

The Meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, 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

First Order of Business: The Pledge of Allegiance

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TOWN OF LUDLOW

## VISITATIONS

5:30 p.m. – Zach Nicoll

Mr. DeBarge: We've been lucky enough this year to make it a habit to open some of our meetings with some fun stuff rather than just regular business. Some awards we've been able to give people for some great things they do and tonight is no exception. We have a visitation with Zach Nicoll. You witnessed a house fire and decided to go to that house and try to get the attention of anybody in the house. Let us hear your story.

Mr. Nicoll: I was driving by, going to my friend's next door. I noticed smoke on Ventura Street. I thought someone was burning in the backyard because at the time it was just heavy, white smoke. The garage doors were both open and I could see the fire inside the garage. I threw my truck into my friend's driveway and ran to their door and banged on it until someone answered to tell them to call 9-1-1. The neighbor had just moved into the Ventura this past year so they weren't too familiar with the neighbors but I knew it was an older lady and I figured it was a Sunday so she was at home doing nothing. I ran over to the house and banged on the door and saw her head move in the background. She came to the door and opened it. She was on the phone with dispatch and she said she wanted to fight the fire, but I wouldn't let her. She turned away from me so I had to grab her and pull her out so she wouldn't go back in. The house was already filled with black smoke. By the time we got out to the street, the whole garage was up in flames. There was a couple cars driving by that didn't stop.

Mr. DeBarge: There are people that stop and people that don't. Our first disclaimer is we're not advocating for people to run into burning buildings. We have professionals for that. We know that there are people that will drive by and people that won't and this is why the Board wanted to recognize somebody in our community that didn't drive by. I was talking with Deputy Chief Lavoie, who is here with Captain Ellison, and that was a pretty interesting fire because of where it was and no hydrants in the area so you had tanker trucks and ended up calling for multiple agencies to help out. You were able to get the fire out 25 minutes from arrival, which is amazing.

Mr. Goncalves: Congratulations and Thank You. Today the easy thing for people to do is mind your own business and keep driving. That was awesome that you did what you did. I know the lady quite well and she's the type that would have stayed there and fought the fire.

Mr. Nicoll: That's what she said.

Mr. Goncalves: Whatever you were going to do at your friend's house, I'm glad and I'm sure she is too.

Mr. Silva: Job well done. It's nice to see people caring.

Mr. Gennette: Human nature. This is good stuff. Good karma and it's good to see people that are willing to do that kind of thing. I'm sure she's pretty happy. Her house has some issues but at least she's alive.

Mr. Rosenblum: It goes to show the kind of person you are and it's great to see that. A lot goes on now a days in the world. It's good to see there's people like yourself that are willing to go out and sacrifice yourself. The firemen that are here now, that's what they do every day, but for a normal person to stop and do something is awesome. Thank you.

Deputy Chief Lavoie: Unfortunately, this day in age, people are more likely to film your death than to prevent it. Thank you for stepping up and making sure that everyone was out. I was the first one from the Fire Department there. I live not too far from there, and by knowing that everybody is out of the house brings the emergency very low. Thank you for what you did. I

commend anybody. Don't take on unnecessary risks but thank you for paying attention and making sure that everybody was out.

Mr. Gennette: That must save some firefighter danger as well. Knowing you don't have to scour the house.

Captain Ellison: Absolutely. Being persistent and making sure she did leave with you it takes a big weight off of our shoulders knowing we don't have to go in, especially with a fire like that where it was advanced. It's going to make it a lot safer for us and everybody else. The fact that you were persistent with her is remarkable.

Deputy Chief Lavoie: You saw how quickly the fire took over the house. When we got there, the majority of the house was on fire. To perform a rescue at that point would have been difficult.

Mr. Rosenblum: Somewhere down the road, these guys might have an opening for you.

Mr. DeBarge: We have a citation for you that Selectmen Rosenblum is going to read.

