

The Meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on Tuesday, July 23, 2024, began at 5:30 p.m. in the Board of Selectmen's Conference Room at the Town Hall.

Members Present: Derek DeBarge, Manuel Silva, James Gennette, Antonio Goncalves and William Rosenblum

Members Absent:

First Order of Business: The Pledge of Allegiance

## VISITATIONS

5:35 p.m. Family of Helen Garrow

Mr. DeBarge: We have a special visitation tonight. We have one item tonight and that is to honor a trailblazer in our Town, Ms. Helen Garrow, who as I said was an incredible trailblazer, a leader, wife, mom, grandmother, friend, everything. I got to know her through being hired here and the stories of this incredible woman go from one end of Town to the other. As a Ludlow icon, someone who has been honored by everyone here. Most importantly, for everyone here I was thinking about what I would say, nervous about the crowd, and I started thinking about our employees here. Helen was on the Board when I was hired and the Police Department. I have said a number of times that she helped calm me down because I was so nervous interviewing, as you can see I am now. In the interview for the Police Department, I was much worse. I was able to focus on Mrs. Garrow and her smile and calm down. She had that way when I was around her and when I talked to her. I think you can see by our make-up in Town Hall, departments specifically on Helen's legacy, not only Jenny Tyburski's legacy, Claudia Chimpa's legacy and Helen's legacy. You see that in Ellie Villano, Admin Assistant to Town Administrator for many years and did a fantastic job running this Town. We have Carrie Ribeiro who is our HR Director and Assistant Town Administrator, Lisa Halpin who is the Assistant HR Director, our Board of Health Paulina, Jodi Zepke the Director of our Senior Center. Debbie at the Senior Center has been public outreach since I've been in Town. We have a new Department Head, Brenda, Treasurer/Collector's office, a new Department Head, Brenda, Building Inspector. In Accounting we hired another female named Cheryl. My point is, when you see somebody that starts something you start to see people follow. It's very apparent to see in this Town. The Board of Selectmen may be 5 gentlemen but we also appointed Linda Collette as the Director of the 250<sup>th</sup> Committee, Marissa Ribeiro Dahan as the Chair of our Charter Committee. Leadership is a great thing and it knows no gender. In Ludlow we have some fantastic women in leadership. Dolly Cincone has been in a leadership position in this Town for as long as I've been here. Betty and Bev. It's an incredible thing and it's got to start somewhere. It starts with great women who said it doesn't take a man to do everything. We've reached out to a few members of the Board of Selectmen that Mrs. Garrow sat with and asked if anybody had anything they would like to say. Before we do that, Jake and Aaron have an adjournment that in June Jake stood up in front of the State House and read a formal adjournment for Mrs. Garrow. I think it's appropriate that we read that here as we were not able to be in the State House.

Mr. Gennette: The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Journal of the Senate. Adjournment in memory of Helen Garrow. The Senator from Hampden, Hampden and Worcester, Mr. Oliveira, moves that when the Senate adjourns today it do so in honor of Helen Garrow. I rise today to honor the life and legacy of an extraordinary woman, Helen Garrow, who passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family on May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at the age of 93. Helen's life was a testament to dedication of service and community spirit. Her contributions to Ludlow and beyond will be cherished and remembered by all who knew her. Born in Irvington, NY, Helen was the beloved daughter of John & Ada Marcella. Helen broke the barriers and paved the way for future generations through a distinguished career in public service, often in roles traditionally held by men. She served as the Treasurer for the Town of Ludlow for 12 years retiring in 2000 and held several significant positions prior including Executive Director of Ludlow Housing Authority, Secretary of the Safety and Finance Committees and 2 terms on the Board of Selectmen including 1 year as Chairperson. Helen's dedication to public service and commitment in improving her community were unparalleled. She was a member of the Ludlow Democratic Town Committee, President and Board Member of Western Mass Eldercare for nearly 2 decades and an active participant in various non-profit boards and committees throughout her life. A devout communicant, Helen was actively involved in her parishes, first at St. Mary's of the Assumption and later St. Elizabeth where she led the Finance Committee and sang in the choir. She was a

founding member of the Ludlow Mother's Club and Ludlow Red Hat Society. Helen's home was a hub of warmth and generosity. She was famous for her annual tradition of hosting the Amherst College Men's Hockey team providing an environment filled with food, laughter and comradery. Her home will always be open to families in need, stray animals and friends seeking comfort. And her vibrant garden reflecting her love for nurturing. Helen cherished her family and loved being surrounded by them. She loved to play board games loudly. She enjoyed cheering on her kid's sports teams and their concerts. She loved burying her toes in the warm sands of Cape Cod, trips to Europe with her daughter and floating in her pool with noodles to avoid getting her head wet. She is survived by her devoted husband of 66 years, David Garrow, her sons Steven and Jeffrey, her daughter Lisa, her daughter-in-law Rena and son-in-law Patrick. Helen also leaves behind her brother Louis Marcella, sister Joanne Mason, her 4 grandchildren Alexander and Sophia Garrow, Marissa and Jeffrey Halpin and many nieces and nephews. Helen Garrow's legacy of service, love and community spirit will be remembered and celebrated forever. She was a pillar of strength and an inspiration to all who knew her. May her memory be a blessing. Accordingly, as a mark of respect to the memory of Helen Garrow, at 9 minutes before 12:00 midnight, the Senate will meet Monday next at 11:00 a.m. Thursday, June 27, 2024.

Mr. DeBarge: I also reached out to John DeBarge who sat on the Board with Helen. He unfortunately couldn't be here but he sent me something he wrote and Selectman Rosenblum is going to read that.

Mr. Rosenblum: First off, I'm sorry I can't personally deliver this message. I had the distinct privilege of working with Helen on numerous causes, both personal and professional. I'm sure many here will be discussing the personal aspect of Helen so my comments will focus on the professional. My first professional in-depth interaction with Helen was as Town Treasurer and concerned the financial package to provide for the Ludlow Community Center. Over numerous meetings she consistently demonstrated acute knowledge of town finances and the ability to pay for the project. Her knowledge of numbers was spot on and together we managed to complete the project within the allocated budget, a trait I wish my wife would learn. Thereafter, I had the distinct honor of serving with Helen on the Board of Selectmen where she was both an elected member then chairperson. Helen had a strong personality and no fear of advocating for her position on numerous issues. I would be remiss if I said there weren't times we had a difference of opinion on certain matters and despite that Helen listened, challenged my opinion and usually won out. Never did we leave a meeting where we didn't feel we advocated for what we thought was best for the Town. Most importantly, when every meeting ended we not only left as colleagues but as friends. The thing I miss most now is that I don't get to run into Helen at Randall's or Big Y and discuss our opinions of the current Board of Selectmen and their issues. I have no doubt that Helen has organized the angels into a committee and is striking the gavel calling the meeting to order. Madam Chairperson, the floor is yours. John DeBarge.

