May 4, 2022

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2022 AUG -1 P 12:48
TOWN OF LUDLOW

Meeting of the Finance Committee held on Wednesday, May 4, 2022, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Conference Room, Town Hall.

Members present: Maureen Downing, Chairman, Joan Cavallo, Richard Moskal, Matt Goncalves and Beverly Tokarz

Members excused: Susanne Boyea

Ms. Kim Collins and Mr. Marc Strange were also present

First Order of Business: The Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Downing took a minute to send our good wishes to the people in the Ukraine. These poor people have to endure horrible situations, she stated. We don't appreciate our freedom and safety. She wished them well.

At this time the committee discussed the budget. Ms. Collins provided new spread sheets to follow. There were changes since the last meeting. At that last meeting the committee voted on a final budget number. That number has changed. There was more Chapter 90 money issued and only cuts to the Building Inspectors budget will be made, for the part-time employee and $10,000 from one of the line items. The committee will need to rescind the vote taken on March 30, 2022. Mr. Strange explained the trash bids. The bid for next year was $360,000 over budget. The Selectmen had to fund the gap. They decided to take $50,000 from the recycling budget for DPW. There is an excess of $50,000. The remainder will be taken out of Free Cash, $288,912. That money was added in to the Public Works line item. The new total for DPW is $3,955,066. There is also a line item on the revenue side for Free Cash $288,912. The Free Cash going forward will be $844,565 that will remain in Free Cash and roll over to next year. A million dollars will be added to the Stabilization Fund. The positions that were not cut would be the Grant Writer and $30,000 from DPW. The new numbers on the spread sheet include the Grant Writer the DPW increase and the trash increase.

Moved by Ms. Cavallo, seconded by Mr. Moskal to rescind the vote that was taken on March 30, 2022 regarding the budget.
Vote: 5-0 in favor

Moved by Mr. Moskal, second by Ms. Cavallo to accept and approve the budget as presented by Ms. Collins as the final budget. ($77,485,733 total Town Budget including the Enterprise Funds and receipts reserved for appropriation for the Cable Fund).
Vote: 5-0 in favor

Ms. Downing said this will go forward to the Selectmen stating that the committee concurs with the budget as written.

Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles:

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash sufficient funds to cover the additional overtime expenses incurred by the Police Department.

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The amount is $120,000 for Police Overtime.

2022 AUG 4 P 12:16
TOWN OF LUDLOW

Moved by Ms. Cavallo, seconded by Mr. Moskal to approve Article 2 in the Special Town Meeting Warrant in the amount of $120,000 for Police Overtime expenses.
Vote: 5-0 in favor

Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles:

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will establish expenditure limits on the revolving funds as follows: CPR Training, $5,000; On=site Sewage System, $0; Vaccine, $20,000; Consultants, $50,000; Wetlands, $80,000; Purple Bags, $55,000 which include the recycle bins; Dog Park, $5,000.

Moved by Ms. Cavallo, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to approve Article 4 in the amount indicated.
Vote: 5-0 in favor

ARTICLE 5: To raise and appropriate transfer available sums of money not to exceed $5,000 to be expended by the Celebrate Ludlow Committee.

The $5,000 was agreed upon by the Board of Selectmen

Moved by Mr. Moskal, seconded by Ms. Cavallo to approve Article 5 in the amount of $5,000.
Vote: 5-0 in favor

Information was provided for the Zoning Bylaws changes as requested in order for the committee to understand the Articles.

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town to amend the Zoning Bylaws by changing from Agriculture to Residence A, a parcel of land owned by VDS Properties, LLC, located at 0 &694 Chapin Street, Assessors Map11D Parcel 97, Assessors Map 16B, Parcel 1-1 as described in the Warrant.

The Planning Board voted 6-0 to approve Article 13. The abutters didn't seem to object.

Moved by Ms. Cavallo, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to approve Article 13 as written.
Vote: 5-0 in favor

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaws by extending the existing portion of the Agriculture Moderate Density Overlay District over the entire parcel, on a parcel of land owned by Joe Alves, located at 279 Cady Street. Assessors Map 1B, Parcel 5A as described in the Warrant.

Ms. Cavallo asked if there were high tension wires on the property. Building cannot be done under high tension wires.

Moved by Ms. Cavallo, seconded by Mr. Moskal to approve Article 14 as written
Vote: 4-0-1 in favor. Mr. Goncalves abstained.

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaws by changing from Residence B to Business B, a parcel of land owned by Jorge S. and Kim S. Laires, located at 244 Hubbard Street. Assessors Map 14B, Parcel 41 as described in the Warrant.

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2023 AUG 14 P 12:48
TOWN OF LUDLOW

Moved by Mr. Moskal, seconded by Ms. Cavallo to approve Article 15 as submitted.
Vote: 5-0 in favor

ARTICLE 3: Budget

Ms. Downing said the total of the Budget is $77,485,733. This is the number that the committee will be voting on. Mr. Strange does not foresee any changes

Moved by Ms. Cavallo, seconded by Mr. Moskal to approve the Budget, Article 3 in the amount of $77,485,733.
Vote: 5-0 in favor

Ms. Downing said that if there are no changes, the committee will not need to meet prior to Town Meeting. If there are any changes, Ms. Tokarz will email the members. Town Meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. She would like members to arrive at 7:20 p.m. Ms. Tokarz will cancel the meeting. The next meeting is usually the third Wednesday of the month. If there are no transfers or business the meeting will be cancelled. A meeting will be scheduled in June, because of Interdepartmental Transfers. There are usually no meetings in July and August.

A letter was received from Ms. Tokarz, resigning from the committee. Ms. Downing read the letter as follows:

Dear Mr. Szlosek:

Please accept this letter as formal notification of my decision not to seek re-appointment as the secretary and member of the Finance Committee. My final day serving in this position will be June 30, 2022. My tenure on the committee was very rewarding. I was fortunate enough to sit alongside very knowledgeable individuals who always had the best interest of the Town at heart. I will miss the interaction with the committee, but feel that I cannot make the commitment that is necessary to best serve the Town in this capacity. I wish you all well. Sincerely, Beverly C. Tokarz

Ms. Downing had very kind words to say and thanked her for her service.

Moved by Ms. Cavallo, seconded by Mr. Moskal to approve and sign the Finance Committee Minutes of April 20, 2022 as written.
Vote: 4-0-1 in favor. Mr. Goncalves abstained

Moved by Ms. Cavallo, seconded by Mr. Moskal to adjourn the Finance Committee Meeting at 6:35 p.m. Vote: 5-0 in favor.

Ludlow Finance Committee