



**Town of Ludlow  
Office of the Select Board**

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TOWN OF LUDLOW

The Meeting of the Select Board held on Tuesday, September 16, 2025, began at 6:00 p.m. in the Select Board's Conference Room.

Members Present: Anthony Alves, James Gennette, William Rosenblum and Manuel Silva.

First order of business: Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Silva: Pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, section 20(f), after notifying the Select Board chair, any person may record the open session of this Select Board meeting, subject to reasonable requirements of the chair. This meeting is being recorded by Ludlow Community Television. If anyone else is recording, please identify yourself now. There is no one.

6:00 p.m. – PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Marek: I'm Judy Marek. I live in this Town in an over 55 community where they have provided us with a tremendous, humongous trash barrels. They're extremely difficult for disabled, elderly people to handle. I have spoken to the DPW and they told me there is no such thing as a senior barrel; however, I know personally of that have senior barrels which are half the size and are manageable. In our community there is a woman who is taking her trash out with her walker to her neighbors after they put their barrel out because she can't handle the barrel. This person is totally blind and has to contend with a walker and huge barrel going down the driveway. There is another person who has stopped recycling and another one whose sister is picking up her trash once a week and taking it to her house because she's also too disabled. I am barely managing to get the barrels out myself. I have lived in the Town of Grafton and when this happened there I called the DPW and they sent me the senior barrel the next day, which is half the size. I know the Town of Longmeadow issued small barrels to everybody and if you wanted a big barrel you had to ask for it. I'm asking if you could also provide us with the smaller barrels.

Mr. Silva: Thank you for coming in. I did mention that at one of our meetings with the DPW. We're going to have to try to figure something out.

Ms. Marek: There are almost 100 residents in my community and most of them are ready to sign a petition.

Mr. Gennette: What were you using before?

Ms. Marek: I was using a barrel half that size. I know the other barrels are available. The DPW gave me the name of the company that manufactured our barrels so I called them to see if they made a smaller one and they never heard of us.

Mr. Silva: We will look into it to see what we can do.

Ms. Prairie: I was very pleased with Ludlow when I moved for the good service. Now they're taking away everything. I can't see or drive or leave the house by myself. Why did they stop the health nurse?

Mr. Rosenblum: That's going to resume.

Mr. Silva: Thank you. We'll look into it and do our best.

## VISITATION

6:00 p.m. – Board of Assessors – To discuss billing practices and FY26 tax classification hearing and target dates.

Mr. Strange: We wanted to invite Joe, Tony and the rest of the board members to come in and talk about how we do our billing. It's been evolving over the past months to years to try to understand what the process is. Joe and I met today to talk about we've been late with our tax classification hearings so we looked at the calendar and December 2<sup>nd</sup> is the last meeting that we can do it.

Mr. J. Alves: We're planning on finishing our data this month. We got the Vision commercial this week and we should be finished by the end of the month to turn our data to DOR in October and classification hearing target is the week before Thanksgiving. Kirkwood needs at least 3 weeks to mail out the billing and there's always some crux with the software. We started early anticipating some of this. Other departments, like accounting, play a factor.

Mr. Rosa: If we're submitting the data by October, is there any way we can move that hearing before the first week of November?

Mr. J. Alves: It depends. The sooner we're done with our DOR approval we can move it up. They have a 1–2-week turnaround.

Mr. Silva: The earlier the better. As you know, we have been considerably late several times.

Mr. J. Alves: In fiscal 23 we did get the bills out on time. 2024 is when we started running into issues. They went out late due to Munis software upgrade. This year in 2025 we upgraded our CAMA to Vision and Vision and Munis had issues with their bridge so that hung us up. Preliminary is a little easier because you're not working with values. The actual is where we're running into issues with software combined with having the late classification.

Mr. Silva: That's dangerous.

Mr. J. Alves: Corelogic has helped out. That's the mortgage payments and escrow. The last 2 years the software has put us up against it. It's been a lot of work to get these out in time. Marc has been right there with us. I think we're over the hump. I'm not expecting anything. Normally we run, train and test a month ahead to make sure there's no issues but once you jump into the live we find more issues. It creates a lot of stress for the residents.