Mr. DeBarge: There are also some in attendance that would like to say a few words.

Ms. Cincone: Helen Garrow left us in May 2024 and I'm sure you all read the various printed histories of her achievements and life so I won't review her accomplishments and achievements. She was a wonderful, strong woman of conviction with an interesting sense of humor. She served well in whatever group she was part of and personally was an inspiration when I served and continued to serve the Town of Ludlow. Let her be remembered and be an inspiration to us all.

Mr. Pszeniczny: In my time in public service, I had the opportunity to work with 3 very talented and committed managers. Betty Socha, Jim Saloio and Helen Garrow. During that period with their guidance, we were able to accomplish some remarkable achievements. Improvements and additions to the high school and middle school. A new community athletic field, new community Boys & Girl's Club, new beach house to Haviland Beach, retrofitting all the playgrounds in the community, installing a high-pressure water line to East Street, which was important because the residents at that point in time were not able to get insurance for their homes or businesses. Building a transfer station, sewer and drain storage from the Chicopee River, establish the Veterans Memorial, undertook East Street improvements, passed a community wide smoking ban. Not only did we have to convince the community but when I was Chairman of the Board I was an avid smoker. Introduced computerization to the Town of Ludlow. Created the first 4-legged policeman. Established the first Senior Abatement Program. Without a doubt, these accomplishments would never have been achieved without these 3 individuals; however, my rapport with Helen was somewhat unique. She was Treasurer while I was Chairman of the Finance Committee. Later she

became a colleague of mine on the Board of Selectmen. We shared a common bond as parishioners of both St. Mary's and St. Elizabeth. At St. Mary's we often found prayerful song together but more importantly we championed the merger of the 2 parishes into the new faith community now. Through the years I found behind her exterior was a warm and caring person. This was no more evidenced when my mother passed away and all of her arrangements took place in North Adams. She felt it so important that she share her condolences with me and my family that she persuaded the Chief of Police and a Town representative to take her to North Adams in order to take part in the services on my behalf. Of all that we were able to do together publicly, it is that one moment, one private gesture, which I will always carry with me about Helen. She was a person certainly in her own right.

Mr. DeBarge: Before we get into any comments from our Board, I'd like to give anybody here to make any comments should you like to.

Mr. Pereira: I had the pleasure of working with Helen the 12 years that she was the Town Treasurer. We had the opportunity to go to many conferences and most of the time we talked sports but once and a while we'd speak about work. She always had the best interest of the Town in mind whenever she made a decision. She was very involved and loved the Town of Ludlow. I'm glad to be here and I thank the Board for inviting me.

Mr. Mahoney: In my time working with Helen, both as Treasurer and member of the Board of Selectmen she was a fantastic person to work with. I have to say that she was all class. About 20 years ago in my attempt to get my 3<sup>rd</sup> term in the Board of Selectmen and I was shy by about 40 votes, it was a rough night. At about 8:30-9:00 Dave and Helen came to my house and chatted with me for a few minutes to say they were sorry it turned out that way and to thank me for my service to the Town and I never forgot that. They were both extremely classy and I appreciated the sentiment at the time. She was great and is missed by all of us.

Mr. Saunders: It's a pleasure to be back in this room. When I decided to run for the Board of Selectmen at the turn of the century, Helen Garrow was one of the first calls I made having met her first being part of the local government partnership at Ludlow High School in the late 90's. Mr. Pszeniczny touched on an incredible list of achievements and in a number of ways she served as a role model not only for me but for a number of members I got to serve with and everyone who came after. Earlier this year the House held a moment of silence in honor of Helen. You may notice we're a little briefer in the Senate but I'd still like to read the particulars. There was a moment of silence tribute offered Wednesday June 26 in the Chamber of the House as requested of Representative Saunders of Belchertown. The members, guests and employees stood in a moment of silent tribute in memory of Helen M. Garrow, 93, of Ludlow, who passed away peacefully on Monday, May 13, 2024, surrounded by her loving family. Mrs. Garrow was a beloved member of the community and left behind a legacy as pioneer of public service. Helen built her career in public service positions previously dominated by men, all while navigating the challenges of raising a family. Helen served as the Treasurer of the Town of Ludlow until 2000. Prior to that Helen served as Executive Director of Ludlow Housing Authority, Secretary of the Ludlow Safety and Finance Committees and 2 terms on the Ludlow Board of Selectmen with one year as Chair. Helen also served as Board member and President of Western Mass Eldercare for upwards of 20 years. Helen is survived by her devoted husband of 66 years David, her sons Steven and Jeffrey, daughter Lisa and 4 grandchildren. We were in session the day of the service and it didn't have the opportunity to offer my condolences in person and today I'd like to let you know not only on behalf of the House but me personally, Helen was an incredible woman and will leave a mark on this Town for years to come.

Mr. Goncalves: One thing I remember about Helen, it was the first time I ever held a sign for a candidate in a local election. I'm not sure how I got there, if it was Representative Petrolati, but I got to meet her and Lisa and she was a sweet lady. We need more like her in Town. It was a great career. Not a lot of people have that type of resume.

Mr. Silva: I knew Helen for quite a while, not political. I knew her as a mother. She was awesome. She was a lot of fun. I don't think I ever sat with her where Helen didn't laugh. She had a great laugh, great sense of humor. I enjoyed her. It's a shame we don't have many more of her. I congratulate the family and her for the nice kids she has. Condolences as well.

Mr. Rosenblum: I don't think there's anything I could say that could do her justice. I don't think I met Mrs. Garrow. I like the part about hockey. I played forever and I have a 13-year-old daughter that's a hockey goalie. If I ever had the chance to sit down with her I'm sure it would have been a great conversation. To have a room filled like this it's an obvious tribute to the woman she was. Condolences to the family and a life well lived.

Mr. Gennette: I was out of Town as well and I'm really sorry for your loss. I didn't know Helen like the rest of the room knew Helen. I've had interactions with Lisa and if Lisa is any indication of what your wife was like then God Bless her. Lisa has been absolutely wonderful as well. I'm really very sorry for your loss and I'm really glad we are able to do something here for you today.

Mr. DeBarge: Before our final step on this visitation, Mr. Garrow, Lisa, Steven, Jeff, Pat, is there anything you'd like to say?

Mr. Garrow: It was all taken care of. She was a very nice lady. She would have been overwhelmed. She never looked for attention. We've never seen her angry except at a Selectmen's meeting. She did get angry with Larry Nascimento.