Mr. Rosenblum: We, the Board of Selectmen are proud to present this Certificate of Commendation to Zach Nicoll in recognition of your heroic performance in the events that took place on January 12, 2025. For your selfless act of bravery while witnessing an active house fire, a catastrophe was avoided because of your quick response and willingness to help someone in their time of need. Your courageous actions in averting what could have been a tragic loss will always be a lasting remembrance of an act of heroism put forth by you during a time of crisis. We, the Board of Selectmen, take great pride as we extend to you our sincere appreciation and express the gratitude of the entire community for your efforts. Derek DeBarge, Chairperson, Manuel Silva, James Gennette, Antonio Goncalves and William Rosenblum.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

20. S&C Investors, LLC – Petition for Zone Change from Agricultura to Industrial C located at 0 West Street.

Mr. Gennette: This has to go to the warrant, right?

Mr. Goncalves: Yes, but it starts here. Copies go to the Clerk; it is time stamped and it comes to us and we make a spot for it on Town Meeting floor.

Mr. Strange: There also needs to be a hearing at the Planning Board.

**Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to send this to Planning. Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

21. Letter of interest from Joseph Chaloux for Conservation Commission.

Mr. DeBarge: Select Board members, I understand this commission has a vacant position and this letter is to request that you consider me for vacancy. Although I do not have direct experience in the area and responsibility overseen by the commission, I am a retired examiner of a federal deposit insurance corporation and have experience working with other government rules and regulations.

Mr. Strange: I think they're 2 short.

Mr. Goncalves: We're constantly running, looking for people.

Mr. DeBarge: If the board's will is to appoint rather than interview, I'm fine with that.

**Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to appoint Mr. Chaloux to the Conservation Commission effective immediately. Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

22. PVTA grant funded new route map.

Mr. Gennette: The PVRTA bus is running from the Big Y in East Longmeadow to Big Y in Ludlow. That used to be a route a long time ago. I don't know why it stopped running.  
Mr. Goncalves: Ridership.

Mr. Gennette: There's a need for it now so they're coming back.

Mr. Goncalves: With PVRTA, everything is rear funded so they run what they need and they'll get money back from the state and that level funds them. There's some money that comes in from the communities and the fare boxes. When they get into trouble, they're looking at ridership and they'll back off some of the routes that aren't doing so well but with some kind of a sense of which ones they need to put on first if they do get some money. I think that's what happened here.

**Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to file. Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

23. MMWEC – Annual reminder about Public Awareness Program.

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

24. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs – Yearly Review & Update of Harris Pond Dam & Wade Lake Dam.

**Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to send this to DPW.**

Mr. Goncalves: I guess there's some money available in way of a grant coming up in June. At least get the engineering reviewed to make sure everything is ok. There is no cost share requirement to the dam owner to participate in the program.

Mr. Rosenblum: The funds are supposed to become available now and the work needs to be completed by the end of this fiscal.

Mr. Gennette: Do we need to send a copy of this to the Pond Committee?

Mr. Strange: I can copy Judy on it.

**Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

25. Chief Valadas – Request to charge off medical expenses and lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for injuries sustained by a police officer as a result of an incident that occurred on January 28, 2025.

**Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum to approve request to charge off medical expenses and lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for injuries sustained by a police officer as a result of an incident that occurred on January 28, 2025. Mr. Goncalves second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

26. Chief Valadas – Request to charge off medical expenses and lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for injuries sustained by a police officer as a result of an incident that occurred on January 28, 2025.

**Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum to approve request to charge off medical expenses and lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for injuries sustained by a police officer as a result of an incident that occurred on January 31, 2025. Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

27. PVRTA – Community Assessment of Ludlow.

Mr. Goncalves: Every year based on ridership and the paratransit rides we get assessed a certain amount of money. Our share this year of the entire program will be \$137,186, which is about \$10,000 more than last year. Our use of the paratransit system was 11% more which is what caused the increase.

**Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to file. Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

28. Kim Batista, Town Clerk – Requesting a sufficient number of police officers at polling locations.

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Mr. DeBarge: I called Kim and asked if there was anything different than what we normally do and she said no.

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**Motion made by Mr. Silva to approve the request submitted by the Town Clerk for police officers at the polling locations. Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

29. Kim Batista, Town Clerk – Notifying Board of Selectmen of her recertification from the Massachusetts Town Clerks Association as a CMMD (Certified Massachusetts Municipal Clerk).

**Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to file. Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

30. Nancy LeaMond, AARP – Notifying the Town of becoming an AARP Network of Age-Friendly States & Communities.

Mr. Gennette: This ties into what Jodi was talking about with the dementia friendly community. I'm happy to see this coming around. We have a lot of seniors in town so this is wonderful news.

