



Town of Ayer

*Ayer Select Board Meeting Highlights from January 19, 2021

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 SB joined by the Chair of the Board of Assessors formally recognized the Assessing Department for their successful completion of the data conversion for the implementation of the Town's new appraisal system.
- The SB received a presentation from the DPW Superintendent on the proposed Street Opening and Driveway/Accessway Permit Regulations. These regulations will be available on the Town's website at www.ayer.ma.us for public review and input. The public should direct any questions/input to the DPW Superintendent at mwetzels@ayer.ma.us or at 978-772-8240. The SB to vote to adopt at a future meeting after the public input period.
- The SB received an update on the Wild and Scenic River Stewardship Committee from Committee Member Ms. Beth Suedmeyer.
- The SB voted (3-0) by roll call vote (S. Copeland, Yes; S. Houde, Yes; J. Livingston, Yes) to approve the Annual Town Election Warrant for the Annual Town Election to take place on Tuesday, May 11, 2021. The SB received an Annual Town Election Update from the Town Clerk. The last day to request nomination papers is Friday, March 19, 2021 at 12pm. The last day to submit nomination papers is Monday, March 22, 2021 at 4pm. For questions or more information regarding the Annual Town Election, please contact the Town Clerk at clerk@ayer.ma.us or at 978-772-8215.
- The SB received an Administrative Update from the Town Manager and a COVID-19 Update on the Town's ongoing COVID-19 preparedness. The Town Manager provided a brief FY 2022 Budget Update and highlighted the first Budget Public Forum to take place on Wednesday, January 27, 2021 at 6pm via Zoom. The Town Manager and Finance Manager discussed the recommendation of increasing the Town's Reserve Fund from \$150,000 to \$300,000 for FY 2022 due to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic.
- The SB voted (3-0) by roll call vote (S. Copeland, Yes; S. Houde, Yes; J. Livingston, Yes) to extend the Family First Corona Relief Act to March 31, 2021 on recommendation of the Benefits and Payroll Manager.

- The SB voted (3-0) by roll call vote (S. Copeland, Yes; S. Houde, Yes; J. Livingston, Yes) to open the Annual Town Meeting Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting to take place on Monday, April 26, 2021 at 7pm in the Auditorium of the Ayer Shirley Regional High School. The deadline for all Warrant Articles and Citizens Petitions will be Friday, April 2, 2021 at 12pm (Noon).
- The SB voted (3-0) by roll call vote (S. Copeland, Yes; S. Houde, Yes; J. Livingston, Yes) to approve the meeting minutes from December 21, 2020.
- The SB voted (3-0) by roll call vote (S. Copeland, Yes; S. Houde, Yes; J. Livingston, Yes) to adjourn the meeting at 7:24pm.

**(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 Tuesday, February 2, 2021 at 6:00pm