



Town of Ayer

***Ayer Select Board Meeting Highlights from October 6, 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 was called to order in Open Session at 6:00pm in the First Floor Meeting Room of the Ayer Town Hall 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) received Public Input from Mr. Calvin Moore regarding concerns about parking downtown specifically for businesses. Town Manager's Office to follow up with Mr. Moore.
- The SB publicly honored Fire Chief Robert Pedrazzi and his wife Mrs. Deb Pedrazzi with a special presentation on the Chief's retirement (October 8, 2020) and in recognition of his distinguished 43-year career of dedicated service to the Ayer Fire Department and Town of Ayer.
- The SB voted (3-0) to ratify the appointment by the Town Manager of Deputy Chief Timothy Johnston as the next Ayer Fire Chief effective on October 8, 2020 upon the retirement of Chief Pedrazzi. The Town Clerk officially administered the oath and swore in Deputy Chief Timothy Johnston as Ayer Fire Chief (effective October 8, 2020).
- The SB conducted a public hearing for a pole petition by National Grid for Bligh Street and voted (3-0) to approve the pole petition.
- The SB voted (3-0) to appoint Ms. Sarah Withee to the Affordable Housing Committee. The SB received a presentation on the proposed Ayer Housing Trust from the Affordable Housing Committee.
- The SB voted (3-0) to execute the contract in the amount of \$106,220 to D'Ambrosia, Inc. for the School Street sidewalk construction project. The SB received an update on the Town's water quality with respect to PFAS from the DPW Superintendent. The SB received a presentation on the Spectacle Pond PFAS Treatment Facility funding and warrant article (Article 5) for the Fall Special Town Meeting.
- The SB received and Administrative Update from the Town Manager including a COVID-19 preparedness update.

- The SB reviewed the Fall Special Town Meeting Warrant and voted (3-0) to approve the Fall Special Town Meeting Warrant. *(Note: The Fall Special Town Meeting will take place on October 26, 2020, 7pm in the Auditorium of the Ayer-Shirley Regional High School)*
- The SB discussed the issue of reducing the quorum for the Fall Special Town Meeting due to COVID-19. The SB agreed to schedule a special meeting to discuss reducing the quorum to take place remotely on the Town's Zoom meeting platform on Tuesday, October 20, 2020 at 5:45pm prior to the regular SB Meeting at 6pm.
- The SB reviewed and discussed the updated DRAFT of the FY 2022 Budget Calendar. The SB plans to vote to approve the FY 2022 Budget Calendar at the October 20, 2020 meeting. The SB agreed to reschedule their November 3, 2020 SB Meeting due to the Presidential Election being held that day at Town Hall and rescheduled their first November meeting to Monday, November 2, 2020 at 6pm. The SB voted (3-0) to approve Amendment #6 of the Veterans Services Agreement with MassDevelopment/Devens. The SB discussed extensions for outdoor dining service due to COVID-19.
- The SB publicly recognized Ms. Lauri Fritz, Ayer Assistant Town Clerk for recently completing 30 years of dedicated service to the Town of Ayer.
- The SB publicly recognized Ms. Mary Spinner for her over 40 years of dedicated service and volunteerism to the Town of Ayer on numerous boards and committees.
- The SB received an update from the Rate Review Committee from Select Board Member J. Livingston.
- The SB voted (3-0) to approve the September 15, 2020 meeting minutes.
- The SB voted (3-0) *[Roll Call Vote: S. Copeland, Y; S. Houde, Y; J. Livingston, Y]* at 8:07pm to enter into Executive Session pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21A (Exemption #2 Non-Union Personnel Contract Negotiations for the Fire Chief Contract) and (Exemption #6 To consider the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property for 211 West Main Street) 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, October 20, 2020 at 6:00pm