**Motion made by Mr. Gennette to file. Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

31. Aimee Henderson – Eversource – Providing information about Eversource's winter natural gas rates.

**Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to file. Mr. Gennette second.**

Mr. Gennette: Eversource is running into the same situation everybody is running into. Labor rates going up, gas for trucks and vehicles so they're trying to make up their money. We're seeing it across the board. Things are not getting any cheaper. I'm not real happy with this gas rate. If we could get an aggregate gas but I don't know of a program. I don't think I've seen one in any of my research. We'll see if there's assistance we can find for people but I don't hold out too much hope.

Mr. Goncalves: There are programs out there for people are having a hard time with the bill. There are credits available and extended payments and budget programs to help people out. Much like the electric company, they have a program similar to Mass Saves and they'll do an audit on the house for free and see if there's insulation or anything they can do to add to the home to make it more efficient and usually it's 80-100% covered by the utility. In most cases, it doesn't cost the homeowner anything at all.

Mr. DeBarge: The thing I see the most with public comment is the disparaging amount between the delivery charge and the product itself. I called Marc when I saw the article on West Springfield's Mayor who wants to do an investigation on it. I would like to explain to people the letter we get that says it's wintertime and it's colder and that's kind of obvious, but why does the delivery charge differ.

Mr. Goncalves: It's along the same lines as garbage removal. You've got people hauling it and the end taker of everything and there's 2 different rates. It's whatever the gas company negotiates to buy the product and then what's the cost to deliver it to the homes. I'm going to guess that because the DPU has to approve all rates, it's easier for the utilities to hide things in the delivery and it's not subject to as much scrutiny as it as the cost on the other side. Hopefully, West Springfield and our Legislature is looking into that. Everything goes to a hearing every time there is a rate increase or change of any kind.

Mr. Gennette: Let your representative know.

Mr. Rosenblum: People are asking about the profits for Eversource. With this rate increase, they make no profit from it.

Mr. DeBarge: Someone is going to have to explain that to me.

Mr. Rosenblum: The bill increase will be about 6.3 for heating customers and 4.9 for non-heating customers. That's anticipated through May 1<sup>st</sup> because of the cold months we're hitting right now. If there was an aggregate for this, it would be great too.

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

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32. Board to vote to schedule a pole hearing as petitioned by Verizon for Guertin Avenue.

Mr. DeBarge: This was my fault. I answered a question that Marc had incorrectly. We don't usually put this on the schedule it, we just schedule it.

**Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum** to schedule a pole hearing as petitioned by Verizon for Guertin Avenue at our next available opening. **Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Mr. Gennette: Can you have Don from Verizon drive down Hubbard Street when he comes back into Town.

## NEW BUSINESS

Board to approve and sign ten copies of the call for the election for the March 24, 2025, Town Election.

**Motion made by Mr. Goncalves** to sign ten copies of the call for the election for the March 24, 2025, Town Election. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Mr. Silva: I believe there's no early voting. Can we check with the Clerk's office.

Mr. Strange: I don't think so.

Mr. Silva: I'm not going to be here. Just to let people know there is no early voting. There is voting by mail and absentee.

Board to approve and sign Minutes from the January 21, 2025, meeting.

**Motion made by Mr. Goncalves** to approve and sign the Selectmen's minutes of the January 21, 2025, meeting with all members present. **Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Board to discuss and possibly approve police overtime policy.

Mr. DeBarge: This is stemming from our last discussion that was requested by the Board to have some type of policy to try to have the overtime expenditures not go over budget.