Mr. Silva: I know the excise commitment comes in whenever the registry does it.

Mr. J. Alves: We follow the municipal calendar. That's DOR driven. As it comes in, we process it right away. We try to give the Treasurer/Collector enough time to get the billing to Kirkwood and mail it out. We push out billing as fast as it comes in and as much as the Treasurer/Collector can handle. We have about 8 commitments per year, 4 excise commitments plus boat excise. Having finance meetings helps a lot.

Mr. Rosenblum: As we've been doing with other departments, trying to solidify those timelines so we're more timely when we do the budget. We have gone through a lot of upgrades so hopefully the bugs are getting worked out.

Mr. Gennette: I was approached by a resident yesterday and they were asking about their tax bill going up and didn't realize the difference between the assessment and tax. Are you seeing the housing market going as crazy as it has in the past?

Mr. J. Alves: They're not slowing down. We're looking at another 10% increase in value, which means our tax rate will go down. Your average tax bill will go up \$300 per medium household. It's close to \$300,000. Our new growth will be the same as it has been. Our numbers are healthy especially with the mills coming on board. There's a lot of construction and sales. We're entering into the million-dollar home assessment and lots of them.

Mr. Rosa: Ultimately, the driver of the tax bill is the budget because you back into the number that you need.

Mr. Gennette: MMWEC.

Mr. J. Alves: That's a local receipt. They've been going down a little bit but they did go up on their solar facility. A lot of people think 2 ½ is reflective on your bill.

Mr. Gennette: There's no room in the math to ease off and wait for things to correct?

Mr. J. Alves: We can just hope for growth. More construction and development is the best anecdote for this.

Mr. Gennette: Doesn't that drive assessments up?

Mr. J. Alves: It does in the areas it's being built. Generally, the sales across town are very high. It doesn't matter where you are or what you're selling, the sales are well above the assessment. The last couple years you'll see the assessment go up high, tax rate is going down and tax bill has been going up. The best tool is a double-edged sword and that's to develop more and bring more projects. We're lucky with solar. A battery storage facility that wanted to come on board but backed off so we need projects to help out the tax base.

Mr. Rosa: In the last 10-20 years they've hired more administrative staff than teachers. Maybe if people could look at administrative staffing, not teachers. I think there's some administrative fat in the school system and if you want to save the taxpayers some money that's probably a place to look.

Mr. Gennette: We look through everything we can. Not just the schools. We try to cut. There's not as much fat as everybody would like to believe. I appreciate your comment.

Mr. J. Alves: Expenses go up, services are going up.

Mr. Gennette: That doesn't affect the assessment.

Mr. J. Alves: It does and doesn't. The assessment is market driven. The last 2 years of sales keep going up. Ludlow is entering into a new valuation where we're starting to see a lot of homes go above a million. Hundred Acre Wood is pretty much sold out and there's a new subdivision coming online next to them. He purchased another 60-70 acres and that's going to be coming online in the next year or 2.

Mr. Gennette: How does that effect the prices of the houses down off of State or in the downtown area?

Mr. J. Alves: The immediate effect is the surrounding neighborhood. We assess by neighborhood. We can't assess at the same rate. It's neighborhood and sales driven. Ludlow is building and it looks like it's not going to stop. It's good for us because we need the income but it brings more students and adding to more services.

Mr. Rosa: There's only 2 ways to lower your tax bill. Lower the budget or bring in new growth.

Mr. Gennette: The services you're talking about don't get cheaper, which doesn't drop your budget.

Mr. J. Alves: The mills have been a tremendous asset for us. We've encouraged them to develop and it's starting to pan out.

Mr. A. Alves: Marc referenced December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Mr. Strange: That's the last date.

Mr. J. Alves: Kirkwood needs 3 weeks to get the mail out. Before we did billing inhouse and that can get us out of a jam. Without that you have to be ahead of the game.

Mr. A. Alves: Let's pick a date that's aggressive and realistic.

Mr. Strange: You have a meeting November 18<sup>th</sup> and that's right before Thanksgiving.

Mr. Silva: I usually went the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> week of November. The Assessors don't bill; they provide the data.

Mr. Gennette: They have to give them the data on time.

Mr. J. Alves: The earlier the better.

