



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

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TOWN OF LUDLOW

The Meeting of the Select Board held on Tuesday, December 2, 2025, began at 5:30 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.

5:30-5:45 P.M. – PUBLIC COMMENT

**VISITATION**

5:45 P.M. – **Public Hearing** – Ludlow Elks Lodge #2448 – Amendment for Change of Manager

**Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum** to open the Public Hearing for the Ludlow Elks Lodge #2448 – Amendment for Change of Manager at 5:43 P.M. **Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

Mr. Silva: This seems like just an Amendment to change the manager. Pretty standard procedure and I'm looking here; it looks like you had to abutters that were notified. Have you submitted the check, or you have a check for the advertisement.

Mr. Rickson: Yes. I have the check right here and here's the receipts for the letters. My name is Ken Rickson. I am a director and treasurer of the Lodge and that's Ken Charest who's proposed to be our new manager.

Mr. Silva: New manager. Can you handle it?

Mr. Charest: Absolutely.

Mr. Silva: Anybody got any questions for.

Mr. Gennette: Is there liquor licenses involved and that kind of stuff? You got all your training and all the associated material you need for that?

Mr. Charest: Yes.

Mr. Rickson: Yes.

Mr. Silva: As manager you have to be tipped certified or?

Mr. Charest: I do not. It's only the ... bartenders. We are gonna hold a class. We had a couple of new bartenders we hired so I'll probably sit in it just to get it too.

**Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum** to approve Ken Charest as the new manager of Ludlow Elks Lodge #2448. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

**Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum** to close the Public Hearing for Ludlow Elks Lodge #2448 for the change of manager at 5:46 P.M. **Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

5:55 P.M. – **Public Hearing** – (continued from November 18, 2025) – Board of Assessors – Tax Classification

**Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum** to continue the hearing from November 18, 2025 with the Board of Assessors for Tax Classification. **Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

Mr. Rosa: The Fiscal Year 2026 is an interim year update. The works been completed and was approved by the DOR on November 12, 2025. Fiscal Year 26 values are as of January 1, 2025, and are based on sales between January 1, 2023 and December 1, 2024. Our current assessment level is approximately 96%. The DOR allows assessment levels between 90 and 110%. Values have increased by approximately 9.5 to 10.5%. Total evaluation of the Town has increased by 10.5%. New growth for Fiscal Year 2026 came in at \$72,403,638.00 compared to last year's \$28,778,388.00 for Fiscal Year 2025. Most of the new growth came from new residential construction of \$55,281,750.00, followed by commercial industrial personal properties at \$17,121,888.00. This exceptional growth for the Town of Ludlow is well outside of the five-year average. The minimum residential factor is 88.64%, which is the max percentage allowed for the residential class by the DOR. Currently it's at 81.48%. The tax levy limit has increased by \$1,037,240.00 which is a 2.2% increase from \$53,515,259.00 in Fiscal 2025 to \$54,552,499.00 for Fiscal Year 2026. The tax rate at 100% would be 1601 compared to last year's 1735, which is a 7.8% decrease in the tax rate. However, the average single family tax bill will increase by \$150.00 which is a 3% increase from \$5,800.00 last year to \$5,950 this year. The average commercial tax bill will increase by \$330.00 which is a 4% increase from last year from \$9,258.00 to \$9,588.00 and below that if everyone's got a copy of this on the table it shows a breakdown a little bit further on that page. We believe that based on the current make up of the Town as far as the residential and commercial make up that we stick with the single rate and do not do a split rate and we also feel that we shouldn't do a residential exemption or a small commercial exemption as well cause you're shifting the burden unnecessarily to a different class. So, we're welcome to answer any questions if you guys have any questions.

Mr. Alves: I have a couple. Thanks guys. Mr. Chairman if I can.

Mr. Silva: Yes, Mr. Alves.

