October 4, 2021

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TOWN OF LUDLOW

Meeting of the Finance Committee held on Monday, October 4, 2021, beginning at 7:05 p.m. in the High School Cafeteria, prior to the Special Town Meeting.

Members present: Eric Gregoire, Chairman, Anthony Alves, Joan Cavallo, Richard Moskal, Beverly Tokarz

Members excused: Maureen Downing, Susanne Boyea, Nicole Parker and Christopher Ganhao

Kimberly Collins was also present

Mr. Gregoire stated that there are three Articles to vote on. Two Articles were held over from the last meeting and one Article 1 has additional changes.

Mr. Gregoire asked for a vote to reconsider a motion on Article 1, Unpaid Bills, and then vote to reapprove the Article with the new figure.

Mr. Alves wanted to know the reason for the late bill from the Board of Health. Could be when the bills were received in the department, the COVID issue when the Town Hall was closed, etc. The two new bills are re: Perk Tests. The department use to provided perk testing, now they don't. The bills are going into a Revolving Fund at the Board of Health. Ms. Collins said the department waited so long to pay the bills that the Revolving Fund that they want to pay them out of has a limit of $4,000. If they had paid them when they were due, they would have been able to pay them at $4,000 a year, now they can't go back and pay that much, so they have to go to Town Meeting.

Car 48 – The police buy their cars from their Budget. It money doesn't come from an Article. They only turned in one vehicle. $14,284.59

Moved by Mr. Alves, seconded by Mr. Moskal to reconsider our previous recommendation.
Vote: 5-0 in favor

Moved by Mr. Alves, seconded by Ms. Cavallo to approve Article 1 as amended for a total of $14,284.59
Vote: 5-0 in favor

Article 18: New Section of the Conservation Bylaw.

Mr. Gregoire stated that it's a new bylaw. When meeting with the Planning Board, It was the first time reviewing the context. The committee wanted more time to review it. The concern with Mr. Gregoire is that it's new. There is nothing on the face of it that is concerning. This bylaw would make it more difficult to do new developments coming into Town on the residential side for new growth. The concept of it is good. We value having open space. New developments would abide by this Bylaw. Mr. Alves said there's a section on waivers. He feels that area is broad and lacks flexibility in that area. It's not a ridged standard. It wasn't developed internally within the Town. It was worked in coordination with the Regional Planning Authority.

Moved by Mr. Alves, seconded by Ms. Cavallo to approve Article 18
Vote: 5-0 in favor

Article 19: Mobile Homes

Mr. Gregoire said that there was an amendment that was drafted and Town Counsel approved it. The Planning Board approved to amend the wording in the new section replacing it to adjust the part D Section around the storage of vehicles.

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Moved by Mr. Alves, seconded by Ms. Cavallo to approve Article 19
Vote: 5-0 in favor

Ms. Collins asked if the committee had a request to adjust the Revolving Fund from the DPW for the purple bags. There will be a request to do so at the October meeting. Under the law there is allowance for the Selectmen and Finance Committee to increase the Revolving Fund so that the DPW can meet their orders for the bags and anything else that comes out of the fund.

Ms. Cavallo asked about the second set of bills from the DPW re: the trash pickup. FY'21 bills were sent out. Ms. Collins said the second set of bills should be sent out in January. Last year the DPW planned to send them out in October, but because of COVID they extended the billing to October. There was a billing issue and bills didn't go out until June 1st. Now the plan is to send the bills out on January 1st. for FY'22. Once it's billed out of the system, the bills will go out on July 1st every year. The DPW sent out bills in the amount of $750,000. They haven't collected $145,000. Before the DPW shuts them off, they wanted to send out something to remind those people that didn't pay their bill, to pay it. Ms. Collins said she believes there will also be a letter that goes out as a reminder and then if people don't pay, their trash pick-up will be shut off. There was more conversation relative to the trash pick-up and billing.

Moved by Mr. Alves, seconded by Ms. Cavallo to adjourn the Finance Committee Meeting at 7:21 p.m.
Vote: 5-0 in favor

Ludlow Finance Committee