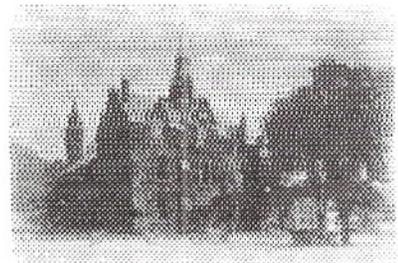


Town of Ayer

Board of Selectmen

Town Hall, First Floor Meeting Room
Ayer Massachusetts, 01432
4-21-09



Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Meeting date: 4-21-09

Present:

Carolyn McCreary, Chairman (Ms. McCreary)	X	Cornelius F. Sullivan, Vice-Chairman (Mr. Sullivan)	X
Richard D. Gilles, Clerk (Mr. Gilles)	X	James Fay, Member (Mr. Fay)	X
Gary J. Luca, Member (Mr. Luca)	X	Shaun Suhoski, Town Administrator (Mr. Suhoski)	X
Janet Lewis, Secretary (Mrs. Lewis)	X		

Meeting Called to order at 7:05p.m. by Chairman McCreary

Public Input-Chairman McCreary requested if there was anyone present wishing to meet with the Board under Public Input. No one stepped forward.

Chairman McCreary announced the following public announcements:

- Clean-up Day in the Town of Ayer, Saturday, April 25, 2009 from 9-12 meet at Depot Sq.
- Town Election -Monday, April 27, 2009 7am-8pm Ayer Town Hall-2nd Floor Great Hall
- Senator Kerry will be conducting Office Hours at the Town Hall on 4-28-09 at 11:am-1st floor meeting room

Chairman McCreary called for a motion to approve the Agenda as presented. Selectman Fay moved the Board approve the Agenda as presented, 2nd by Selectman Gilles, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

Agenda Item #1. Public Hearing Continuation of 4-14-09-Present for the discussion Fin-Com., Lisa Gabree, Finance Manager.

7:15p.m. Selectman Fay moved the Board re-open the Fy-10 Budget Public Hearing of 4-14-09, 2nd by Selectman Gilles, VOTE: unanimous, so moved. Lisa Gabree, Financial Manager presented a Power-point presentation depicting new state aid and revenue projections. Mr. Suhoski ran through his Fy-10 Budget forecast (\$22,104,157 which reflected Fy-10 Omnibus cuts from Fy-09 of \$216,161 prior to 4-10-09 State Ways & Means budget cut which reflects a \$84K shortfall requiring additional reductions. Mr. Suhoski reviewed with the Board his report dated 4-14-09 depicting the Fin-Com options Option A .46% cuts in services to Police & Fire and eliminates funding of Director of Planning & Development through the general fund or in additional wage concessions (.46%) and Option B 1.54% cuts to level services which would replenish the cuts to Fire & Police and retaining one half of the Director of Planning & Developments funding resulting in additional cuts (wage concessions of 1.54% -see attached). Selectman Luca requesting Unions be prepared to present recommendations i.e. stating his concerns taking \$60K from Fire Dept. leaving one shift unfilled and calling for a continuance of Public Hearing to 28th. Selectman Sullivan urging the Board not delay Town Meeting to bring forward a balanced budget by May 11th 2009. Selectman Gilles moved the Board vote to continue the Fy-10 Public Hearing to 4-28-09 at 7p.m., 2nd by Selectman Fay, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

Agenda Item #2. Robert Friedrich-Special Municipal Employee Exemption-The Board met with Bob Friedrich who advised the Board to his request pursuant to GL C268A-Conflict-of Interest Law having two (2) positions in the Town i.e. Plumbing/Gas Inspector, Animal Control Officer and taking out papers for vacant Constable position on Town Ballot 4-27-09. Mr. Friedrich advising to all positions part-time and non-benefited falling under separate departments and not having over lapping responsibilities. Selectman Sullivan moved to approve Mr. Friedrich's request for a Special Municipal Employee Exemption pursuant to GL C 268A-Section 20 Multiple Office Holdings, 2nd by Selectman Luca, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

Agenda Item #3. Margaret Scarsdale, Program Manager-ESCO RFP Update-postponed for later in evening

Agenda Item #4. Police Chief William Murray-The Board met with Chief Murray re Post Office Parking and Signage at Sandy Pond Rd./Snake Hill Rd.