6:30 p.m. – Pedro Alvarez, Tapestry Health – To request opioid settlement funds.

Mr. Alvarez: Thank you for having me. My name is Pedro Alvarez. I am the Director of Harm Reduction Services at Tapestry. In that role, I oversee our harm reduction program throughout Western Mass. We have 6 brick and mortar sites. We cover 3 counties, Franklin, Hampshire and Hampden. Our brick-and-mortar sites are located in Greenfield, Northampton, Holyoke, Springfield, Chicopee and Westfield. We venture into 11 different communities where we offer mobile services. Ludlow happens to be one of them. I shared some data and updated numbers from January 1 – August. We offer harm reduction services in Ludlow where we focus on 3 main goals: preventing overdose death by distributing Naloxone, providing overdose response training, reducing the spread of HIV and Hepatitis C by providing sterile syringes and collecting used ones daily safely, connecting residents to healthcare, treatment and social services through referrals, outreach and mobile visits. In the last year in Ludlow, we served 30 unique residents through 81 different encounters. We distributed 6,000 sterile syringes and safely collected more than 5,700 used ones; we provided 61 doses of Naloxone and trained more than 25 people to use it. Each one is a potential life saved. We connected residents to wound care, mobile health services and referrals for treatment. These numbers represent real people, neighbors, community members who are alive and healthier today because of this work. Some of the community benefits are that this work doesn't just impact individuals, it benefits the entire community. There are fewer syringes in public places. Fewer infections mean fewer health care calls and more lives saved reduces the burden on police, fire and EMS. Paulina requested \$20,000 and abatement funds are available to support prevention, harm reduction and treatment and recovery. We are asking for your support in allocating a portion of these funds to sustain and expand our work in Ludlow. This will allow us to increase mobile outreach hours, support staffing and enhance coordination within the Town. We come in on a regular basis and provide mobile services. That comes in way of our delivery service. We have a van that comes in. They usually call the Chicopee site and ask for it to be delivered. Sometimes we're meeting people right where they're at. We also provide Naloxone training throughout Ludlow predominately to different agencies and entities. We do frequent the County Jail in Ludlow. We visit the stabilization center every other week and provide Naloxone training. We're at the medium facility providing Naloxone trainings in between those weeks. Gandara has a TSS here where we provide Naloxone training, screenings for HIV and STI's. We come to the Everest Recovery Center located in Ludlow where we provide education, Naloxone trainings and Naloxone distribution as well as screening and counseling for HIV and STI's. I'm not here asking to open a brick-and-mortar site because I don't think that's needed because it is a small, close-knit community. We're not looking to expand services here. We're asking for support to continue our mobile delivery services and in-reach and out-reach community as well.

Mr. Gennette: You mentioned the stabilization center at the jail. Were you including the numbers for that?

Mr. Alvarez: No. I did not include the numbers for the stabilization center or medium facility. I wanted to highlight more of what we do in the community. We do have a great partnership with the Hampden County House of Corrections and Sheriff Cocchi. We also do post overdose work with Hampden County Sheriff's Department where we do some follow up and door knocking for individuals that experience overdose. Since January we had 3 post overdose visits in Ludlow. We partnered up with Ashley Jediny who works out of the Health Department and we do some follow up to individuals that experience overdoses. Not too

long ago I joined then Director Liz Whynott and I was the Director of Operations. Liz Whynott transitioned to RISE, a state-wide organization, and I am filling the role as the Director now.

Mr. Rosenblum: Originally we voted yes and then we rescinded it. Mr. Goncalves had some reservations. We wanted something more in depth. What it came down to for us was the support of the Board of Health and Health Department and understanding that with our opioid funds to make sure they are being used for the purpose they're meant for. This clarifies what the exact services are. Understanding the opioid funds are going towards harm reduction and the accounting of the funds. With the other ones, they submit invoices to us. We talked about making sure anything you're doing gets submitted to Paulina and she signs off on it under our guidelines we have with the opioid funds. This is more clear to me. We said yes before and it's still \$20,000.

