



Town of Ayer

***Ayer Select Board Meeting Highlights from March 16, 2021pm**

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 (SB) Meeting was called 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 opened the Public Hearing for the Pole Petition from National Grid and Verizon for Copeland Drive (No. 30324776). Due to unresolved concerns from the DPW Superintendent and a member of the public, the SB voted (3-0) by roll call vote (S. Copeland, Y; S. Houde, Y; J. Livingston Y) to continue the Public Hearing to March 30, 2021 at 6:05pm.
- The SB voted (3-0) by roll call vote (S. Copeland, Y; S. Houde, Y; J. Livingston Y) to approve Lien Subordination Request Case #11-369.
- The SB conducted the Public Hearing for the FY 2022 Water, Sewer and Solid Waste Rates. A detailed presentation was presented by the DPW Superintendent on behalf of the Rate Review Committee. The SB voted (3-0) by roll call vote (S. Copeland, Y; S. Houde, Y; J. Livingston, Y) to approve the following recommendations of the Rate Review Committee as follows:

FY 2022 Water Rates (Effective July 1, 2021):

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>\$ Increase</u>
Step 1	\$2.88	\$2.95	\$0.07
Step 2	\$3.56	\$3.65	\$0.09
Step 3	\$4.22	\$4.33	\$0.11
Conservation Rate	\$4.22	\$4.33	\$0.11

**Current and proposed rate steps increase at 3,000 cubic feet.*

FY 2022 Sewer Rates (Effective July 1, 2021):

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>\$ Increase</u>
Step 1	\$8.16	\$8.57	\$0.41
Step 2	\$9.34	\$9.81	\$0.47
Step 3	\$10.63	\$11.16	\$0.53

**Current and proposed rate steps increase at 3,000 cubic feet. Rate increases supplemented with \$1.8 million of Sewer Retained Earnings.*

To approve the new positions of Assistant Superintendent for Water and Wastewater and Water & Sewer Billing Clerk for approval at Town Meeting.

To increase the pay as you through (PAYT) Bag fees for the Transfer Station by \$1.00 as follows, effective July 1, 2021:

<u>Bag Size:</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed (Effective July 1, 2021)</u>
Small	\$3.00	\$4.00
Medium	\$4.00	\$5.00
Large	\$5.00	\$6.00

- The SB voted (3-0) by roll call vote (S. Copeland, Y; S. Houde, Y; J. Livingston Y) to recommend a Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) Agreement between the Town and Catania Spagna for their expansion project located at 1 Nemco Way. The terms of the TIF Agreement are a 10-year agreement; 58% tax exemption; the Company to conduct a public information forum on the TIF prior to Town Meeting; a presentation to be made at the Town Meeting; and the TIF Agreement is subject to approval of the Town Meeting on April 26, 2021.
- The SB voted (3-0) by roll call vote (S. Copeland, Y; S. Houde, Y; J. Livingston Y) to execute the contract in the amount of \$348,040 to Insituform Technologies for the FY 2021 Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project.
- The SB voted (3-0) by roll call vote (S. Copeland, Y; S. Houde, Y; J. Livingston, Y) to execute the contract in the amount of \$223,301.50 to Cedrone Trucking, Inc. for the Wright Road Water Main Replacement.
- The SB voted (3-0) by roll call vote (S. Copeland, Y; S. Houde, Y; J. Livingston, Y) their intention to layout Trevor Trail within the Riley Jayne Farm Subdivision as a public way and the first step toward road acceptance.
- The SB received an Administrative Update from the Town Manager on the various activities, initiatives, and projects of the Administration since the SB last met on March 2, 2021. The Town Manager provided a COVID-19 Update on the ongoing preparedness measures of the Town. The Town Manager discussed the Town's Reopening Plan with the SB. The Town will be implementing a phased reopening plan consisting of three phases. Phase 1 will commence on April 5, 2021 and will consist of the Town Hall and other Town Buildings being opened to the public by appointment only. An update on the Reopening Plan will be presented to the SB on March 30 and advanced public notification will be implemented prior to April 5. The Town Manager advised that he will be meeting with the Parks Director and the Town will plan to open the Sandy Pond Beach in accordance with all State COVID-19 safety measures for the 2021 Season. Additionally, he will be meeting with the Library and Council on Aging regarding their reopening plans which will also follow a phased in approach. The April 5, 2021 Phase 1 implementation date coincides with most area schools returning to in person learning (including all Ayer-Shirley Schools) on April 5, 2021.

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- The Town Manager provided a FY 2022 Budget Update and an Annual Town Meeting Update which consisted of an overview of the DRAFT Annual Town Meeting Warrant (as of March 12, 2021). The deadline for all Warrant Articles and Citizens Petitions is 12pm Noon on Friday, April 2, 2021. The SB is scheduled to finalize and approve the Annual Town Meeting Warrant at their April 6, 2021 Meeting. Town Meeting will take place on Monday, April 26, 2021 at 7pm in the Auditorium of the Ayer Shirley Regional High School. All COVID-19 safety protocols and measures will be implemented.
- The SB voted (3-0) by roll call vote (S. Copeland, Y; S. Houde, Y; J. Livingston, Y) to approve a Reserve Fund Transfer in the amount of \$23,000 for the General Insurance Account.
- The SB discussed the current vacancy in the Office of Town Moderator and the plan for the Annual Town Meeting on April 26, 2021. The SB agreed that the Town Meeting will elect the Acting Town Moderator for the April 26, 2021 Annual Town Meeting in accordance with the provisions of MGL Chapter 39, Section 14 (the same process followed at the 2020 Fall Special Town Meeting).
- The SB voted (3-0) by roll call vote (S. Copeland; Y; S. Houde, Y; J. Livingston, Y) to approve the Discharge of Statement Claim for 128 Washington Street
- The SB voted (3-0) by roll call vote (S. Copeland, Y; S. Houde, Y; J. Livingston, Y) to approve the meeting minutes from January 27, 2021; February 18, 2021; March 2, 2021; and March 8, 2021.
- The SB voted (3-0) by roll call vote (S. Copeland, Y; S. Houde, Y; J. Livingston, Y) to enter Executive Session pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21A, Exemption #2 (Non-Union Contract Negotiations) for the Treasurer/Tax Collector and DPW Superintendent Contracts and Exemption #3 (Union Contract Negotiations) Police Patrol and Dispatch Contract Update and to adjourn for the evening at the conclusion of the Executive Session.,

**(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, March 30, 2021 at 6:00pm