Mr. Garrow: I enjoyed hearing some of the stories that I didn't know that she had done certain things because she didn't brag about what she did. She didn't tell you what she did, she just did it. It was my heart to hear more things she did and what a great woman she was.

Mr. Garrow: Thank you to the Board to pull this together like this. We appreciate it. It means a lot to us; it would have meant a lot to her. To everyone who spoke and showed up, I appreciate it very much.

Ms. Halpin: Thank you everyone.

Mr. DeBarge: Thank you. Our Fire Chief is here, Lt. Mike Brennan is here representing the Police Department and everybody that came to honor Helen. Thank you. As you can tell, some of you haven't been here for a while, we've been renovating. We painted the hallway, painted the conference room, and one of the things we've been thinking of is how are we going to redecorate. One thing we all wanted to do before we start with pictures is Dave Sady does the drone pictures. We want to put some of those up here. As a first picture we wanted to honor Helen. This plaque has all the positions and all the great things that Helen held in Town and I think it's a great start to decorating the Board Room.

Mr. Gennette: I would like to add Mr. DeBarge is the one that put all this together and did all of this. Kudos to you, Derek. Great job.

Mr. DeBarge: Thanks.

## CORRESPONDENCE

269. Susanne Boyea, Resident – Request to be appointed as a Democratic Poll Worker

**Motion made by Mr. Gennette** to approve Susanne Boyea to be a Democratic poll worker. **Mr. Goncalves second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

270. Fred Nowak, Resident – Request to be appointed as a Republican Poll Worker

**Motion made by Mr. Goncalves** to appoint Fred Nowak as a Republican poll worker. **Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

271. Scott "Gutter" – Bikers Against Child Abuse – Requesting permission from the Board for a fundraiser motorcycle run "Run Like an Animal" to be held on Saturday, September 14, 2024, beginning at 11:00 a.m. to benefit the TJ O'Connor Animal Shelter.

**Motion made by Mr. Silva** to approve the request for "Run Like an Animal" to be held on Saturday, September 14, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. to benefit the TJ O'Connor Animal Shelter as long as the Police Department is all in and has looked at the route. **Mr. Gennette second.**

Mr. Gennette: Just so you know, “Run Like an Animal” motorcycle run starts at the TJ O’Connor Animal Shelter in Springfield and ends at the Elks Club on Chapin Street in Ludlow, to give you an idea where they’re going.

Mr. DeBarge: These motorcycle runs will incur overtime costs because the Chief is no longer putting the district car out to an intersection to assist them through. He’s putting a 4-hour overtime officer on for these. It was 2 until I talked to him about the route. Some of the routes are so short coming off of West Street going onto East Street in Granby so we don’t need 2 officers for that, and these will incur overtime costs from here on out.

Mr. Strange: Can I make a suggestion that we seriously consider a policy that makes any events coming through Ludlow pay for their overtime?

Mr. DeBarge: Yes, the motorcycle runs I did discuss with the Chief and they hardly ever do that. There’s another one coming up in this agenda that is being escorted by the Sheriff’s. We don’t need an officer for that one. Some get escorted, some ask for escorts when they come into the community. We’ll need a policy.

Mr. Strange: We routinely go over our Police overtime budget and this is somewhere we could mitigate that issue.

Mr. Gennette: Can’t we request that they seek assistance from the Sheriff’s Department when they do a motorcycle run?

Mr. DeBarge: I think it’s more important we come up with some kind of determining policy for stuff like this. I don’t want to kick it to the Sheriff’s every time we have this. I think we can come up with something that will appease everybody.

**All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

272. Fanelli Amusements – Applications for Carnival Rides & Sunday Entertainment permits for August 29, 2024, through September 2, 2024, for the annual Festa.

**Motion made by Mr. Goncalves** to approve and sign the applications for Carnival Rides & Sunday Entertainment permits for August 29, 2024, through September 2, 2024, for the annual Festa. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

273. Louis Gilli, EH & S Engineer, Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC) – Informing the Board of the routine inspections and mowing operations that will occur during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2024 along its natural gas pipeline right of way.

**Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum** to file. **Mr. Silva second. Motion passed 4-0-1.**

274. Terri Tracy, “No More Silence” – Requesting permission from the Board to have a fundraiser motorcycle run “No More Silence” to be held on Saturday, September 21, 2024, beginning at 11:00 a.m. for the benefit of Suicide Loss Survivors and Suicide Awareness.

**Motion made by Mr. Goncalves** that permission is granted to have the fundraiser motorcycle run for “No More Silence” Saturday, September 21, 2024. **Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

275. Chief Valadas – Request to charge off medical expenses and lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for an injury sustained by a Police Officer as a result of an incident that occurred on July 17, 2024.

**Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum** to approve the request to charge off medical expenses and lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for an injury sustained by a Police Officer as a result of an incident that occurred on July 17, 2024. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Board to discuss use of remaining ARPA funds (Tabled from 7/9/2024)

Mr. Strange: Everybody has a list in front of them. We spoke with the DPW, Vets office and some other folks and I looked at what was coming down the pike that makes sense. These are suggestions. If the Board is willing to authorize the funds for any of these that's great. If you would like us to go back and look for other potential projects we have time to do that. For the public, we have about \$550,000 left in ARPA funds. The next agenda item is requesting \$110,000 for the survey and preliminary design work for the Whitney Park upgrades. We also spoke with the DPW to get an estimate for what it would cost to mill and pave the Town parking lot and re-do the sidewalks because they are certainly a trip hazard. They estimate that is about \$110,000. We also talked about milling and paving the library parking lot and doing the extension that's been talked about previously. The DPW estimated that to be about \$85,000. There's a lot of DPW vehicles that are rusted out and very old and they're asking for in capital in fiscal 26. We thought this might be a decent use of the funds. The Veteran office has a volunteer that offers their pickup truck to pull the trailer and the trailer transports the food so instead of using a volunteer's truck to do Town business, Eric was talking about using these funds to buy a truck for the Veterans office. We have a great Munis product. The problem is the back-end users and roles and our vendor list is a mess. It's been a mess for a while so it's preventing us from using the product to its fullest extent. Jamie Morrow did a similar project in Holyoke, and it's a much bigger community, but it was \$150,000 for them. They used ARPA funds and that's a pretty fair estimate. We also got an estimate to do the feasibility design work for the Whitney Park building. It would be phase 2 of Whitney Park. The thought being the existing building would be demo'd and a new building would be built in its place that's more energy efficient, has better spaces for the kids, brings the bathrooms inside that building. That estimate is \$34,500. Lastly, we don't have a crisis communication plan right now so this sparked when we had the issue with Springfield Water & Sewer when that outfall collapsed and we lost our water pressure. Chief Pease, Chief Valadas and Paulina did a great job of informing me but there are a lot of messages that weren't sent out. Without a plan when things happen like this you don't have time to do the planning in the moment. A lot of communities have a plan in place that you can follow and refer to when there's an emergency. Those projects total about \$479,000. Some are estimates from DPW and that leaves a little bit of room. Again, these are suggestions. I'm happy to go back to the drawing board. If there's any departments you want to take a look at we're willing to do that.

