



Town of Ayer  
Ayer Select Board  
Ayer Town Hall – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Meeting Room  
Ayer, MA 01432



*Broadcast and Recorded by APAC*

**Tuesday October 20, 2020 Meeting 2 of 2**  
**Open Session Meeting Minutes**

**SB Present:** Shaun C. Copeland, Chair; Scott A. Houde, Vice-Chair; Jannice L. Livingston, Clerk  
*All Via Remote Participation*

**Also Present:** Robert A. Pontbriand, Town Manager  
Carly M. Antonellis, Assistant Town Manager  
*Both Via Remote Participation*

**Call to Order:** S. Copeland called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

**Remote Access:** S. Copeland stated that pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, MGL Chapter 30A, Section 18 and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Ayer Board of Selectmen is being conducted via remote participation. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort has been made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings as provided in the Order. All votes will be taken by Roll Call.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Select Board members and meeting attendees stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Meeting Agenda:**

**Motion:** A motion was made by J. Livingston and seconded by S. Houde to approve the meeting agenda. **Roll**

**Call:** S. Copeland, aye; S. Houde, aye; J. Livingston, aye. **Motion passed by Roll Call Vote 3-0.**

**Announcements:** J. Livingston asked to recognize the passing of Town Moderator Tommy Horgan. S. Copeland then called for a Moment of Silence.

**Public Input:** None

**Superintendent Mark Wetzel, Department of Public Works:** *Execution of Contract for Groton Shirley Road Utility Improvements* – M. Wetzel explained that there are many dirty water complaints in the Groton Shirley Road area and that this project will help remedy the problem. The Town will also be installing sewer pipes and eventually repaving the road. There were 17 general bids received on October 1, 2020. The low bidder is KJS, LLC from Walpole, MA.

**Motion:** A motion was made by S. Houde and seconded by J. Livingston to execute the contract between the Town of Ayer and KJS, LLC. from Walpole, MA in the amount of \$598,159.25. **Roll Call:** S. Copeland, aye; S. Houde, aye; J. Livingston, aye. **Motion passed by Roll Call Vote 3-0.**

*Execution of Contract for Spectacle Pond PFAS Treatment Facility* – General bids for the Spectacle Pond Water Treatment Plant PFAS Treatment Facilities were opened on September 24, 2020. Winston Builders Corporation

of Westborough, MA is the low bidder at \$5,145,889 and currently completing the Grove Pond PFAS Treatment Facility.

**Motion:** A motion was made by J. Livingston and seconded by S. Houde to execute the contract between the Town of Ayer and Winston Builders Corp. of Westborough, MA in the amount of \$5,145,889. **Roll Call:** S. Copeland, aye; S. Houde, aye; J. Livingston, aye. **Motion passed by Roll Call Vote 3-0.**

David Bodurtha, 28 Coolidge Road asked when the painting would be completed on Washington Street. M. Wetzel advised within the next 10 days.

**Town Manager's Report:** *Administrative Update/Review of Town Warrant(s)* - R. Pontbriand provided the Select Board with an update on the various activities, initiatives, and projects of the Administration since the Select Board last met. He also provided a list of signed Town Warrants in the meeting packet. He reported that the East Main Street reconstruction project was underway. The Capital Directive went out on October 2, 2020 and the new boiler at the Town Hall was recently installed, which was paid for by a grant from the Green Communities Program.

*COVID-19 Update* - R. Pontbriand stated that the Town is now a "yellow" community under the State's classification system. He will be meeting with the Fire Chief to discuss PPE supply and the Town's emergency sheltering plans in the near future.

*Approval of DRAFT FY '22 Budget Calendar* - R. Pontbriand presented the Final Draft of the FY'22 Budget Calendar.

**Motion:** A motion was made by J. Livingston and seconded by S. Houde to approve the calendar as presented. **Roll Call:** S. Copeland, aye; S. Houde, aye; J. Livingston, aye. **Motion passed by Roll Call Vote 3-0.**

*October 26, 2020 Fall Town Meeting Update* - R. Pontbriand stated that the Town is prepared for a successful Town Meeting on Monday evening. R. Pontbriand stated that the Town has contracted with a firm to handle the AV equipment for the overflow room, should it be needed. The live test will happen tomorrow afternoon.

David Bodurtha, 28 Coolidge Road asked about the process of selecting a Moderator for Town Meeting. R. Pontbriand explained that it will be the first order of business on Monday evening and that it will be a nomination process. Sam Goodwin has expressed interest, as he served as Moderator at the last Town Meeting due to the illness of Mr. Horgan.

*Acceptance of Grant - Town Clerk's Office* - R. Pontbriand asked the SB to accept a grant in the amount of \$5,000 from the Center for Tech and Civic Life that was recently awarded to the Town Clerk's Office. The grant assists in fostering safe and secure elections.

**Motion:** A motion was made by J. Livingston and seconded by S. Houde to accept the grant in the amount of \$5,000. **Roll Call:** S. Copeland, aye; S. Houde, aye; J. Livingston, aye. **Motion passed by Roll Call Vote 3-0.**

*Overview of Article 4: West Main Street Property for a New Senior Center* - R. Pontbriand gave a presentation regarding Article 4, which is the authorization to purchase land for a new senior center. He explained the recent feasibility report done by Abacus Architects + Planners. The feasibility report was authorized by the Annual Town Meeting of 2018. Additionally, the 2017 Master Plan identified a new Senior Center as a high priority.

David Bodurtha, 28 Coolidge Road asked why the Town was interested in both parcels. R. Pontbriand stated that the Town is hoping to tear down the existing building on the smaller parcel and build the new center on the larger parcel.

Janet Providakes, 1 Briliana Court asked about the Brook Street property. R. Pontbriand stated that the site was too small to accommodate the total project.

Sara Withee, 11 Groton Shirley Road stated that she had seen the feasibility report and that it was very well done.

**New Business/Selectmen's Questions:** S. Copeland stated that there was a great response on the police forum and he'd like to schedule a similar event to focus on race and diversity.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

**Motion:** A motion was made by S. Houde and seconded by J. Livingston to approve the Meeting Minutes from October 6, 2020. **Roll Call:** S. Copeland, aye; S. Houde, aye; J. Livingston, aye. **Motion passed by Roll Call Vote 3-0.**

**Adjournment:**

**Motion:** A motion was made by J. Livingston and seconded by S. Houde to adjourn at 7:07 PM. **Roll Call:** S. Copeland, aye; S. Houde, aye; J. Livingston, aye. **Motion passed by Roll Call Vote 3-0.**

Minutes Recorded and Submitted by Carly M. Antonellis, Assistant Town Manager

Date Minutes Approved by BOS: \_\_\_\_\_

11/2/2020

Signature Indicating Approval: \_\_\_\_\_