Mr. Alves: On the 1, 2,3. So, on the 4<sup>th</sup> bullet we talked about new growth, and we say we're well above the five-year average. What is the average?

Mr. J. Alves: The average is, it's kind of the first number. It's about \$28 million on average.

Mr. A. Alves: That's the average? Okay.

Mr. J. Alves: That's about the average, which is still exceptional for any Town, we just have a lot of new construction, the new growth has to be anything new on the ground to be qualified as new growth. So, the last couple years with the new construction, mills housing, HAP housing this year it was really positive for us. Which in turn helps the tax raise and keep the tax increase at bay a bit. So, we're hoping to have a couple more positive years going forward so, it's not always going to be like this, but I think the next few years it'll still be very positive for us. New growth comes a lot from field work. A lot of measuring, entering all the data, we have data on GS accessible as well so it's all about data so you gotta collect it, bring it back, enter it, and then get it approved by DOR. So, it was a good year for us.

Mr. A. Alves: It looks like it. And then Marc, question for you. So, when we did the first iteration of the budget there was a new growth factor in there. I guess where, what was the assumption then compared to this number?

Mr. Strange: So the assumption was 575. This is for Fiscal 27 although it was the same for Fiscal 26. So, what that will do is, it'll raise our sort of baseline total how much revenue we can raise with taxes. It'll also increase our free cash.

Mr. A. Alves: Right, but you don't know the impact based on what you assumed.

Mr. Strange: For?

Mr. Gennette: Tax gathering.

Mr. A. Alves: And the new growth number.

Mr. Strange: For Fiscal 27 or 26?

Mr. A. Alves: 26

Mr. Strange: This number wouldn't impact that. I mean it would, we'd probably look at it as an outlier. So, what we do is, we look at the past five years and what the average new growth was. This is an outlier, so we'll take it into consideration but typically we might just move the assumption up a little bit.

Mr. A. Alves: Just move it up a little bit. Okay. That's where I was going. I don't know if you had already done that.

Mr. J. Alves: Yeah, the tricky part is really for Marc and me is to gauge the new growth number because budget is so early compared to the number we can provide. So usually, it's safe to go to five-year average cause budget is so early. We can play it safe or take a risk and get the wrong numbers.

Mr. A. Alves: Yeah, I get it I just didn't know if we had done that yet that's all. Thank you.

Mr. Gennette: Yeah, that new growth it's almost doubled.

Mr. Rose: It's more than double.

Mr. Silva: So how many homes came online this year versus last year?

Mr. J. Alves: Well, from lots to home we're talking about 60 or so. There was 104 in the new subdivision total so about half of that. Plus, the ones built around the house, I mean around the Town. West Street and other spots that pop up.

Mr. Silva: And I did this a long time. It's hard to get up to this number. From last year to this year. Unless you have a significant, I mean significant increase in construction. And I'm just trying to see cause construction up near me has been virtually the same. You know, house park cropping and cropping and cropping up. And I'm just wondering what the number of new homes are cause understood that you have HAP housing that didn't give you much. They're regulated.

Mr. J. Alves: We came in about 3 million dollars of value.

Mr. Silve: They're exempt. Most of it.

Mr. Rosa: I mean most of this was a single-family residential homes, right?

Mr. J. Alves: 3 million for HAP, 20 for the mills, and about 28 for new construction. So, it's not just the number of homes, it's the value of the new homes too.

Mr. Silva: Not for new growth.

Mr. J. Alves: New growth is the new number. So, they're going from a lot for 150 let's say to \$800,000 homes. So, as you start multiplying that times 50 that's where this new growth comes in. So, it's a lot of new homes. You live up there Manny, you see it, I mean there is.

Mr. Silva: Yeah, there is and I agree with you. We've had significant years of growth, and I was actually thinking that the growth before was a lot less than we should have had. Looking at what's happening in Town and all of a sudden, this year, boom.