Mr. Gennette: I have a couple issues. \$85,000 for the Hubbard Memorial Library extension, does that do anything to help them mitigate their water problem? We have a big water problem there.

Mr. Strange: The cause of the most recent flooding is their French drain was about this big. Steve Santos came in and put in a much bigger drain and that should be one effort to mitigate. The other thought was DPW would construct a canopy so the water flows into the drive instead of the walkway. That would involve these funds. The 3<sup>rd</sup> one is engaging an engineer to do an evaluation and see what a long-term fix would be. I don't have that estimate and I don't know how close they are to doing that work.

Mr. Gennette: We can't use those funds for that?

Mr. Strange: We can. It's a library project. I asked Melissa and I haven't gotten an answer. I can go back and try to get a timeline for how long it would take for them to put together an estimate.

Mr. Gennette: My other question is related to buying vehicles with this money. That's not an ARPA purpose. We weren't able to.

Mr. Strange: You can use ARPA for anything.

Mr. Gennette: I thought they put a lot of restrictions on that.

Mr. Strange: If Towns got an allocation below 10 million dollars you could basically use it for anything. We checked with our accountants on that.

Mr. Gennette: \$9,500 for a crisis communication plan. I think it's a great idea I'm just wondering why you and your staff can't do it and need \$9,500 for it.

Mr. Strange: I certainly can't do it. We can probably get that down so it's lower than \$9,500, probably \$4-\$5,000. That's short money compared to everything else.

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Mr. Goncalves: On the 2 vehicles, we didn't know about that necessity 3 months ago?

Mr. Strange: The DPW truck is in the fiscal 26 capital plan. We just found out about the Vets.

Mr. Goncalves: Some of this other stuff is probably a tougher sell where we could grab capital for those 2 if it could wait. It's \$90,000 maybe we could throw into a park that's in dire need.

Mr. Strange: I don't think it's an emergency.

Mr. Goncalves: Maybe it would be more beneficial to the whole town. Post Office Park.

Mr. Silva: The Whitney Street survey and design, should we have something that says it's going to be a go? How do you spend this kind of money, and we're going to have to bond...

Mr. Strange: This is the work that has to be done before we can make a presentation at Town Meeting. The full estimate is \$270,000. This is just the first 2 tasks and we really need to do that.

Mr. Silva: It's a lot of money and then the Town votes it down...

Mr. Strange: It's a risk. I agree. We need some sort of design.

Mr. Silva: What design do we have now?

Mr. Strange: It's conceptual. They have to go in and survey and figure out grading and impact and engineering stuff. It usually changes the concept.

Mr. Silva: It seems to me we're getting an influx of consulting fees, engineering fees. They're astronomical and they don't stop. They're not reasonable anymore.

Mr. Strange: This is the way the process works. You have to design a project in order to put it out to bid so the bidders can bid on the specs. We can't internally put together bid specs. We could not fund this and try to sell it.

Mr. Goncalves: \$270,000 so somebody already came up with 2 ½ million as a spend?

Mr. Strange: Right now, the cost estimate is 4 ½.

Mr. Goncalves: \$270,000 is cheap by standards of what we've been paying.

Mr. Rosenblum: If you don't use the ARPA funds for doing the design, anything that goes out to bid has to go through a design process. I'm doing a design right now and it's \$280,000 for a maintenance building at a golf course. We're using money through a grant to do it. If this does go out to bond and to the Town Meeting and they do approve it we're going to be rolling \$280,000 into that cost as well if we put it fully to bond. The design aspect of it for a project like this to go out to bid with an RFP, you have to do it. It's a matter of do we say no we don't spend it on this and save it and we roll it into the bonding?

Mr. DeBarge: I was down at the library this morning and had a tour of the water damage and talked to Melissa and Jamie Tomas. They're going to get a price on putting more grates in instead of the 2 new ones that were put in down by the automatic doors. Two on both sides of the stairs and one in front of each door on the Parkview side. Jamie will get a price on the install for those which might come to this as well. They're going to be connected to the drains that go right out to the street. The library staff aren't hot on the awning issue because of the historical façade. The grates may work so the price for that will be coming. I called Chip Harrington on the Historical Committee to talk about the Old Meeting House. The last time I talked about it with Eric Segundo we were given a price around \$250,000 to get the bathrooms up to code so we could start using the Grange for Board of Selectmen meetings or whatever. The question came in about an elevator and that prices us out of everything. My question to Marc was if you don't use the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor do you have to put an elevator in? I would love to get an influx of money so that we could put it into the open meeting house, open and use that area. It's going to be a big-ticket item. Our responsibility is probably to take this \$550,000 and use it to the best of our ability to help out as much people as we can. What are they doing with the windows at the library?

Mr. Strange: They're meeting today with the architect.

Mr. Gennette: I love the idea at the Grange and I think it's a pre-existing building. I would love to see an elevator but for historical significance you would never have an elevator. If you're keeping it historically significant I think there are some things you can do and still open it. If you make any major upgrades to it then I think you have to bring it up to ADA but as a historical venue to view it's a different situation.

Mr. Rosenblum: Back to the 2 pick-up trucks, those are capital since there's no rush. I would pull that \$90,000 and put it to capital. I don't think it's going to be that much of an issue in the grand scheme when it's capital season.

Mr. DeBarge: \$110,000 for Town Hall parking and sidewalks.

Mr. Strange: I asked Jamie to give us an estimate. They measured the parking lot, and they could do it now because it would fall under our annual bid and based upon our parking lot it's \$80,000. The sidewalks around here if you look there's all kinds of trip hazards and they're not ADA compliant.

Mr. DeBarge: I'd rather do a road than our parking lot. We have a lot of roadways that are worse than our parking lot.

Mr. Gennette: What's the situation with primary and cold? We're stuck between a rock and a hard spot there.

Mr. Strange: Representative Saunders put in a million dollars in the Housing Bond Bill for improvements and upgrades to those upgrades. If that gets included in the bond bill those buildings would have to be used for housing.