Mr. Strange: This has been an ongoing issue and a quest to see exactly what numbers we need for police OT. Over the past several years, those line items have annually been overspent. The training OT line was overspent by January. The regular OT is about 70%. We had a good conversation with Chief Valadas and Lt. Irwin and Ashlee Korny from Dispatch because Dispatch OT is also overspent. I think we're making some progress in terms of determining exactly what goes into those overtime lines so we can come up with a good number. Ultimately, we want to put a good number in the budget that's reasonable and everybody can agree upon; however, both the dispatch and police training overtime lines are overspent. I don't know that there's other line items in our budget that are overspent so early in the fiscal year. We put together this policy for your consideration. We vetted it through Town Counsel. Our Town Counsel has a former Police Chief as part of their legal staff and he looked at it. It's essentially 4 items. The POST Commission has their own training requirements for police officers to retain their certifications. The thought was any training requirements that trigger overtime should automatically be approved by the Police Chief and there shouldn't be any hold up for those. The other training items that trigger overtime would require pre-approval by the Board of Selectmen. For the time being, this would allow the Board to get eyes on what the taxpayers are paying for in terms of training overtime. We're starting to get a little bit better idea. We want our police officers to be as well trained as possible. We're

in a very tight budget situation this year, next year and beyond so we're looking to be reasonable on how we spend our tax dollars. The second bullet point relates to regular overtime and that is any planned absences. The Springfield PD requires their officers to put in their vacation requests at the beginning of the year so they can plan for coverage. The idea here is to make sure we're maximizing our overtime dollars. We don't want to get into the business of micromanaging public safety. This is for pre-requested vacations and time off. Anything that comes up in the ordinary course of doing business in the police department would be up to the Chief's discretion as it is now. The 3<sup>rd</sup> item would be a narrative associated with overtime so we can get an idea of what triggered the overtime. The last one is the events. There's always something going on in Ludlow and the question has become who pays for the overtime. This last bullet point would put the onus on the requesting entity, even if they are associated with the Town of Ludlow. The elections is a good example. The Town would pick up that overtime because that's a town event. We have a lot of different organizations that are associated with the Town that have their own line items in their budgets and this would require those entities to bare the burden of the overtime. Those are the highs and lows of the proposed policy.

Mr. Goncalves: Why are we getting into an overtime situation with dispatch?

Mr. Strange: I think it's an accounting issue. We had a good meeting with the Chief, Lt. and Ashlee Korny and the PD and dispatch get quite a bit of grant money but the way the grants work is you get a certain amount of grant money, \$80,000, and that grant becomes a line item in the budget and you charge against that line item. They get a grant for both personnel costs regular and a grant for training for \$18,000. Those grants are supposed to be accounted for separately. Instead of charging against the grants, they're charging against the regular operating budget. We think that's why they're over. The thought was it would eventually come out in the wash but that's not how it works. I think we understand each other a little bit better and we're trying to get to the bottom if these expenses are being charged against the operating budget, what's being charged against the grants funding.

Mr. Rosenblum: The comment of saying at the end of the year the line-item transfer to offset that overtime is where the issue is. My response would be in a budgeting sense, even if he was doing that, if there's a line item somewhere else why aren't we decreasing that and putting it into the overtime so you don't get to that point. The grant portion, there's specific things for each grant and you have to go by what's on the grant. Those grants will also get audited.

Mr. Goncalves: Charging directly against the grant and repaying yourself. Special police used to be a lot more, but aren't they required to give us a certain amount of overtime or free hours every year. I'd like to know if that's still happening.

Mr. DeBarge: POST changed all of that. The numbers went from 50 to 12 was because of the POST requirements. They have to do a litany of more qualifications and work to be on the street. I don't remember the volunteer hours.

Mr. Goncalves: Maybe for special events or things of that nature.

Mr. DeBarge: They're going to have union issues with that. You can't specifically bring in your special police force and tell them it's their volunteer hours during an event just to have more numbers. I would never approve that personally. As part of this policy, the all entities paying for services for events and things like that, I think that will be a significant change for budgetary issues because we pay for everything when it comes to town events. I'm sure it's not going to be groundbreaking numbers but every little bit is going to bring it down.

Mr. Silva: I want to emphasize or have a more definitive of is what's a town event?

Mr. Goncalves: Celebrate Ludlow, 250<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. DeBarge: Any event has to get approved by this office. Any event that has alcohol has a certain number of police. Any event that is going to attract people has to have a certain number of police. I think the easy answer for this is it doesn't matter who. The Board of Selectmen will have the right to waive an event coming in that needs police should the board want to. That will be up to you guys.

Mr. Silva: I'm trying to get a picture of what we should and shouldn't waive.

Mr. DeBarge: Anything needing police would be an event that would be charged to the entity holding the event.

Mr. Silva: We always exempt our church organizations.