Mr. Alvarez: We work with municipalities in the same way. Recently, we were granted opioid abatement funds in the City of Springfield to work in conjunction with other organizations; Gandara and New North Citizens Council to increase collaboration, increase our outreach efforts, increase some of our education. It works the same way. We submit and invoice to the Department of Health and Human Services, led by Justin Chapman. He has final approval. If he doesn't agree with it he'll send it right back. We know that process and we're very aware of how that works and willing to do that here.

Mr. Rosenblum: The other concern was making sure these funds are going to Ludlow.

Mr. Alvarez: We have working relationships with the Department of Public Health and Paulina, but we sit in bi-monthly meetings at the Police Department. We try to work out what's needed in this community. A lot of it is information sharing. At some of our sites we have FTIR capacity where we do real time drug checking. Drug trends change pretty rapidly and we want people to be prepared. We're always looking to build those partnerships up and having those working relationships in these communities.

Mr. Alves: Thanks for all the info. I agree with a lot of Mr. Rosenblum's line of thinking. I think it's good we have a support letter from the Board of Health showing the interactions with your organization. I think you've done a good job with your narrative. You've included a proforma expense report and how those directly correlate to our town. Another big point is the interactions and preventions this intervention can provide do reduce some stress on Police, Fire, EMS. I think the request is in line with what the funds should be used for.

Mr. Rosenblum: It's a support system to what we currently have and takes pressure off of our current services. We're using money that is not affecting our budget.

Mr. Gennette: Is Tapestry a non-profit?

Mr. Alvarez: Yes. A lot of our funding comes from the Department of Public Health. We do go after specific grants and now opioid abatement funds have presented themselves. We've seen some cuts going into this fiscal year so we're seeking out funds to continue the work we're doing.

Mr. Silva: We were in a quandary because we didn't have a letter from the Board of Health suggesting their support. Mr. Goncalves did some research and found that Tapestry did some things we didn't feel fit the opioid things you have now outlined here.

**Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum** to award opioid funds not to exceed \$20,000 to Tapestry Harm Reduction for the Town of Ludlow. **Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

Mr. Alvarez: Thank you. I appreciate you and look forward to this working relationship with the Town of Ludlow. It's unfortunate that I have to be here to have this conversation. From 2016 to 2023 the Town of Ludlow has seen 47 fatal overdoses. It's the impact we try to minimize.

## **NEW BUSINESS**



Board to discuss and possibly approve reclassification request for Library Tech at Hubbard Memorial Library from L3 to L2.

Ms. Collette: In August 2025, we met with the Board and made the motion to reclassify the labor grade of the adult services L3 senior para librarian to an L2. In 2022 we were granted a new position for the reference and library technician. We have two L3 seniors and we only require 1. Since the addition of that reference library technician, we don't need 2 more L3's. It does have a rather large salary. It's not significantly less than and in some cases more than somebody with their master's for management and reference technology librarian. Both the reference and library technology librarian and the L3 para librarian for senior adult services positions are currently vacant so it makes sense to make this change. Many of the things the L3 had prior to us getting that new position has been transferred to that new position.

**Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum to approve reclassification request for Library Tech at Hubbard Memorial Library from L3 to L2. Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Board to discuss and possibly approve Town Hiring Process (tabled from August 19<sup>th</sup>).

Mr. Gennette: I'm comfortable with where we are.

Mr. Alves: When we left it the only comment we had was with regards to section where the language was where the department head and HR work together coupled with having counsel do a broader view. Also, the Board has to keep the appointing authority.

Mr. Strange: We double checked with Town Counsel and the way our bylaws are written and the State law is written, the Select Board is the appointing authority for all employees. As a practical matter, it's going to create a headache for us. For example, we have a candidate we like for the Select Board so we had to tell her we like you and we're expecting the Board to appoint you October 7<sup>th</sup>. Does that person need to come in and interview? Does she have to come here or not? Will that policy change with a change in the Chairman? None of which we can control, but that was what we were trying to avoid.

Mr. Gennette: I don't know that we have to interview everybody that comes through here. We only have to appoint. If the department has decided on who they would like and they have a candidate, you could come before us and say this is the person we like and we hope that you appoint this person to our Board. If at some point we had a problem we could air our difference at that point or approve. I don't think we have to go through a whole interview process every time you want to hire a janitor. It seems like a big waste of time to me.

