

TOWN OF AYER SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, March 25, 2014-7:00P.M.
1st Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall, Main Street, Ayer, MA

Chairman Luca called the meeting to order at 7:10p.m. Present: Chairman-Gary J. Luca, Christopher R. Hillman, Vice-Chair, Members: Pauline Conley, Jannice Livingston and Janet Lewis, Secretary. Mr. Pontbriand absent on bereavement leave.

Chairman Luca welcomed back Jim Fay to the meeting for the annual 2013 Board of Selectmen's picture for inclusion in the 2013 Annual Town Report.

Chairman Luca requested if there were amendments to the Agenda. None

Chairman Luca called for a motion to approve the Agenda. Ms. Conley moved the Board vote to approve the Agenda as presented, 2nd by Mr. Hillman VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

Public Input: Chairman Luca requested if there was anyone wishing to speak with the Board under Public Input.

James Fay: Taking this opportunity to thank everyone for all their support and thoughtfulness during his wife's illness advising all to the cards and calls are most appreciated. Mr. Fay took this opportunity to advise the Board to his wishing to remain on the Memorial Garden Committee along with his wife and Janet Lewis who also requesting to stay on the committee Mr. Fay closed with the following "with your continue support we will return to public service soon".

Eagle Scout Presentation-The Board welcomed to the table Eagle Scout Ian Smith. Present for the Meeting, Karen Januskiewicz, Leader of Boy Scout Troop 3, Ayer, MA, and Ian's parents. Chairman Luca read into the record a Certificate of Recognition presented to Ian from the Board of Selectmen congratulating Ian on designating his Eagle Scout Project towards the locating, cleaning and mapping out of Veterans graves and markers at St. Anthony's Parish Cemetery in Shirley, MA. The Board paused for a few minutes to take a picture with Ian and congratulated Ian on electing to perform his project honoring the memory of deceased veterans.

2013 Annual Town Report Cover-Ms. Knox re-presented the Board the four (4) selections for the 2013 Annual Town Report Cover. The Board elected to approve the picture of the Town Hall Granite Sign and requested to change the background color from black to maroon the School colors. Mr. Luca also advised to the 2013 Annual Town Report being dedicated to Wellman Parker former Fire Chief, Wiring Inspector, Emergency Management Director who passed in 2013.

Mr. Hillman took this opportunity to state how impressed he was with the School Building Committee's scope of work/achievement and how much has been done and making quite a difference. Ms. Livingston agreeing adding school built with a lot of love, conducive to a good education. Ms Conley also adding school floors to be cut up and anyone wishing flooring to contact school.

April 28, 2014 Town Election Warrant

The Board reviewed and voted to sign the 4-28-14 Annual Town Election Warrant submitted by the Town Clerk John Canney. Motion to authorize the Board's signature made by Ms. Conley 2nd by Ms. Livingston, VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

Shaker Hills Country Club-Change of Hours Request-The Board met with JoAnn Upton, General Manager of Shaker Hills Country Club. Ms Upton requested an extension to Shaker Hills liquor license serving hours on Sundays and Holidays per MGL Chapter 138 S 33B to allow for serving of alcohol during brunch hours commencing at 10:00am. The Board reviewed the Town's By-law Article 16. Selectman Conley stating the Bylaw states the selling of alcohol beverages specifically states starting at 11:00a.m. on Sundays questioning how the Board can approve a 10:00a.m. start time. The Board offered to take this up at their next meeting if Shaker Hills wishes to re-submit for 11:00a.m. Ms. Upton agreeing to come back on the 1st of April to meet with the Board. The Board to entertain a warrant article on the

May 2014 ATM Warrant to amend language to start at 10:00a.m. on Sundays to allow for Brunch service.

Comprehensive Survey of Ayer Ponds- The Board met with Bill Daniels, Chairman of the Conservation Commission, Jessica Gugino, George Bacon Members. Charles Miller and Don Rzasa from the Pond & Dam Committee. Mr. Daniels opened the discussion by updating the Board to Con-Com soliciting an RFQ for a comprehensive study/biological assessment of Ayers ponds: Sandy, Flannigan, Long Pond, Pine Meadow, Balch & Grove Ponds; advising to the Con-Com selecting Geosyntec's revised proposal on 9-30-13 after meeting with the Dam & Pond Com and Geosyntec on 6-27-13. Mr. Daniels stated the Con-Com & Dam & Pond Com. is currently pursuing CPC funding to fund the comprehensive survey and biological assessment. Mr. Daniel advising to this funding also to be used to Formulate/recommend a long term management and recreation risk assessment for Grove Pond. Mr. Daniels stating this funding would allow the town to preserve and protect open space/natural resources, would serve both open space and recreational interests, would help Town to be able to apply for grants for State assistance, grant funding and other funding available re implementation of projects, and has the support of both the Con-Com and Dam & Pond Committee along with other multiple Town Boards. Mr. Daniels advising to total project cost submitted by Geosyntec is \$83,032.00 to complete the project. Mr. Daniels stating the project is both practical and feasible; the project narrowed, and can be completed in a timely fashion during the targeted months of August and September 2014. Mr. Daniels advising to total funding required to complete the work being \$83,032.00 the Con-Com having 2011 CPC commitment of \$10K, Supt. Wetzel committing \$15K from Storm water Acct., and Con-Com currently before CPC for an additional \$20K reducing the \$83,032.00 by \$45K and before the Board this evening seeking Town funding for the remaining \$38K. Ms. Conley suggesting to support Con-Com's request for \$40K from Free Cash and back up article with UDAG Funds should article fail, 2nd by Mr. Hillman, VOTE: unanimous, so moved. Ms. Conley amending motion to include language the Board supports adding article on Annual Spring Town Meeting to request funding for Dam & Pond Committee to fund Geosyntec's Comprehensive Study/Biological Assessment of Ayer ponds.