Post Office Parking-Chief Murray advised the Board to investigating parking concerns re commuters monopolizing Central Ave. at the Post Office making it difficult for residents to find parking close to the Post Office. The Chief

viewed options with the Board to address problem i.e. 1. paint designated parking space locations on Columbia St. & Central Ave. 2. time-restrict parking during hours the post office is open from fifteen minutes to maximum of two hours. Discussion held re allocation/designation of spaces, location, commuter parking. Selectman Fay moved the Board vote to designate two fifteen minute parking spaces to be located by the mail boxes on Central Ave on weekdays during the hours the Post Office is open, 2nd by Selectman Luca, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

2. Sandy Pond Road at Snake Hill Road Signage -Chief Murray made the following recommendations re signage in the area of the intersection of Sandy Pond Rd. and Snake Hill Rd.

1. Snake Hill Rd. traveling north at the intersection with Sandy Pond Rd. there is no traffic sign, Chief Murray recommending that a STOP sign be erected to control the flow of traffic. The Board requested the DPW work with the Ayer Police Dept. to make Snake Hill Rd. turn sharper and reviewed Consultant recommending raising road/ build traffic strip to calm traffic. Selectman Fay moved the Board vote to approve the chief's recommendation, 2nd by Selectman Luca, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

2. Chief Murray recommended to change the YIELD sign on Snake Hill Rd. traveling south at the intersection with Sandy Pond be changed to a STOP sign to enhance safety in agreement with MA Highways 2001 recommendation. The Board also addressed YIELD sign covered up with brush needing to be cut back-area cleared, and need for more signage re speed due to recent accidents there. Selectman Luca moved the Board vote to approve Chief Murray's recommendation to change the YIELD sign with a STOP sign, 2nd by Selectman Sullivan, VOTE: unanimous, so moved. The Board agreeing to put out signs for now and work on solution. Chief Murray reviewed historical speeding complaints by residents in area - speed being misconception, having officers go down there on numerous occasions to find speed not issue, heavy traffic volume more the case. The Board reviewed the parking concerns at the beach opting not to place no parking signs on grassy area (swamp) side of Sandy Pond Rd. but rather investigate possible four-way stop to slow traffic in area requesting the Chief consult with Dept. Heads re traffic calming and come back with recommendation. Selectman Luca also reminding Board to no U TURN Signs put up as requested by residents along Sandy Pond Rd. and Snake Hill Rd. re trucks turning there.

Agenda Item #3. Margaret Scarsdale-advising the Board to ESCO RFP being requested to be changed to a RFQ by JODR who felt Town would get a better response/better proposal-Town of Ayer will not be best served with RFP, cost same, same process-detailed ESCO can guarantee cost savings. Selectman Gilles moved the Board vote to rescind previous ESCO RFP and resubmit an ESCO RFQ per the recommendation of Program Manager, 2nd by Selectman Sullivan VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

Agenda Item #5. Supt. Nason's Report-The Board met with Dan Nason.

1. Water & Sewer Permits-The Board approved Water & Sewer Permits for:

46 Westford Road-Sewer Permit, 58-Snake Hill Rd.-Sewer Permit, 66, & 72 Snake Hill Rd. Water & Sewer Permits Motion to approve made by Selectman Gilles and to authorize the Chairman's signature, 2nd by Selectman Luca, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

2. Fire/Burglary Alarms-Supt. Nason updated the Board to working with the Fire Chief re pricing alarms systems for both Grove Pond and Spectacle Pond wells i.e. SCADA systems under the Home Land Security Grant Funds.

3. Trench Permit Update-Supt. Nason updated the Board to clarifying questions from the last Selectmen's Meeting re the Town's trench permit liability; Supt. Nason provided responses from Kopelman & Paige & MIIA. Supt. Nason also provided the Board the new DPW Trench Permit Application implementing a twenty-five dollar (\$25.00) Trench Permit Fee and referring cost back to owner re public safety issues i.e. Police Details.

4. Temporary Highway position-Supt. Nason updated the Board to Luis Ramos still out on injury and requesting the Board's approval to utilize Steven Perrin-temporary utility person. Supt. Nason advising this would bump up Mr. Perrin's hours. Selectman Gilles expressing concerns re "Hiring Freeze"-pay raise issue. Selectman Sullivan also expressing concern that Mr. Ramos not off payroll on Workman's Comp. Supt. Nason to come back with proposal.

5. DPW Work-Plan-Selectman Sullivan requested status of DPW projects i.e. line painting/crosswalks, street sweeping, new signage i.e. dog-doo, side-walks i.e. Groton Harvard Rd., Groton-School road, telephone pole, hydrant repair/cleaning, wetland-private property issues, tracking mileage of roads/pavement management plan, culverts, guardrails, the Board requested Supt. Nason put together cost plan/options and various public safety issues associated with projects.