Ms. Ribeiro: It's not just having that candidate come in for an interview. It slows down the process. Right now, we are working with a candidate for an open vacancy and we can't move forward based on the attorney's opinion until this board formally appoints. It holds up this individual giving notice, us making an offer and negotiating. The question is are you going to want to interview these people? We have to keep in mind these are open meetings. If somebody is coming in to interview for a position that could be putting them at risk. The biggest issue is time. We did interviews on September 10<sup>th</sup> and we're at a standstill until your next meeting on October 7<sup>th</sup>. In a market where we don't have a lot of qualified applicants that could put us at risk of losing somebody.

Mr. Gennette: For me it would be if we had to have an interview for a substantial position we would want to interview and have some influence on that decision. Especially if it's a counterpart. Other than that, it would be up to the Chairman to say I think we could just appoint this person and put them on the agenda. The inefficiencies of a municipality are ridiculous.

Mr. Silva: What about letting them know the Board has them on the docket for appointment and if they could come in for a meeting. I don't want to interview. I would like to see who we have hired or appoint them first and have them come in after for a meet and greet.

Mr. Rosenblum: I think it's the prerogative of the Board, not just the Chairman. Are you able to go through the process, select a candidate, negotiate with them, do the background check and we don't have a meeting for a week, can you still go ahead and give them an offer. Then they come in the next week saying you have the job but as protocol we need to formally say yes.

Mr. Gennette: No, we have to appoint them.

Mr. Strange: This is what we were trying to avoid. They're not comfortable coming into meetings. Plus, the time delay. We can't do anything unless we change the bylaw.

Mr. Gennette: After the changes are you comfortable with this?

Mr. Alves: Yes, those were the only remarks I had.

**Motion made by Mr. Gennette** to approve the Town Hiring Process as presented. **Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

Ms. Ribeiro: Going forward, are we with Mr. Silva as the Chair to assume we're going to bring in all candidates in? This is our biggest question.

Mr. Strange: The policy while you're Chair, is it going to be that if we're recommending appointing somebody that they come in and meet the Board?

Mr. Silva: If they can come in that appointment date, fine, if not some other date.

Mr. Alves: Is that a one-person decision or Board decision?

Mr. Rosenblum: In the future we can work on a bylaw so we're not putting every person through this that we don't need to. As we've said before, Department Heads know their departments.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Board to discuss and possibly approve to renew the agreement between the Town and Faith Community Chapel for snowplowing.

Ms. Morrison: I'm Lisa Morrison, the Pastor of Faith Community Chapel, which is across from East Street School. It's been working well. In the afternoon the whole lot is full of parents so I think it's helping. Parents come in the morning and afternoon and some of the teacher's park in the lot.

**Motion made by Mr. Gennette** to renew the agreement between the Town and Faith Community Chapel for snowplowing. **Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

25-169 Letter from Adrienne DeSantis, Board of Health Member – Resignation effective September 25, 2025.

Mr. Rosenblum: I would like to thank Adrienne DeSantis for taking the time to be a member of the Board of Health and thank you for all the work you've done over the years.

**Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum** to accept the resignation effective September 25, 2025. **Mr. Gennette second.**

Mr. Gennette: I've known Adrienne for quite a few years. Our sons are best friends. Thank you for your professionalism. We're better off because you've participated with us.

Mr. Alves: I echo the sentiments.

**All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

Mr. Alves: What is the procedure to fill the spot?

Mr. Silva: It's the same procedure as all other boards. The boards put out notices for applications and we interview them.

Mr. Strange: Not that the Board wants to take this route but if the seat hasn't been filled in 30 days the Board can compel an appointment.

25-170 Letter from Linda Nawracaj – Requesting to be appointed to the Pond Committee.

**Motion made by Mr. Gennette to approve Linda Nawracaj to the Pond Committee. Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

25-171 Letter from Mass DOT – Notice of upcoming work and traffic impacts for bridge preservation work of 9 bridges carrying I90.

**Motion made by Mr. Gennette to file. Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

25-172 Letter from Jodie Lambeau, Ludlow Community Center/Randall Boys & Girls Club – Requesting annual Rag Shag Parade be held on Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Rosenblum: This is annual and they always work with Police and Fire.

**Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum to approve the annual Rag Shag Parade to be held on Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

25-173 Letter from Planning Board – Advising the Board voted to recommend acceptance of Millside Drive for the October 6<sup>th</sup> Special Town Meeting.

Mr. Strange: This was just for your information. I don't think we included this or some other background information on the warrant so when you vote can you make that a stipulation to include the background?

**Motion made by Mr. Alves to accept and file the letter from the Planning Board as well as include the recommendation in the background where applicable on the Town Meeting warrant for Millside Drive. Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

25-173 Letter from MASS DEP – Notice of responsibility for waste site cleanup at 48 Baker Street.

Mr. Gennette: Is this a pretty standard notification?

Mr. Strange: Yes.

**Motion made by Mr. Gennette to file. Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

25-174 Chief Brennan – Request to charge off medical expenses and lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for a Police Officer for an injury sustained while on duty August 20, 2025.

**Motion made by Mr. Alves to approve the request from Chief Brennan to charge off medical expenses and lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for a Police Officer for an injury sustained while on duty August 20, 2025. Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

25-175 Chief Brennan – Request to charge off medical expenses and lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for a Police Officer for an injury sustained while on duty September 1, 2025.



**Motion made by Mr. Alves** to approve Chief Brennan's request to charge off medical expenses and lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for a Police Officer for an injury sustained while on duty September 1, 2025. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

25-176 Chief Brennan – Request to charge off medical expenses and lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for a Police office for an injury sustained while on duty September 1, 2025.

**Motion made by Mr. Alves** to approve the request from Chief Brennan to charge off medical expenses and lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for a Police office for an injury sustained while on duty September 1, 2025. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

25-177 Chief Brennan – Request to charge off medical expenses and lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for a Special Police Officer for an injury sustained while on duty on August 30, 2025.

**Motion made by Mr. Alves** to approve request from Chief Brennan to charge off medical expenses and lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for a Special Police Officer for an injury sustained while on duty on August 30, 2025. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

25-178 Chief Pease – Request to charge off medical expenses and lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for a Firefighter/Paramedic for an injury sustained while on duty August 30, 2025.

**Motion made by Mr. Alves** to approve the request from Chief Pease to charge off medical expenses and lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for a Firefighter/Paramedic for an injury sustained while on duty August 30, 2025. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

25-179 Letter from Brock Cordeiro – Requesting the Select Board send letter of support to the Chairs of the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing in support of an Act to Reduce Incidence and Death from Pancreatic Cancer.

Mr. Gennette: This letter has gone out to Mayor John Mitchell of New Bedford, the Select Board of Dartmouth, Westport, Fairhaven, Essex, Milbury in support of this act and they're asking for Ludlow to recognize it as well.

**Motion made by Mr. Gennette** to send a letter of support to the Chairs of the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing in support of An Act to Reduce Incidence and Death from Pancreatic Cancer. **Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

25-180 Letter from Brian Wood, Green Day Recycling MA – Requesting permission to place temporary signs at the intersection of Center Street & Mass Pike to promote the upcoming Electronics Recycling event with the First Church to be held on September 20<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Rosenblum: Apparently we approved this because the signs are already there. I would say we approve it. At least it's someone who asked.

Mr. Gennette: This is on September 20<sup>th</sup> so they're probably backed up against their timeline.

Mr. Alves: Because the signs are up I don't believe it is a reason to approve. To delineate this from others, we have gotten other sign requests before that we denied for a business and this is for a non-profit community event. There is an old sign policy from the Board of Selectmen adopted in 2014 that does denote that signs and banners from "community involved non-profit organizations" will be allowed to be placed on Town property. As anti-sign as I am I think it fits the bounds of the policy that is currently in place. I don't think that them being up already is good. I maintain that we need better sign enforcement. As anti-sign as I am, it's in line with the policy. It does denote no more than 2 locations in Town may be utilized.

Mr. Strange: It might be best for the Board to consider defining 2 areas in town that you can put signs so they're not all over the place.

Mr. Silva: I'm not as concerned about signs as you guys are. The reason is people are trying to make a living. I'm more opposed to political signs.