Mr. Gennette: I would like to see more about what's going on with Hubbard Memorial Library and if we can get some information on the Grange. I know we're kind of quick but as far as the surveys for Whitney Park feasibility design, are those things that have to get paid for now and we need to move on them?

Mr. Strange: No. When we had the public meetings for Whitney Park we talked about if we're spending this much money on the playground and open space areas, we should look at the buildings. We wanted to keep the momentum and be true to the community and say we are looking at what the possibilities are with the building and how much that might cost.

Mr. Gennette: I want to know what we can do to upgrade Hubbard Memorial Library. I'm not talking about just the water, anything interior they need, was there an insurance claim?

Mr. DeBarge: The interior for insurance, yes. The damage from the water inside the building is insurance. The mitigation for the water damage outside of the building is on us.

Mr. Gennette: Is there any roof issues? Is it a slate roof?

Mr. Strange: Yes, it's a slate roof. There is \$85,000 in there for their parking lot. I'll ask Melissa if she has low hanging fruits.

Mr. Rosenblum: Based on everything that's on here, we're at \$71,000 leftover. If we took the trucks off and put them into capital that leaves us with \$161,000 leftover. Just taking the trucks off combined with what's leftover.

Mr. DeBarge: I'd like to take the two \$110,000 off and put it into the buildings at Whitney.

Mr. Strange: The problem is we're not going to be able to build or demo the buildings before the end of the year. If we're going to demo it we have to build one for the camp next summer. The timing on it isn't great.

Mr. DeBarge: The timing for the Grange isn't going to be great either.

Mr. Strange: The feasibility design work for Whitney Park, it would be that kind of thing.

Mr. Rosenblum: ARPA has to be earmarked by the end of this year.

Mr. DeBarge: As it stands now, everybody is ok with just the trucks because they should go into capital.

Mr. Goncalves: Leave everything else and concentrate on Whitney with that extra \$90,000.

Mr. Strange: I just don't know what we would spend it on. If Tighe & Bond does the preliminary design work and it goes to Town Meeting, even if Town Meeting approves the bond there's not going to be any work done before the end of the year. It has to be contracted for.

Mr. DeBarge: Anything needed at the track & field before we wrap up?

Mr. Strange: We had Town Meeting reserve that extra funding if we go over there.

Mr. Rosenblum: And there wouldn't be enough money for design and feasibility with Veterans Park?

Mr. DeBarge: So, you could hang onto the \$90,000 for a little while longer. If nothing comes up you can pull the trigger on the vehicles.

Mr. Strange: If we're going to get into something that needs to be procured that's what I'm concerned about. That elongates the time. Purchases we can do pretty quickly. Do you guys want to take out the vehicles and keep them pending for now?

Mr. Gennette: Is it possible with the leftover, once we figure out what we are going to fund if there's leftover, if we can pay off one of the leases for a firetruck?

Mr. Strange: I don't think we can do that but I will check. I don't think you can use it to pay down debt.

Mr. Rosenblum: Originally you could use it towards debt or loss of revenues to the Town but it's become so wide open over the course of it being offered.

Board to discuss and possibly vote to authorize ARPA funds for survey and preliminary design work for Whitney Park improvements.

Mr. Goncalves: Yes, I think we agreed on that one.

**Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to appropriate \$144,500 for the survey, preliminary design and feasibility design work for Whitney Park. Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Board to discuss and possibly approve a policy pertaining to the use of public facilities (Tabled from 7/9/2024)

Mr. DeBarge: You have the updated policy after mostly everybody commented and turned in their feedback. We're at the point now where everybody has put in their 2 cents. The policy is in front of you and we should be able to get this done tonight. Either vote on this policy. This could be a work in progress as we move on, learning things as we go. As it stands now this is the policy make up of all the suggestions.

Mr. Goncalves: I think we need stronger insurance language in here. All the other communities around us concentrate on that. There should be a requirement in there for insurance. Belchertown's certificate of liability for the event is required prior to using the Town Common, it's a million dollars with a 2 million aggregate naming the Town of Belchertown as additional insured. These are event policies that can be purchased. They're not really expensive if you have 100-150 people it's maybe \$200. It covers whoever is doing the event and the Town at the same time. It doesn't take much for someone to trip on an uneven sidewalk. 1-2% on our insurance may go up if we have a loss is \$80,000/point. I think we have to put some stronger language in there.

Mr. Strange: We did put additional language in. I took that from Belchertown. There's no mention of a 2-million-dollar aggregate.

Mr. Goncalves: How are we going to address clean-up?

Mr. Strange: Right now, the way the policy is written they are on the hook for clean-up. It's a matter of do we want to collect it up front and then return it or do we want to chase afterwards if it's not left in an acceptable condition.

Mr. Goncalves: We know a lot of organizations that are going to use the parks, are we going to allow an outside organization to come in? The anticipated crowd, will it be 50-80-20% Ludlow? Do we want to take a non-Ludlow based organization? If you're out of town there's an additional \$100-\$200 fee and return it if it's left in an acceptable condition? This is good, I think it's still a little loosey goosey. We're going to treat residents, taxpayers a little bit different than someone coming in from Sixteen Acres because Greenleaf was busy and now they want to come to Cady Street and have their baseball game.

Mr. Strange: If they need to provide an insurance certificate it would be that entity?

Mr. Goncalves: That entity could be anyone. If we don't know who they are how do we know who's responsible?

Mr. Strange: You're saying if there's a group coming in from out of Town that wants to use the parks we would ask them for an upfront deposit?

Mr. Goncalves: Just to make sure. I'm not a big fan if they're from out of Town using the parks anyway.

Mr. Gennette: I've reviewed this, I beat it up and sent in a whole bunch of stuff. I thought it was a good idea to come in and talk about it. The terminology for a parks policy eliminates other Town properties, in particular the Riverwalk, which isn't a park. If someone wanted to use the Riverwalk this policy doesn't cover that. On West & Holyoke, the property we maintain across from the Mobile station, if someone wanted to do a farmers' market there they couldn't because there's no policy there for it. I like the idea of saying any Town property is part of this policy unless it's operational, Public Safety Complex or Town Hall. The school maintains their own properties and they have jurisdictional purpose over those. I'm saying this is an open space law across the board.

Mr. Strange: Are you saying parks, open spaces and buildings?

Mr. Gennette: Open spaces. I'm not saying buildings at all.

Mr. Rosenblum: So, you would word it as community use of open space Town owned policy?

Mr. Gennette: Correct. My other thing is in this policy it has the Board of Selectmen approving all of the decisions and I think it should go to Rec. I think this policy outlines what can or cannot be considered for use and if there's anything outside of this policy that the Rec Department can't justifiably let somebody approve it, the Rec Department can say I don't know what to do here it's going to have to go to the Board of Selectmen. Or if it's denied based on the policy and somebody in the community disagrees they can come to the Board of Selectmen and file a follow up.