Mr. J. Alves: It's a matter of timing because you see it going from a lot to a foundation or a lot to a full completed house. That's when the number really starts to go up. And now with the new values at 900 plus up there that's why this number is growing and it moved fast up there in the last compared to the years before, I'd say the last twelve months up there has moved very fast compared to the normality up there.

Mr. Rosa: Just from an appraisal standpoint I have done a lot more this past year a lot more new construction of higher value homes than typical. I'm not sure where people are getting their money but they're getting it somehow and the banks are lending it.

Mr. J. Alves: It's great and there's gonna be another subdivision behind that too, with about 50 lots on the land behind that where the new subdivision is so that should be coming online within a year or two as well. Alves way just broke ground the other day up the street here on Chapin behind the cemetery. So, we're moving. I know the rest of the country might be a little slow on housing but we're definitely pushing the pace here.

Mr. Rosenblum: Isn't that like eight units or something?

Mr. J. Alves: Yeah, eight lots.

Mr. Rosenblum: And then what's the one that is on Chapin, the one that's a little farther down.

Mr. J. Alves: ... Drive

Mr. Rosenblum: That we just got all the paperwork back up. It's been sitting there for a while.

Mr. Silva: Santini?

Mr. J. Alves: Santana

Mr. Rosenblum: Before Holyoke Street. Yeah, and that's like another 6 or 8.

Mr. Gennette: So, you're not making a recommendation for residential or small commercial exemptions?

Mr. Rosa: Correct

Mr. Rosenblum: That was gonna be my next question only because I mean we're honestly \$150.00 increase is actually probably one of the smaller ones we've had in a while. But if we did a 1.05 it would make the.

Mr. Silva: Let's understand that that's average. Which is a \$300,000 home, 360 now, right?

Mr. Rosenblum: Oh well yeah, it's a 370, right. No, I know it's gonna be the same thing as but the \$900,000 homes are gonna say I'm paying ten grand.

Mr. Silva: Going back to the increase in that growth it gives us the levee limit goes way up so that we can have a little more financial, I don't know.

Mr. Gennette: Hopefully it carries us through some bad time.

Mr. Strange: Mr. Chairman that's why our initial Fiscal 27 budget deficit was 300,000 or 3 million, now its 2.3. Because that 700,000 carries over to Fiscal 27.

Mr. Silva: Right, so it gives us a better financial picture.

Mr. Rosenblum: Oh, that was what we were talking about before we had said about five something and it's actually 1.3 or something.

**Motion made by Mr. Gennette to approve the single tax rate, a resident factor of one of all property at the same rate. Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

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**Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum** to not have a residential exemption. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

**Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum** to not have a small commercial exemption. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

**Motion made by Mr. Alves** to close the tax classification hearing at 6:10. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

25-214 Letter from the Safety Committee recommending “No Parking Signs” and “Do Not Block Driveway” sign on Baker Street

**Motion made by Mr. Gennette** to approve the Safety Committee’s recommendation for “No Parking Signs” and “Do Not Block Driveway” sign on Baker Street. **Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

25-215 Letter of Resignation from Sgt. Brian Shameklis from the Safety Committee. Board to appoint Sgt. Brad Tierney, per recommendation of Provisional Chief Michael Brennan.

**Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum** to accept the resignation of Sgt. Brian Shameklis from the Safety Committee and to appoint Sgt. Brad Tierney to the Safety Committee per the recommendation of Provisional Chief Michael Brennan. **Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

Mr. Rosenblum: I’d like to thank Mr. Shameklis, I believe it’s been 10 or 11 years he’s been on the Safety Committee.

Mr. Gennette: Yes, thank you Sgt. Shameklis. Wonderful job.