Mr. Strange: There was a political sign at the library across Putts Bridge today. A separate group called and said if the sign isn't removed then they were going to put their sign there. BJ wasn't available so I went down there and picked up 8 signs.

**Motion made by Mr. Gennette** to approve the temporary signs at the intersection of Center Street and Mass Pike to promote the upcoming Electronic Recycling event with the First Church to be held on September 20<sup>th</sup>. **Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Board to close Special Town Meeting warrant.

Mr. Strange: You all have redlined copies of the changes that were made since last meeting. The red ones were Town Counsel edits and blue ones were mine, most of which were just renumbering. We also had to add a new unpaid bill. I took out the article on unkept properties and the amendment to the sign bylaw. I made amendments to the noise bylaw.

Mr. Rosenblum: Were any of these unpaid bills through grant money?

Mr. Strange: No.

Mr. Silva: There are some unpaid bills to Paul Kapinos. Paul has passed. Condolences to the family.

Mr. Alves: If we close, can we still adjust language?

Mr. Strange: We have to close it today because Kim has to mail them out on Thursday. Whoever is doing the motion or any Town Meeting member can make an amendment.

Mr. Alves: In the noise bylaw, after the edits and taking out the decibel levels, if you go to 2B and 3B they both reference the standard set forth in paragraph 1, but we've removed the standards in paragraph 1.

Mr. Strange: The standard would be loud. It's a rounded reference but we can certainly take it out.

Mr. Alves: Maintenance is defined as the process of maintaining or preserving a building structure, industrial facility, personal property and associated activities. What would some definitions be?

Mr. Gennette: It doesn't say that. It says maintenance activities are generally prohibited on Sundays.

Mr. Strange: A lawnmower is personal property.

Mr. Alves: Loud maintenance repairing that vehicle. Not cutting your lawn.

Mr. Strange: Do you want me to change standards to provisions to make it a little more precise?

Mr. Alves: It's confusing to me when I read it.

**Motion made by Mr. Gennette** to close the Special Town Meeting warrant. **Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

## NEW BUSINESS

Board to discuss and possibly approve letter to Mass DOT Grant Programs and Mobility in support of the PVTA Grant Proposal to Mass DOT's Transit Connectivity Grant Program.

Mr. Strange: This was the new route that was unveiled by PVTA in the past year. They're applying for a grant to continue that service for another year. PVTA is asking for the Board's letter of support.

Mr. Gennette: Even if we don't support it, they're still going for it. I come through there in the morning and it's a nightmare. I'm not saying it's PVTA's fault but it added pressure on the area.

Mr. Alves: I would argue that public transportation alleviates pressure because you're taking cars off of the road and you're supporting people that don't have any other way of accessing different communities. I'm in full support of supporting this letter.

**Motion made by Mr. Alves** to approve sending a letter of support to Mass DOT Grant Programs and Mobility in support of the PVTA Grant Proposal to Mass DOT's Transit Connectivity Grant Program. **Mr. Rosenblum second. Motion passed 3-1.**

## TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Strange: A reminder that the trash fee bills will be going out around October 1<sup>st</sup> and residents will have 60 days to pay with a due date of December 1<sup>st</sup>. There has been a lot of discussion about the waive of tax bill demands that recently went out from the Collector's office for past due 2024 and 2025 motor vehicle excise and 2025 real estate taxes. I believe the 2024 real estate tax demands went out today. In general, the town sends out 7 motor vehicle excise tax commitments each year. The first commitment is typically the largest. The ensuing 6 pick up the new vehicle registrations throughout the year. The process is for all our bills the town sends a bill. If payments are not received within a prescribed window we send a demand, which includes interest and penalty. If the amount on the demand is not paid we then send out a warrant. When the warrant is sent out it's out of the town's hands and we send it to the deputy collector which is a 3<sup>rd</sup> party entity and they handle collection. Upcoming is the boat and personal property demands for 2022-2025. The upside of this is it's going to increase our local receipts quite a bit. For example, 1 motor vehicle excise commitment is worth about \$58,000.

Mr. Alves: You said the trash bill is around October 1<sup>st</sup>. If they go out 3 days later is it still December 1<sup>st</sup>?

Mr. Strange: It's December 1<sup>st</sup>. They're going to go out October 1<sup>st</sup>. Ryan is sending the bills to Kirkwood tomorrow.