Mr. Strange: This policy creates a presumption that they will pay for the overtime themselves and it's the board's prerogative if they want to override that.

Mr. Silva: Other than snow, I don't know any other area where you can overspend and you can just bring it back.

Mr. Rosenblum: The Munis system won't even allow you to spend it.

Mr. Goncalves: I'd love to get an idea as to why dispatch is at 100% of their budget at this point.

Mr. DeBarge: Now that we've seen some type of beginning of a policy in black and white, I think the next step is to invite the Chief in so we can ask those questions. Before anything gets set in stone and gets sent over I think it's fair and right to have him in and be able to ask the questions that we can't answer.

**Motion made by Mr. Goncalves** to ask the Chiefs to come in as soon as they can get here, probably 2 weeks from tonight.

Mr. Silva: In the meantime, are we good with the overtime issues we've been seeing?

Mr. Strange: The memo that was sent to the police department was no more training overtime because there's no more money left, knowing that this policy was coming down the line, which gives the Chief the ability to request additional training overtime expenditures as long as the board approves it. Right now, there's no training overtime available. As we're going through, we're realizing certain things are being charged against that line item, like FTO work and some of the K9 stuff.

Mr. Goncalves: We're not critical now that for the next couple of weeks we can wait and get somebody in and continue this conversation.

Mr. DeBarge: It depends on who you're asking.

**Motion made by Mr. Silva** to table the police policy for overtime. **Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Board to discuss and possibly approve Project Manager job description.

Mr. Strange: We're going to table this as well because we don't have a job description yet. The thought behind this was both with being without a Procurement Officer and Planning Director right now, who was leading the charge on managing the grants and knowing how difficult it is right now. There's 3 openings for a Planning Director positions just in the Pioneer Valley. We're number 4. In terms of Procurement Officers, we've been through a couple hiring processes for that position and there just aren't that many people that are around that are qualified. The thought was to create a project manager position, which would be funded out of the Procurement Officer line who would manage contracts, projects, grants. I'm a certified Procurement Officer so I can do the bigger procurement stuff. It would push some of the responsibilities out to the departments. Anything over \$50,000 would require RFP's and things of that nature and I can handle that. It's tracking down paperwork, getting the contracts signed and staying on top of the projects. That's the time-consuming part of both of those jobs. That's the thought. Thinking beyond the recruitment of both of those positions.

Mr. Goncalves: Are you going to get one with an assistant?

Mr. Strange: They're 2 different budgets so I think the Planning Board wants to advertise for a Planning Director. Part of Doug's job was managing grants, it kind of landed in his lap. I've done that in previous work so I can handle that. The thought was to take that grant management piece

out of the Planning Department and put it in our office and then also with the procurement piece instead of backfilling the procurement officer filling it with a project manager. I think we're more likely to get a good candidate to manage projects than somebody who is going to be a qualified Procurement Officer.

Mr. Goncalves: Is there communities around that have that type of set up and we can look at their job descriptions?

Mr. Strange: That's what Carrie is doing now.

Mr. Silva: I like this idea because when we initially had both jobs before this I said why can't we have one do both? It was discussed but something like this might be able to slide into and do both positions and at least help out. I think it's a good idea.

**Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to table. Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Board to discuss and possibly approve one-year probationary period for non-union employees.

Mr. DeBarge: It would be a change from 6 to 12 months.

Mr. Goncalves: I read this 10 times. I think it's a great idea. I can see where it makes a ton of sense.

**Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to approve. Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Mr. Constantino: I was looking at your agenda today after I saw on Facebook a lot of people complaining about their Eversource rates.

Mr. Goncalves: Gas.

Mr. Constantino: I did see a gas person that was going to be here. My problem is a couple of things. I have a hard time reading my electric bill. People are complaining about what electricity costs and gas. I got an electric bill and I can't read it. I was running projects in town for 30 years when I worked for the water department. I had to manage a budget. I know what water rates are. I can't read the rate on this bill for the past 4 years. I put solar panels on my house for a 5-10-year payback. I spent an hour on the phone with the electric company to help me decipher this. Today we're paying about \$.33/KWH. You can't see that on here. It doesn't say it and they won't do anything about correcting that. You're paying about \$.14 to generate electricity and they have these decimal place items where they hide the delivery rate and that comes out to about \$.19 so it's a total of \$.33. My other problem is they charge all of us \$.33 if you live in Town. I put solar panels. You get \$.26 back and the meter reads both ways. They say it's because of the Department of Public Utilities. That makes my 10 years closer to 12-15.