Mr. Alves: Thank you

## 25-216 Ludlow Pond Management Committee End of Year Summary

Mr. Rosenblum: Mr. Chairman, there’s obviously a lot here because we have a lot of ponds. I think they came to us, maybe about two years ago and we’ve given them funding in order to repair the ponds with some evasive vegetation and things of that nature. So, looking at, just basically the highlighted part is that Haviland at this point overall is in excellent condition. It has, it’s from what I’m reading from most of these it has its traditional undergrowth for protection of fish and other species. Harris Pond appears to be in good health with no more existing invasive water chestnut and reduced densities of nuisance plant growth. Alden Pond, survey and herbicide treatment was conducted. There’s no variable milfoil found within any portion of the pond. Water levels have remained a little bit low, lack of summertime rainfall. Overall management of invasive variable milfoil was extremely successful. Murphy Pond, the pond’s surface is now entirely open water, which is great. And then Minechoag Pond there’s a lot of; it falls within an area considered as priority habitat of rare species. I remember, I think that one in particular is because its’ three feet up on the shoreline or something to that effect but there is some rare species that they had to keep an eye on. Committee has not been able to obtain the required permit to treat Minechoag until a determination can be made. It’s been an ongoing priority for em and they continue to work with the experts in the field. Because I know, Mr. Simmons lives on Minechoag, and I remember him talking about years ago seeing literally deer in the water that were struggling because they can’t get through.

Mr. Silva: Yeah, it’s very swampy.

Mr. Rosenblum: With that I would make a motion to file and thank the Pond Committee for all their work that they do. They’re extremely thorough, so I want to thank them.

Mr. Gennette: Second for discussion

Mr. Silva: Motion in the second for discussion. Go ahead. We might as well discuss anything, Mr. Gennette.

Mr. Gennette: We got a couple of minutes here. I have to tell ya, I love the Pond Committee. I love what they do and I think they are doing great but last year I had sent them information about Wade Pond, which is out north it abuts the Westover Municipal Golf Course. They use that water for the course and it's been overgrown. I don't even see this listed in here so apparently they didn't take that very seriously so that'll be part of the conversation for me the next time they come in. But we also have a problem with the dam that's associated to Wade Pond and you'll see it coming up on 25-222. That dam is failing. Also leaning to Wade Pond being a consideration and that has the possibility of letting go and flooding alternate properties causing massive damage to properties in South Hadley, Chicopee, and areas inside Ludlow and we will be responsible for those if that dam lets go. It's our dam. So why the Pond Committee is not paying attention to Wade Pond is beyond me but I've already put out a message to them about Wade Pond before so I hope they're gonna see this message and maybe follow up on that. We'll talk about the dam again here in a moment but I just wanna say that Wade Pond needs to be on this list. I'm fully expecting because we support the Pond Committee, I fully expect that Wade Pond is gonna be on this list next time.

Mr. Silva: The only question I have is the Pond Committee actually is that part of their charter for the dams or are they just concerned with the species and the quality of the water?

Mr. Gennette: They are for the species and the quality of the water but the species that are in that pond that are ruining the pond and ruining the dam and they're also ruining the pump for the golf course.

Mr. Silva: Yeah. I'm just wondering if the Public Works or somebody else should be spearheading.

Mr. Gennette: They're already all over it. We're gonna talk about that in 25-222. I just didn't want to crossover, but the Pond Committee has to have an involvement in what's going on over there. They can't just turn a blind eye to it. They have to be involved.

Mr. Rosenblum: And Mr. Chairman just in response to that though is I know there funding is very thin. To the extent of getting someone in there to look at it and to assess it, I'm not sure what it would cost but I do know that they're very thin on what it is they can.

Mr. Gennette: We got 4 million in capital. I think we can afford to take care of our ponds.

Mr. Rosenblum: Then that might be something when you do reach out to them or I can reach out to one of them is say maybe they come to capital looking for that portion of it because I don't think they went through capital last time. I think we budgeted them.

Mr. Gennette: Yeah, they came right in here and we didn't have any problem awarding them whatever funds they needed and I believe we did pay em right out of free cash. Actually, I think we took it out of Chapter 40 not knowing at the time that we couldn't.