Mr. Alves: A lot of what is going on with the excise taxes is they're essentially unpaid and it's a clean-up effort. Regardless of if it was an error or not, the recourse in waiving interest and/or that demand fee, what I researched is not in the town's hands.

Mr. Strange: Correct. The Collector cannot waive more than \$15 in interest.

Mr. Alves: I don't necessarily agree with it but I don't make the state law.

Mr. Strange: As an operational matter, residents come in and have good stories, but we're bound by state law. You can't make an exception.

Mr. Rosenblum: No matter how the error or miscommunication occurred, it has to be paid.

Mr. Strange: We have a Finance Committee meeting tomorrow night. Carrie, Cheryl, Ryan and I are going to be participating providing them with an update on the Treasurer/Collector's office which has been helped along by Mass Munifin. We have an estimate for how much longer they're going to be in town helping us. We didn't anticipate them having to be here for so long. It looks like the end of October with an open budgeted

position in the Treasurer/Collector office we thought it would offset the cost for Mass Munifin but it's not going to. Mass Munifin is posting back months. With an \$80+ million-dollar budget you can imagine how much traffic goes through that office. It's all got to be reconciled every month. It wasn't done. We're also working with ITP, who is probably the best consultant I've worked with. They're all former Munis or Tyler employees and they're getting us up and running on Munis. We've been paying for every module in Munis and using 20% of it. That's nobody's fault it's just a complicated program. ITP is allowing us to make more efficient our payroll functions. We're rolling out employee self-service. We'll be able to send out check stubs electronically. Right now, every single week members of the Treasurer/Collector office have to fold paper and put it into an envelope. We had engaged ADP to automate our payroll and through due diligence with ITP we realized that ADP wasn't really a good fit because we wanted to automate everything to get all of our data from Munis and have it automatically be uploaded and useful in ADP but it just wasn't the case. There was a litany of ways we were going to have to do work arounds. We ended our relationship with ADP but we still wanted to do automated payroll so we kept ITP on. We're going to FinCom to let them know. We're probably going to have to do year-end transfers and to request some money from the FinCom reserve. Reminder the Special Town Meeting is September 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at Ludlow High School. We'll be previewing Town Meeting articles and Town Meeting members and members of the public will be able to ask questions. The Special Town Meeting is Monday night October 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 at Ludlow High School.

#### **BOARD UPDATES/MISC**

Chairman to approve and sign all bills, warrants and abatements. A record of all warrants is in the Select Board's office for perusal until provided to the Town Accountant's office.

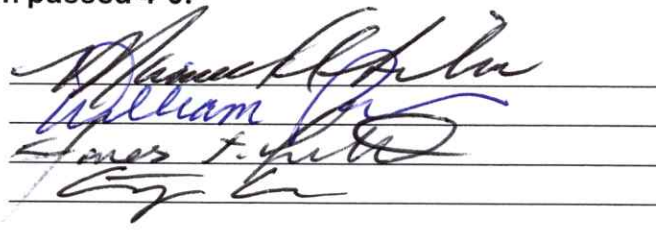
#### **CLOSING COMMENTS**

Mr. Alves: We became aware of an upcoming parking ban starting next week for DPW road construction and paving beginning Monday until October 20<sup>th</sup> it's in effect Monday – Friday 7:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. if you live Meadow, Hampden, Berkshire, Hampshire, Bristol, Duke Essex, Franklin, Worcester and Norwood Streets. I attended a few town events over the past couple weeks. The Health Fair put on by the Health Department at the Boys& Girls Club. The 9/11 ceremony last week was obviously a sad thing we deal with but it's good to remember. Thank you to our Chiefs for coordinating that event.

Mr. Rosenblum: I echo Mr. Alves in the 9/11 ceremony. Both Chiefs put on a great ceremony along with Eric Segundo. Be careful when you're driving.

Mr. Silva: We do have open session with open comments and it was a pleasure to have a couple of ladies come in and voice their opinions on a couple issues.

**Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum to close the Select Board meeting at 7:58 p.m. Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

Chairman

Ludlow Select Board

*All related documents can be viewed at the Select Board's Office during regular business hours.*