Mr. DeBarge: I think that's the point of the Board of Selectmen and his/her designee so we can designate Recreation and if there's a grievance or discrepancy it can come back to us.

Mr. Gennette: Maybe with the cross-outs I got a little backed up with that. I appreciate that. This one bothers me. The Town reserves the right to cancel any use within 14 days' notice. If there's an emergency situation that it has to get cancelled but the follow up statement, in addition cancels may occur without advanced notice due to inclement weather conditions or emergency situations. That means the first sentence by proxy of the 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence the Town can just turn around and say sorry you're not having your event.

Mr. DeBarge: Let me give you an example. You have to have a policy in there if there is some type of weather event or some type of situation and that group doesn't want to leave you need to have the authority to have them go.

Mr. Gennette: I agree with what you're saying as far as an emergency situation or crazy weather, but that first sentence by proxy of the 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence means a completely different thing. It means the Town can for any reason cancel it within 14 days.

Mr. Strange: It's pretty standard language. You're going to come down to parsing words and try to determine what an emergency situation is. There's also so many scenarios that pop up with us every single day that we could not see coming that might require use of whatever the field is or the park. This is covering the Town. If this language is not in there and something pops up where the Town needs to use the space for some reason, we wouldn't be able to do that.

Mr. Gennette: Can you have legal review that again and let them know my concern.

Ms. Kapinos: Mr. Goncalves was asking at the last meeting what the other Towns are doing. I took a drive to Cheshire last Saturday and by the time I saw the 3<sup>rd</sup> commons I started looking. There were farmer's markets, common craft areas, and the concern is the Veterans Memorial. I 100% understand where people are coming from with that. There was one I saw and it was half the size of your table and it was a tombstone fenced in. All around that area, but not right there, they had their event going on. It's a nice thing to see when you go through these Towns stuff like that happening. My only concern is with Veterans Memorial if there was a way that you could, I know with our event nobody was anywhere near, which is about 10% of that land space, if you could just take that special area and separate that from us being able to use that area. That common is the most beautiful space in the area. I did a lot of research on the Mills and I can only imagine the owners of the jute mill that were actually the largest jute in the world until it got moved to another country, but those owners made special places for the citizens of this community, their workers. I can imagine that common space was used. I'd like to see this community be that kind of community with that kind of space while still honoring that special area. With our event we had no tables near there. You could designate a footage and say nothing happens there. I would highly recommend that it be part of our Town and allow it to be for weddings, family gatherings. I think we can do it in a way that honors that area and still use that biggest space in Town.

Mr. Rosenblum: I'm glad you brought that up. A separation of the 2 to a certain extent. If we put in areas with a temporary poles with a rope around it where it looks honorable and important. Also, something that might say Veterans Memorial Park is closed. I don't think I've ever seen anything happen to those memorials during any event that's gone on there. I don't have a problem with it being there and I'm glad it says all parks now. When you go to our Town website and google Veterans Memorial Park, there's no park called that. That is called Memorial Park and Library Park. The one on top has no name for it. We need to actually name these parks. Recreation only has Whitney Park and bands at the Gazebo. We need to delineate what our parks are, name them, addresses. A red velvet rope makes it look that much better.

Mr. Kelliher: If we're going to allow use of this gazebo area for Town sponsored events, Celebrate Ludlow, 250<sup>th</sup>, concerts the Cultural Council has, if it's ok to use it for those events I'm not sure what the distinction is for not allowing use of that area for non-Town sponsored events. What's the rationale? It doesn't seem to make a lot of sense to allow certain events to happen but others not. I understand the sacredness of the memorial and you don't want anyone around there but to use that area around the gazebo for whatever I don't understand why there's such a big resistance and why this policy carves out and says no use of that by anyone but a Town sponsored entity. When you get a very similar event that's not a Town sponsored entity it's ok for them. I don't understand why there's a distinction being made.

Mr. Gennette: I agree with you. The only thing I can think of is if we have so many things going on with Town entities to use that property, scheduling becomes an issue, maintenance becomes an issue. I think the Ludlow Cultural Council, the library, Celebrate Ludlow, those kinds of things I agree with in that context but anything outside of that context I 100% agree with you. I don't think there's any reason outside of an operational function to do that.

Mr. Kelliher: If you had too many people and can't schedule it all in but that's not the case. You have a few outside events a year. It's not like that place is being overrun and the grass is being

beat down. If it got to that point you could say there's only so many days a year and Town events have priority but to shut that off entirely from the residents of the Town I don't see the logic.

Mr. DeBarge: There's not going to be a vote on the policy tonight because of changes suggested by Tony and others. Your event is approved for the date you wanted and venue you wanted so we have time to tweak this and move on this. I have not changed my opinion at all, whether there's been an audience here or not, my opinion has always been the same. I do not agree with other groups being at the gazebo or whatever you want to call it. I don't agree with any groups being there other than Town sponsored groups. The beauty of the 5-member Board of Selectmen is they've come up with some great ideas. James, your email with information was fantastic. A lot of this policy is from yours. An area designated for Town sponsored committees and boards is perfectly fine. I think all of the parks and open space available to anyone is there except for one that is there for Town boards and parks. That's my explanation. Once we come up with a policy that everyone is happy with on this Board with what they wanted to add or subtract and we're ready for a final vote, that's what we'll vote on.

Mr. Strange: In terms of the name of the policy, are we changing it to community use of open spaces policy?

Mr. DeBarge: Yes.

Mr. Goncalves: The schools, Chicopee vs East Longmeadow can they use the high school?

Mr. Kelliher: What happens with the schools is that schools have control of those fields during the day and school activities. After that it reverts to Rec. That's where you have to be careful of this policy as well because you need to have a new policy. Like the new high school football field, you will have groups that want to use that. Maybe go through every possible space in Town and decide if you're going to let outside groups come in. Someone wants to do a soccer tournament over the weekend, are we going to let them come in, how much are we going to charge them? Lou Casagrande tournament was teams from all over Western Mass. Normally with the fields you have to have 80% Ludlow residents on the team. You have to take a careful look at all that. That falls under Rec in afterschool hours.

Mr. Goncalves: How about outside concerns using the gym at the high school?

Mr. Kelliher: The rule with that was always 80% Ludlow residents. If you need a custodian the school charges.

Mr. Silva: We're doing a policy. There's nothing that says we can't change it down the road. If we see something wrong then we amend the policy.