Mr. Strange: Yeah. The initial.

Mr. Gennette: But if it's over 20 grand and it's a project it should go to capital anyway. That's all I have Mr. Chairman.

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

25-217 Letter from Springfield Water & Sewer Commission – Request for Review of Potential Impact of Proposed Commercial BESS Project Near Cobble Mountain Reservoir Watershed.

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

25-218 MASS DOT – Bridge Inspection West Street/Stony Brook  
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**Motion made by Mr. Gennette to file. Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

25-219 MASS DOT – Bridge Inspection Piney Lane/Broad Brook.

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

25-220 Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities – Petition of Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts, dba Eversource Energy, for approval of its 2022-2024 Three-Year Efficiency Plan Term Report.

Mr. Gennette: Mr. Chairman, I took a look at this as your local Energy Commissioner, this is just Eversource Gas Company that just has to comply with a three-year study, and they have to give the report on it. They're just notifying of us and they're having a public meeting for it for the December 18<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 P.M. I will be attending that just to kind of be in the meeting and do my part as the Energy Coordinator.

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

25-221 Letter from Ludlow Police Department – Requesting permission from the Board to use any Town owned property located adjacent to the Ludlow High School, including parking lots (Veterans Park & Town Hall), the cross-country course and Town property under the control of the Department of Public Works for the annual Sgt. Joshua D. Desforges Challenge scheduled for Saturday, May 9, 2026.

**Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum to approve from the Ludlow Police Department the use of any Town owned property located adjacent to the Ludlow High School, including parking lots (Veterans Park & Town Hall), the cross-country course and Town property under the control of the Department of Public Works for the annual Sgt. Joshua D. Desforges Challenge scheduled for Saturday, May 9, 2026. Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

25-222 Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Conservation & Recreation – Dam Safety Regulatory Requirement Compliance Report.

Mr. Gennette: Alright, that's this big thick one we got here. This is the Dam. The Harris Brook Dam and the Wade Lake Dam and I think we've kind of known about the Harris Dam for quite a while. Think we've been kind of working towards that. The new issue though over the past year has been the Wade Lake Dam. The Wade Lake Dam is not doing well at all and they're concerned about the Dam letting go and filling up the properties from South Hadley and everything, the whole Dam would. I read through this and I was mortified about what not fixing this Dam could cost the Town because we have to do clean up of properties in other Towns. I just can't even imagine. Impact area study, this right here I'll read this if you don't mind. Wade Lake Dam impounds Wade Lake located on Stony Brook immediately east of Perimeter Road in the City of Chicopee. Discharge from Wade Lake Dam flows west towards the Westover Air Reserve Base and turns right to flow north into the Towns of Granby and South Hadley. Downstream of Wade Lake Dam, Stony Brook flows beneath Perimeter Road located immediately downstream of the dam. Flows then enter the Westover Air Reserve Base to cross a few private road-stream crossings, followed by a second Perimeter Road crossing before entering the Town of Granby. In the Town of Granby, Stony Brook crossed New Ludlow Road, Morgan Street, and West State Street (Route 202) before entering the Town of South Hadley, where Stony Brook crossed Morgan Street a second time. Model results indicate that floodwaters from a breach of Wade Lake Dam may impact properties adjacent to Stony Brook on New Ludlow Road and West State Street (Route 202) in the Town of Granby, and Edison Drive, Mary Lyon Drive, and Morgan Street in the Town of South Hadley. Floodwaters are expected to attenuate through the wetland areas within the Westover Air Reserve Base property and through the forested areas adjacent to Stony Brook. So, as you can see, they're very concerned about what the impacts of this could be and they're notifying of us about it. The DPW is aware of it. They've been doing their inspections. There may be a crossover interest with Chicopee in being able to manage this but I really just

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kinda wanted everybody to kinda keep an eye on Wade Lake because that's ours and if it empties it's going elsewhere. So, the impact of this could be widespread and I just wanna make sure that everybody's keenly aware of it so that we can start addressing some concerns as that more information becomes available. That's all I have. Marc, unless you have something on it.