Agenda Item #6. JBoS

Amendment to Contract between JBoS & MRPC-The Board approved the amendment re the Scope of Services and Budget re providing administrative services (Susan Provencher) to JBoS recognizing that the JBoS awarded \$12,500 (of a total \$102K contract to the MRPC in 2008 for the completion of the tasks contained within Table A) and \$89K remains committed by the JBoS as attached. (see attached). Motion to approve made by Selectman Luca, 2nd by Selectman Sullivan VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

Selectman Fay-Announced the Super Town Meeting to held on June 8, 2009 re Vicksburg Square Zoning Amendments. Selectman Gilles announced response from MADev re Ayer's concerns re Devens' issues requesting response be placed on Town's Web Site.

Selectman Fay advised to 4th Public Information Session held on April 15, 2009 and to be aired on Channel 8 which addressed all of residents questions and concerns. Chairman McCreary called for a motion to approve the Super Town Meeting to be held on 6-8-09 at 7pm at the Ayer High School Auditorium -Washington Street. Selectman moved motion 2nd by Selectman Luca, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

Town Administrator advised to the next JBoS Meeting to be held on Thursday, April 23, 2009 at 7:30p.m. at Devens. Selectman Fay took this opportunity to commend the work of Susan Provencher re JBoS minutes/updates.

Agenda Item #7. Town Administrator's Report-the Board met with Shaun Suhoski

1. Mr. Suhoski presented and reviewed the revised DRAFT of 5-11-09 Spring Town Meeting Warrant, recommending the Board hold off discussion until next meeting on the 28th.

Selectman Gilles challenging Article 17 Capital Stabilization -Fire Dept. Breathing Apparatus \$15K requesting this item be transferred/put back into Omnibus -Fire Dept. line item. Discussion followed re use of stabilization, expiration of equipment/need-necessity. Selectman Fay arguing and urging the Board to reconsider this and not in favor of removing from Capital Stabilization due to safety issue. Selectman Sullivan moved the Board direct the Town Administrator to include the \$15K Fire Dept. Breathing apparatus in the Fy-10 Omnibus Article, 2nd by Selectman Gilles, VOTE:

Selectman Sullivan aye, Selectman Gilles aye, Chairman McCreary aye, Selectman Fay no, Selectman Luca no, 3-2 motion passes. Selectman Gilles advising to Fin-Com having a different approach to Fy-10 budget advising to Fin-Com holding their Public Hearing tomorrow evening at 7p.m. and the Board of Selectmen to attend. The Board reviewed the Draft 5-11-09 Spring Town Meeting Warrant as presented voting to endorse Zoning Articles 21-26 Selectman Sullivan moving motion 2nd by Selectman Luca VOTE: unanimous, Article 29 Citizen's Petition-Establishment of Commission of Public Works the Board requested to release text from Town Counsel to all citizens requesting information. The Board to finalize Fy-10 budget and Town Meeting Warrant on 4-28-09. Motion moved by Selectman Sullivan 2nd by Selectman Fay, VOTE: unanimous, so moved. The Board discussed the printing & mailing of the Town Meeting Warrant post cards vs. warrant actual cost the same. Selectman Gilles requesting Warrant when finalized also be placed on Web Site. Mr. Suhoski advising to Omnibus Article (Articles 3&4) & Zoning Articles (Articles 23-30) i.e. acceptance of Lots Ridgeview Heights lots 109 & 114 coming back again for Town acceptance after failing in 2008 being sent to ZBA for approval for inclusion of 5-11-09 Warrant as well as Zoning Changes/Updates still to be finalized. Warrant must be to printer by end of week for mailing to residents by the 4th of May.

2. Veterans Agent Appointment-The Board re-appointed Manual Velez as Veterans Agent effective 4-1-09 to 6-30-09. Motion made by Selectman Gilles, 2nd by Selectman Sullivan VOTE: unanimous, so moved. The Board to continue discussion re regionalization of Veterans Agent position.

Agenda Item #8. Selectmen's Questions/New Business-

Selectman Gilles moved the Board vote to approve the Open Session Minutes of 4-7-09, Executive Session Minutes of 10-14-08 and 2-11-08, 2nd by Selectman Sullivan VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

Mr. Suhoski advised the Board to receipt of letter from PanAm re start up of construction on 4-18-09 -and Board wishing to send letter to Ford re discouraging construction. Selectman Sullivan urging the Board to be careful re substance of letter re conditions of Consent Degree being violated. Motion to approve letter being sent to Ford Motor Co/PanAm made by Selectman Sullivan, 2nd by Selectman Luca, VOTE unanimous, so moved.

10:00p.m. Selectman Luca moved the Board adjourn the meeting, 2nd by Selectman Sullivan VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

10:00p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Richard Gilles, Clerk-Board of Selectmen