Mr. DeBarge: We don't have an event that's requested. I don't think we need to put this on the agenda in 2 weeks and keep doing this. Let's just work on the policy and when we have one ready then we'll take it up in open meeting. Rather than doing this every 2 weeks.

Mr. Gennette: It's very difficult to work on this policy separately. I can't get feedback from the entire Board unless we're in a meeting. I agree with Manny that we can change things afterwards but sometimes it is a lot harder to do that after.

Mr. DeBarge: My point is it doesn't have to be on the agenda every 2 weeks.

Mr. Goncalves: Monson has a really nice sheet and I'd like to give this to Marc.

Mr. Strange: For the public, if anyone has open meeting law concerns, the way we've been doing this is we send the policy to all the Selectmen and they individually send edits back to me, in incorporate them to the best of my ability into the policy and we come back here. That's why it's taking a little bit longer.

Mr. Kelliher: The school has a policy and that's a really great working group for this because you should be reviewing your policies periodically. That way you can have at least 2 members run through this and work through the policy a little better than having policies back and forth.

Mr. Rosenblum: I don't see why we single out Veterans Memorial Park. I don't see that anything has happened to the memorials in the past.

Board to approve and sign Selectmen Meeting Minutes of July 9, 2024.

**Motion made by Mr. Goncalves** to Selectmen Meeting Minutes of July 9, 2024, absent William Rosenblum. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Board to approve and Chairman to sign the Sunday Entertainment License for Fanelli Amusements for Festa on September 1, 2024.

**Motion made by Mr. Goncalves** to approve and Chairman to sign the Sunday Entertainment License for Fanelli Amusements for Festa on September 1, 2024. **Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

## NEW BUSINESS

Board to vote on reclassification of the Custodian at the Senior Center.

Mr. DeBarge: The custodian position at the Senior Center is a very unique position out of all of our buildings in Town in that it has to service about 350 people. We are doing this now but it has to be done. We have to have a dedicated custodian at the Senior Center.

Ms. Ribeiro: Right now, we currently have 3 custodians and 1 facilities manager in this budget. We have a part-timer at the PD, a full-time employee at the Boys and Girls Club. The agreement we have with the Boys and Girls Club we furnish that one employee. We pay for their salary and benefits. We have a full-time custodian at the Town Hall. That employee was recently transferred from the Senior Center. There was some personal and health issues going on and the amount of work was more than 1 person. The Town Hall had a cleaning service and that contract is ending at the end of this month. The cleaning service just cleans the library now. We tried to go that route at the Senior Center but for various reasons it's not a good fit for Jodi. She needs somebody there during the day, to move chairs around after lunch and help with different tasks. With her needs growing, we know there's a lot of traffic at the Senior Center, this position has morphed into more responsibility than one person can handle. With what happened personally with this individual we felt it best, who had returned to work after a pretty scary health incident, we thought it was best to put him here and our contract with the cleaning service was ending. There may be another position, the part-time position at the PD I'm told in the near future is going to be vacated. We will have those funds available to use towards these salaries. That's probably not going to happen until the beginning of 2025. What we plan to do at that point is combine some of these positions. We met a few weeks ago with Jodi, the DPW Director, Facilities, Mr. DeBarge and Mr. Strange and we talked about what she really needs because it's obviously morphed into more. Over the last couple weeks, we worked together and put a job description together about what her needs are. I'm going to let Jodi talk about that right now and we can go back and talk about compensation.

Ms. Zepke: Basically, it's a full-time position. When Carrie first said she was going to send us the cleaning service I said we need a person on site. We have accidents that happen all the time. More than that we have to flip rooms. We work as a very cohesive team. That person is part of the team at the Senior Center. We're a very well-oiled machine. It's a brand-new building, there's a lot of things that need to be cleaned. We joked that the old building was bigger but you never could tell when something wasn't clean. We have stainless steel everywhere, the flooring after 4 years we just figured out how to clean the floor in the dining room. We need somebody there every day. Dave Ritchie has been amazing. He comes over every morning and cleans our bathrooms and it takes him over an hour. It's a vital position at the center. I'm really hoping we can get somebody. We've been without somebody since the beginning of May. I wear shorts and sneakers twice a week and clean.

Ms. Ribeiro: With the upgrade and change in responsibilities which I believe you all have a copy of this position the pay was starting at under \$17/hour and topped out at \$21/hour. I'm going to go back to about the non-union cost of living. We bargain with the unions and we have contracts but we have a sector of employees that are non-union that have gotten a 2% cost of living increase every year since I've been here. I can imagine it probably wasn't much higher than 2% going back previously. I think there was some years it was level and there was no cost-of-living increase. This

is a small group of employees. We did make a small adjustment with the comp & class plan in 2023 but with the cost of inflation, cost of goods, the hiring landscape out there of workers not being available we really need to look at reclassifying this position. In order to find somebody that is going to be qualified and competent, I'm not taking anything away from cleaning. I think it's a very important job. But also, the maintenance. The other jobs that Jodi might need this individual to do. Changing doorknobs. Yes we have facilities but Dave is servicing all buildings in Town. I think it's important. We're not going to find the perfect person that's going to be able to do everything for what we're offering for pay but I think it's important that we bump this position. Our non-union 7 range is \$19.87-\$26.50. It's not an extravagant amount of money we're talking about but we have to move towards this area of the non-union comp scale in order to get somebody qualified. We're just not going to find anybody for \$16. Minimum wage is \$16/hour.

Ms. Zepke: It's not part of my budget so I never knew what my previous custodian made. This is where this conversation started. To be able to get someone we can count on and who is going to be part of our team we need a qualified individual.

Mr. Rosenblum: I think we were pretty consistent in the budgetary process that when it came to new positions, and I believe you had 1-2 you asked for and we said no across the board to the whole town. In the same sense in positions, we're upgrading people into a competitive lifestyle we did make those changes. Looking at the dollar amount I think this increase would be \$7,500 increase with benefits. I have no problem with it. I think we've been consistent with getting people into a position where they need to be making some kind of living and 2% is not cutting it so I'm fine with this.

Mr. Gennette: What is the budget implications for this?

Ms. Ribeiro: If we're talking budgets it would be considered a new position; however, we're not paying a cleaning company anymore to come to Town Hall. That was just under \$2,000/month. We won't be paying that. That's what was in the budget for Jorge's position at the Senior Center. Not including benefits. We're starting back from square one when we were paying the cleaning company as well. That's a wash. What we're adding on now would be benefits and an additional \$15,000.

Mr. Gennette: Jodi, is there room in the budget?

Ms. Zepke: This isn't part of my budget.