Mr. Strange: I did. I asked the DPW, Jim Goodreau, to provide a little bit more background. I'm happy to read it. So, this is from Jim Goodreau. This update was to get the proper current context into the plan. This was created in case something does happen to spell out the steps to be taken to alleviate the problem. We do not need to do anything further. If there was a problem DPW staff along with annual BID contractors, if needed, would do the necessary work. There is currently no threat to the public.

Mr. Gennette: That's from our DPW?

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

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Board to permit Firefighter/Paramedic William "Bud" Ellison to hold two paid Town positions, provided that he has met all the requirements of the exemption to the Commonwealth's Conflict of Interest Law set forth in G.L. c. 268A, § 20(b).

Mr. Rosenblum: Mr. Chairman, so the Planning Board does have special municipal employee.

**Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum to permit Firefighter/Paramedic William "Bud" Ellison to hold two paid Town positions, provided that he has met all the requirements of the exemption to the Commonwealth's Conflict of Interest Law set forth in G.L. c. 268A, § 20(b). Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 3-0-1.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Board to appoint Brian Bylicki to the Insurance Advisory Committee.

**Motion made by Mr. Alves to appoint Brian Bylicki to the Insurance Advisory Committee. Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

Board to discuss and possibly appoint Mike O'Rourke to the Safety Committee.

**Motion made by Mr. Gennette to appoint Mike O'Rourke to the Safety Committee. Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

Board to approve and sign minutes from Select Board Meeting on October 21, 2025.

**Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum to approve and sign minutes from Select Board Meeting on October 21, 2025, with all members present. Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

Board to approve and sign minutes from Select Board Meeting on November 4, 2025.

**Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum to approve and sign minutes from Select Board Meeting on November 4, 2025, with all members present. Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

Board to approve and sign minutes from Select Board Meeting on November 6, 2025.

**Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum to approve and sign minutes from Select Board Meeting on November 6, 2025, with all members present except Mr. Silva. Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**



Board to approve and sign minutes from Select Board Meeting on November 18, 2025.

**Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum** to approve and sign minutes from Select Board Meeting on November 18, 2025, with all members present except Anthony Alves. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 3-0-1.**

Board to discuss and possibly approve increase the Common Victualler License fee for 2027.

Mr. Strange: So, Mr. Chairman, as I'm reading through this, this was put forward by Amy and I appreciate her doing this, but reading the highlighted language this looks like it has to be a Town Meeting vote.

Mr. Gennette: Move it to the warrant conversation for May.

Mr. Strange: Unless you guys are reading it different than I am.

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

Board to possibly approve and sign contract with Zencity.

Mr. Strange: So, Mr. Chairman, I actually tried, I did a demo with our sales rep yesterday and was planning on having a demo that I could play for you today to sort of show you exactly what the technology is. For whatever reason the link that the rep sent I can't get to work. So, we're gonna have to table it for tonight at least.

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

Board to approve and sign Class I, II, III Licenses.

Mr. Gennette: Mr. Chairman, do we review these like to, so is the billing inspector or anybody go out and check all these?

Mr. Silva: Yes

Mr. Gennette: So do we have any confirmation that these have been reviewed by the building inspector?

Mr. Silva: They're supposed, they check 'em all and make sure and the building inspector as well.

Mr. Gennette: Okay. Good. As long as we've got 'em.