Town Administrator's Report-

1. Council on Aging Appointment-The Board approved the recommendation from Sr. Paula McCrea, Chairman of the COA to appoint Lisa White to the COA to fill the unexpired term of Priscilla Hottel's three year term 3-25-14-to 6-30-16. Motion made by Ms. Conley, 2nd by Mr. Hillman.
2. Old Fire Station RFP - Mr. Hillman recused himself from participating in the review/selection process re the Old Fire Station due to his professional association with one of the bidders. Ms. Conley requesting to meet with the two bidders after the Board completes their evaluation, new evaluation sheets were distributed to the Board, and requesting to schedule them in for the Board's 4-1-14 meeting.
3. Public Hearing -FY-2015 Water/Sewer Rates- The Board approved Mr. Pontbriand's recommendation and scheduled the Fy-15 Water/Sewer Rates Public Hearing for Tuesday, April 15, 2014 at 7:00p.m. on the Selectmen's Agenda. Motion made by Ms. Conley 2nd by Ms. Livingston VOTE: unanimous, so moved.
4. Public Hearing Fy-2015 Budget-The Board approved Mr. Pontbriand's request to conduct a Public Hearing on Tuesday, April 22, 2014 at 7:00pm regarding the Fy-2015 Budget. Motion made by Ms. Conley 2nd by Ms Livingston, VOTE: unanimous, so moved. The Fin-Com to be in attendance to present their recommendations and Personnel Board to be present regarding recommended COLA.
5. Town Hall Window Replacement Proposal-The Board reviewed the Energy Com's Capital Budget Window Study/Analysis recommendation for replacing the windows (specially made) at Town Hall submitted by Dan Sherman at a cost of \$159,618.00. The Board requested Fin-Com weigh in on with their recommendation re funding options i.e. funding from Free Cash and/or other funding source/s.

Ms. Conley suggesting partially funding at ATM and finish on FTM urging Board to keep this project on line.

6. Town Meeting Warrant- The Board reviewed Draft #2 dated 3-20-14 which included input from Bi-Board. The Board agreed to support the use of Free Cash re the items discussed at Bi-Board 3-20-14 meeting.

JBOS Update- Chairman Luca advised to nothing new to report on -next meeting 3-27-14. Ms. Conley requesting if Grant Road id next development site and why clear cutting is going on at the airport i.e. Bishop Rd. end of Shirley Farm Road/RR behind airport. Chairman Luca unable to answer but will bring up at the next JBOS Mtg. on 27th.

Selectmen's Questions/New Business-Sandy Pond Truck Traffic

Mr.Hillman urging the Board stay on top of this issue-advising to recent observance of a truck coming off the bridge in excessive speed questioning if he would have been able to stop if there was pedestrian in the crosswalk. The Board discussed means to address i.e. traffic count, placement of large speed bumps, and use of police video surveillance at intersection. Mr. Hillman urging again to stay on top of and have town Administrator speak with Chief.

Business Certificates-

Ms Livingston questioning why it is taking so long to get new increase into effect, Board approved new rate months ago, requesting also to stay on top of this issue.

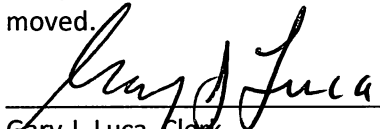
Building Dept.- Mr. Hillman stating his frustration with this staffing issue going on for over a year.

Funding was approved for hiring assistance at a higher rate and funding approved at \$36,107 and to hire person.

Minutes- Ms Livingston moved to approve the Minutes of 1-21-14, 2nd by Mr. Hillman Vote unanimous, moved. Ms. Livingston moved to approve the Minutes of 2-4-14, 2nd by Mr. Hillman VOTE: unanimous, so moved. Ms. Livingston moved to approve the Minutes of 2-18-14, 2nd by Mr. Hillman VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

Ms. Livingston requested to bring back Willow Development on 4-1-14 Selectmen's Agenda.

8:45p.m. Ms. Livingston moved to adjourn the meeting, 2nd by Mr. Hillman VOTE: unanimous, so moved.

 _____ Date: May 21, 2014
Gary J. Luca, Clerk
AYER BOARD OF SELECTMEN