(Note: The Select Board Meeting Highlights are for public informational purposes only and do not constitute an official record of the Select Board nor do they constitute the official meeting minutes.)*

The next meeting of the Ayer Select Board will be on Monday, December 21, 2020 at 6:00pm