**Motion made by Mr. Alves** to approve and sign Class I, II, and III Licenses: The Butler Corp, Red Barn Motors, Roy's Auto Service, Caracas Construction, Joe's Auto Body, Beachside Motors, Deluxe Auto Sales, Robert's Auto Body, Paul's Autoworx, Discount Motor Sales, Matt's Auto Mall, Deluxe Foreign Electric, John Quill Automotive, Lupa's Leasing, Royal Coach, Sewall Street Auto Center, Stingray Motors, JL Massa Collision, Ludlow Auto Sales. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

## **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Strange: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Just a few items tonight. So, on Monday evening, December 8<sup>th</sup>, we're gonna be hosting a forum for Town employees and their significant others in the LHS auditorium. Again, beginning at six. The Town is facing a multimillion-dollar budget deficit in Fiscal 27. Due in large part to an anticipated 18% increase in the cost of health insurance. An important part of the Town's plan to bridge the deficit is to amend the health insurance premium cost sharing split between the Town and the Town employees and/or designing changes to the insurance plans. We're hoping to communicate the Town's proposals with all potentially impacted employees and MIIA health insurance rep will be  
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available to answer our questions as well. The Board is certainly invited to attend. I know James is out of town, but if we're gonna have a quorum just let me know so we can post it.

Mr. Silva: Before you go on Marc, we don't need to post a hearing when we're just gonna attend a session for something. We're not deliberating.

Mr. Strange: No. If you want to do that my recommendation would be to not sit with each other and make sure, you're not deliberating. But you can certainly go.

Mr. Silva: It just creates more work. You gotta do minutes, you gotta, I mean, it doesn't make sense to me when you're going to hear just something that you're not influencing or doing any voting or anything.

Mr. Strange: And just for the public, a Board can be in the same venue together as long as they're not deliberating. There's no deliberation then there's no official meeting and there's no reason to post the meeting. Fiscal 27 budget process update: Next week's a big week for us. All departments have submitted their Fiscal 27 level one budget requests along with their capital requests. And we're gonna be meeting with all departments on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday next week. Three full days. Our budget team, we were gonna meet with only the larger departments this year, Police, Fire, DPW, and then any other departments who wanted to meet cause we're finding that meetings with the smaller departments. They don't really have many changes. So, limiting the meetings to the bigger departments would make the process more efficient. However, in speaking with our partners on the Finance Committee, they wanted to be able to participate in the meetings and ask that we meet with all departments. So, that's what we're gonna do. Meet with all departments next week to discuss their budget requests, again, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday.

Mr. Gennette: Marc, before you move on from this, are you moving on to the next one or are you all set? So, with this whole, I'm pretty happy with what the Finance Committees doing right now. They have quite the Board over there. They seem a little more efficient than they were before and I would love to have their recommendations on this. I just wanted to put my voice out there for support, you know what I mean? I know that sometimes it can get a little rough around the edges with multiple meetings and multiple personalities and stuff but I gotta tell you I really like where the Finance Committee's been coming in lately. So, I would love to hear their recommendations.

Mr. Strange: And last but not least, Employee Appreciation Day. Town Hall's gonna be closed on Fridays between 8-12 which is when we're normally open for an Employee Appreciation Day. Our employees work extremely hard every day. Much of it goes unnoticed and underappreciated so we're gonna celebrate them on Friday.

## **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.

Mr. Silva: Town Hall will be closed on December 5<sup>th</sup> for Employee Wellness Day. The bills for Boat Excise are going out soon with a due date end of January, beginning of February. And we'll have some visitations for the next meeting on December 16<sup>th</sup>. Public hearing for Eversource pole hearing, public hearing for The Lighthouse alteration of premises, and the quarterly update for DPW.

## **CLOSING COMMENTS**

Mr. Gennette: Mr. Chairman, I'll go first tonight. So, first thing I will be out of town over the next week here. So, if anybody's looking for me you can get me by cell.

Mr. Silva: Okay. So, if you're out of town, I'm gonna be out of town from the 4<sup>th</sup> through the 7<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Gennette: I'm out 5<sup>th</sup> through the 9<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Rosenblum: There's no meetings. Our next one's not till the 16<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Silva: Yeah. However, we only have four members. If there's a problem with something that needs signatures, we're supposed to have enough members to take care of it. I know one year I had to actually drive from the Cape because the Treasurer couldn't get something signed which absolutely needed to be signed. So, I had to meet her halfway and sign it for her.