Mr. Goncalves: The difference in that rate is so they can give back the energy credit on the other side and make it favorable for people that want to do it.

Mr. Constantino: They charge me 33, I want 33 back if I'm giving it all back to them because they're charging you for it.

Mr. Rosenblum: There is a supply line on there. You can shop your supply. It's not that difficult. We also have the aggregate. You can go to [energyswitchma.com](http://energyswitchma.com). You should see a constellation line.

Mr. Constantino: They don't show it anywhere. There's no subtotal that tells you it's \$.19 so if you want to do what you said, you have to take the time.

Mr. Rosenblum: I don't look at my bill as much because I know when I do this shopping online, I do 6 months or a year and there's usually no cancellation fees. It is extremely simple to do in 5-10 minutes.



Mr. Gennette: Aggregate electric has been approved by the State, we're just waiting to finalize and get the new rates in. He was saying you could shop your rate but we're doing it on behalf of the entire Town as a group purchase. We'll be able to take the buying power of every resident and decrease that from your bill. They say you can't guarantee it's going to be a better rate but you have a better opportunity to save money. It's only on the supply charge. There's a lot of towns that are switching over to aggregate electric and it's starting to hurt companies like Eversource so they're starting to up their distribution lines. They're a distribution company. They're not a supply company. They up the distribution because they're going to start feeling it in the supply side. We're working on it.

Mr. Constantino: I didn't come here to yell at you guys. I saw on Facebook that Jake Oliveira was getting involved with this but you can't contact a body in that office.

Mr. DeBarge: This Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> is the 250<sup>th</sup> Committee Last Night at Ludlow High School from 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. First Night we did last year at this time was an incredible event. Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup> is Ludlow Community Center/Randall Boys & Girls Club 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration noon – 4:00 p.m.

### CLOSING COMMENTS

Mr. Gennette: Everyone is talking about electric, gas and rates. Labor rates are up, insurance is through the roof, the cost for products are up and it's no different for the town. We're getting less state and federal funding and we've been lucky to stay under 2 ½ at Town Meeting. We're doing everything we can to keep it that way. We know rates have gone up. We know you're feeling the pain. We are trying everything we can.

Mr. Goncalves: Our wrestling team is at the State Championship level. We have an incredible team. We have a gentleman who has officially broken every record in state and in town as a senior. Yesterday he was at a big match and his brother is a wrestler for Columbia and he was wiping the mats with a kid from Harvard. There are some big matches this weekend.

Mr. Silva: It's pothole season so be careful. The town is not responsible for potholes. They can be but there's limited circumstances.


Mr. Goncalves: We're responsible for potholes, not damage created by them.

Mr. Silva: If you do find one, please notify the DPW.

Mr. Rosenblum: About the potholes, it's a tough time of year. Cold patch goes in, another weather event happens, water gets in, they expand and blow up. There's nothing we can do until you get into a warmer season. As Manny said, call the DPW.

Mr. DeBarge: I'm going to close with a letter we received from a gentleman named David Bartley, an attorney and also a City Councilor in Ward 3 in Holyoke who had some dealings with Doug Stefancik, who we lost recently, suddenly. He sent a letter to us after attending Doug's services. Dear Select Board Members, yesterday morning I attended a funeral mass for a quiet, life-long Holyoker and long-time employee of your town, Doug Stefancik. I thought I might offer a few words in his memory. My contact with Doug was in 2 ways. To say hello when I would see him around Holyoke and whenever I had a legal or land use technical issue that concerned a client's matter in Ludlow. I can attest in both instances Doug was always positive and ready to assist. Certainly, I was not a close friend, but that's my point. Doug would go out of his way to help me and since that's the case I'm quite certain he did the same for Ludlow residents, officials and visitors. In that light, I offer you, his friends, employer and co-workers my condolences. Sincerely, David Bartley. We appreciate you taking the time to send that to us.

**Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to adjourn at 6:32 p.m. Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

  
Chairperson  