Ms. Ribeiro: We're not paying the cleaning company anymore and in the near future, the beginning of 2025 we're going to be able to combine some of these positions with the custodian at the Police Department who is leaving. We're probably going to have to double dip for about 6 months, but she can't wait.

Mr. Goncalves: Is there benefits at the police job right now?

Ms. Ribeiro: Yes.

Mr. Goncalves: So it's not a lot of money.

Ms. Zepke: We reduced the number of hours. It was 40 hours/week and we're knocking it down to 35.

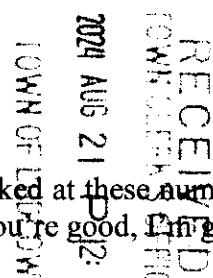
Mr. Gennette: Marc, what's your thoughts?

Mr. Strange: \*thumbs up\*

Mr. Gennette: I'm in.

Mr. Silva: What am I going to say? You have Human Resources that's looked at these numbers, Jodi saying we need it. What am I going to comment? If you're good and you're good, I'm good.

Mr. Goncalves: I'm good. We've seen at that pay, the DPW is struggling to find people. It's not a lot of money by today's standards.



Mr. DeBarge: Not a lot of money, but the level of work. There's no downtime. If you get a 10-minute break it's because you're rushing to get it. The money is not enough in my opinion and it's a necessity. If I could get somebody there right now I would.

**Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum** to approve the reclassification of the custodian at the Senior Center from an NU3 to a NU7. **Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Board to approve and reappoint Democratic, Republican and Un-enrolled Election Officers.

**Motion made by Mr. Goncalves** to approve and reappoint Democratic, Republican and Un-enrolled Election Officers according to the list provided to us. **Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Board to approve and Chairman sign the agreement between the Town of Ludlow and Robert E.F. Costa.

**Motion made by Mr. Goncalves** to approve and Chairman sign the agreement between the Town of Ludlow and Robert E.F. Costa. **Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Board to appoint Mickey Buhl, Business Administrator for School Department to the Insurance Advisory Committee, Internal Safety Committee and Local Emergency Planning Committee.

**Motion made by Mr. Goncalves** to appoint Mickey Buhl, Business Administrator for School Department to the Insurance Advisory Committee, Internal Safety Committee and Local Emergency Planning Committee. **Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Board to approve and Chairman to sign the agreement between the Town of Ludlow and Steven B. Lopes, Jr.

**Motion made by Mr. Goncalves** to approve and Chairman to sign the agreement between the Town of Ludlow and Steven B. Lopes, Jr. **Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Board to discuss and possibly vote to authorize \$6,177 from the Building Infrastructure Fund for ADA compliance work at the Vets Center.

Mr. DeBarge: The main entrance needs to have an automatic door.

Mr. Gennette: I'm all for anything that needs ADA compliance in any of our facilities. The only thing I would ask is, this is a rental property, right? Isn't the landlord required?

Mr. Strange: The landlord is not required to take care of it. The Clerk is going to move whatever ward that is to a polling place and the doors need to be ADA compliant. This work would make them ADA compliant with a button to push and automatically open them up.

**Motion made by Mr. Goncalves** to approve and authorize \$6,177 from the Building Infrastructure Fund for ADA compliance work at the Vets Center. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

## **BOARD UPDATES/MISC**

Wednesday, July 24, 2024 – Dine at Villa Rose to raise funds for 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration. Friday, August 16, 2024 – Town Hall closed for Staff Meeting.

## **CLOSING COMMENTS**

Mr. Gennette: I thought it was a pretty good debate tonight overall. I thought we hit on some great topics. What a wonderful job for Helen, Derek. You did wonderful and it was very nice for the family. As far as the Town policy goes and the mixed use for Veterans Memorial Park. Outside of it being operational I don't have a problem with it. If that's the concern that it's operational and we decide then I understand that. I don't get into how many times it's been rented but outside of an operational thing I can't support it. I wanted to put that out there. I didn't want people to think I was dead set against it. I thought it was a good meeting.

Mr. Goncalves: Nothing today.

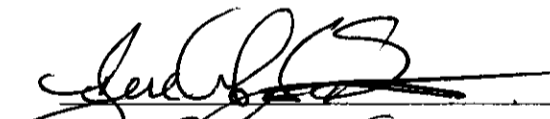
Mr. Silva: Nothing.

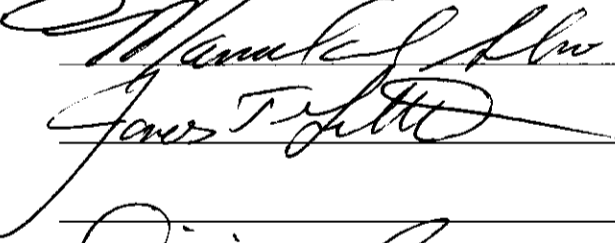
Mr. Rosenblum: Last night was open Charter Committee forum for the community to come out and ask questions and see where the Charter is at at this point. Our Charter is in draft form but we've completed all 10 articles in it. The committee will be taken back. The suggestions and any other discussion that had gone on and go over this again and make any final tweaks if there are any. I believe it needs to be to this Board by September 6 to get it on the October Special Town Meeting. It was a good turnout last night, about 40 people. Some of the same questions and concerns but I think that will be addressed once the final draft is when the discussion comes about putting it on the warrant. Every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month 6:00 in the Board of Selectmen's room. I know we're meeting again in August. It just depends where we get in the process.

Mr. DeBarge: I want to thank everybody for coming out in Mrs. Garrow's honor. It was a pleasure to call the former Selectmen and people that had worked with her. The minute I asked if they wanted to come to the meeting tonight, there was not one second of hesitation from any of them that were here. The ones that I asked if they wanted to say a few words there was very little hesitation. Helen was a phenomenal woman. I will never forget her. She put me on the Police Department along with the others. The others were easily forgettable compared to Helen. Phenomenal woman and a great family. Thank you for everybody coming out. It meant a lot to her family. I went to the Ludlow Cultural Council concert. Oakland Stroke was playing. I have not been down there this year for a concert and I will not miss another one. Weather was great, Batch Ice Cream was better, the music was phenomenal, tons of people out there. That's the kind of scene I like to see at the Gazebo. Everybody quiet, loving the music. A great time, great Town event and I can't wait for the next one. Fantastic job Ludlow Cultural Council.

Mr. Rosenblum: I forgot one thing. I want to reiterate what Mr. Gennette said. You put this whole thing together for Mrs. Garrow and I thought it was awesome. The plaque is an awesome touch and thank you for putting this all together.

**Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to adjourn the Selectmen's meeting at 7:30 p.m. Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

  
Chairperson

  
William Rosme

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