Mr. Gennette: And then the other thing is I gotta tell ya the tree lighting this past weekend was incredible. I was a part of setting up the tree. What a great time. The rain really kind of put a damper on it a little bit but for the first big tree lighting here, cause we used to do it down at the gazebo, right? Wasn't there a tree lighting down there a long time ago? Do you remember that? Anyways, I just loved it, and everybody came out. It was a great time. I wish it had snowed instead of rain but kudos to Linda Collette for again putting together a great event. And I look forward to making it a tradition of mine to be there to help out.

Mr. Silva: Yes, I agree. I was there. It was raining the whole time, but I was very snugly and warm still. Kudos to Linda and what they do, what those two committees do is great. And I just wanna say that people please do not post things that are not factual. We as the Town Board we did not spend any money on buying, I don't know, there's numbers out there for the tree that costs all the costs that gone into. This was all funds that were raised by the 250<sup>th</sup> and the friends of the 250<sup>th</sup>. I believe there's two committees. It was all raised funds. We didn't spend tax dollars. Please don't put it out there. We're doing things for the community to better it.

Mr. Rosenblum: Well, it's much easier to put negative stuff out their cause that's what social media thrives on. It doesn't thrive on happiness and joy and stuff.

Mr. Alves: First, just hope everyone had a good Thanksgiving holiday. I wasn't at the previous meeting, so I wasn't able to wish everybody a happy holiday. Echo the comments. Light up Ludlow was fun, but it was wet. I think I spent an hour in this room with my daughter cause it was pouring rain and then we made it outside in time for the tree to get lit. and then I noticed, I just wanted to say a thank you in listening to one of the past school committee meetings, a thank you to Walley computer for donating, I think it was like a hundred keyboards and mice to the school. So, thank you for that.

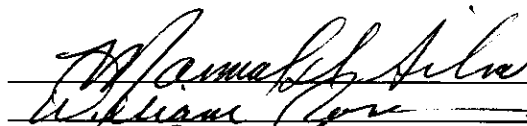
Mr. Rosenblum: The tree lighting was awesome. I mean we've been talking about this for over a year to where that this tree was gonna be this whole idea over here and that the tree was gonna be donated and all the decorations are donated as well. So, piece by piece, I know over the years people have talked about the fact of being more festive in Town. So, you're starting to see more things around Town with festivities. Thank you to the people that took over with the trees on the pond. I think we're up to six trees. I think that's Julie Markowitz, her daughter and son-in-law. Mario Morton and Andrea. They took that by the horns as kind of, one year I put a tree out in the island, which you couldn't see it and it was solar lights. But then, Buddy Ellison has helped out with that over the years. And thank you to the, I think that's the Fire Department. The Fire Department Social Club. And also don't forget if you're in search of a Christmas tree, they are selling them right now down at the Fire Department. But little by little we got candy canes in the front of Town Hall. We had the lights done a few years ago and we're getting there. It'd be nice to see maybe some banners or stuff up on the lights again or something. But we'll get in there.

Mr. Silva: To go with the trees at the Fire Department. It is a benefit that they make funds for the Social Club I believe, right? And also, it's nice to know that those trees, I believe are treated with fire-retardant things so that you know they're a little safer and I think they're cheaper.

Mr. Strange: Mr. Chairman are you gonna go ugly sweaters on the 16<sup>th</sup>?

Mr. Silva: Yes. And gentlemen ugly sweaters 16<sup>th</sup> mandatory. I know last year it was very weak. So, if you guys can get a hold of Jimmy Fallon, I think he has the best ugly sweaters ever.

**Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum to adjourn the Select Board meeting at 6:33 P.M. Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

  
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Ludlow Select Board

Chairman

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