

The Meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, began at 5:30 p.m. in the Board of Selectmen's Conference Room at the Town Hall.

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

Members Absent:

Mr. Silva: Is anybody in the room recording? We are being recorded by our cable TV.

First Order of Business: The Pledge of Allegiance

VISITATIONS

5:35 P.M. – Joint meeting with Recreation and DPW re: Whitney Park baseball backstop & request from Gabrielle Denae, Event Coordinator at TRPL THR3AT, for use of Liberty Park & Gazebo for event on Sunday, June 1, 2025

Motion made by Mr. Archambeau to open the Recreation Commission meeting. Mr. McBride present, Mr. Lebeau present. Also present Debbie Gates and DPW representative.

Mr. McBride: We received a letter from Ludlow Baseball. They received it on their website from residents on Highland Ave who have expressed concern over the number of baseballs that continually hit their house and land in their yard. A number of folks on Highland Ave in the area of home plate have been complaining about baseballs landing in their yard. From my perspective, they live near a park and with all the benefits that come with there are some issues that come with it. I think it's worth us exploring some mechanism in which we can improve that backstop which might mitigate some of those foul balls. The weather is getting nicer and folks want to enjoy their backyard. There should be some expectation that you should be able to go out in your backyard and not have to continually look up for a stray baseball. I thought it was important that we collaborate on this and coordinate with Jamie and see if there's anything that can be done to improve that backstop and help to improve a little bit of the quality of life for folks that live in that vicinity and face that struggle.

Mr. Silva: Looking at these pictures, are these nets up already?

Mr. Tomas: That's a packet I put together with some ideas and that's an aerial of Whitney Park with the house that I think is being affected most. Some ideas I put together quickly and we can try to get some pricing. There's a lot of different options and pricing. We do have a backstop there now. Maybe if we extended the overhang another 5 feet maybe it would make a difference. The regulation for backstop for high school baseball is at least 25 feet behind home plate. We're at 44 feet. I've also seen regulations 60 feet back. They have to be at least 25 feet tall and we're at 19 feet tall. The overhang has to be at least 5 feet. I think there's room for improvement on the overhang. We could probably go out another 5 feet.

Mr. McBride: You could spend thousands upon thousands of dollars and may not have a solution or you could spend less to modify what we have and it may serve a purpose or at least extend the life of this backstop until we get to the point if we're going to reconfigure or redesign or replace this may buy some time and help alleviate some of the concerns of the neighbors.

Mr. Tomas: On page 2 they have the net that would be an extension of what we have there now and the net gives it the extra height. I think that's a great option.

Mr. Silva: The least we can spend right now to alleviate some of the issues would be the best thing to do. We're trying to get something done at Whitney Park and reconfigure the whole thing. I think that's the most feasible and cheapest way to do it.

Mr. Tomas: I can talk to Brodeur Campbell. We use them all the time for fences. They've done backstops for us before. We'll see if it's feasible to extend the upper part of the backstop. That would probably be the cheapest way to go.

Mr. Gennette: You're prepared to put these up and take these down every winter and maintain them until we can do something more permanent.

Mr. Tomas: That would be a permanent solution. That would be an extension of the backstop we have now. It would be just like the nets at the new sports complex at the high school which come down and go back up in the spring. If we did some type of system like that we could store the nets in the butler building.

Mr. Gennette: As long as we can get some relief for the resident I'm all for it. Do we have an estimate or any kind of ballpark on what it would cost?

Mr. Tomas: \$6,000-\$14,000.

Mr. Gennette: Where would we get the funds for that?

Mr. Strange: It wouldn't qualify as capital under our bylaw but it would qualify as capital under 40R.

Mr. Gennette: We can do that. There's \$240,000 in there.

Mr. Rosenblum: I like this idea with the poles and the net. I think it's the simplest move. You could probably stretch the pole out to the side if you had to. Do you need to put padding around them?

Mr. Tomas: More than likely.

Mr. Rosenblum: That will extend your overhang up to 8 feet and you could probably get a little bit wider on the side.

Mr. Gennette: Are you saying you'd relocate where the backstop is now?

Mr. Tomas: No. That system would be just an extension. It's at least 25 feet from the back of home plate. I've seen people go back 60 feet. Ours is 44 feet.

Mr. Rosenblum: You're well within. You have more space than you need. I'm good with that netting system.

Mr. Tomas: Another option was page 1 and that would go along the homes behind the backstop. I wouldn't go with this option because I don't know if it's going to stop them.

Mr. Rosenblum: And the homeowner is going to be looking at a big net.

Mr. Silva: These are not cheap either.

Mr. Tomas: No.

Mr. McBride: This system would go behind the backstop?

Mr. Tomas: It goes on either side of the existing backstop and up.

Mr. Alves: I agree with the line of thinking. My question was going to be is what we have there now salvageable?

Mr. Tomas: Absolutely. That's one of the nicer backstops we have.

Mr. Alves: It would be wise to try to get the quotes before this fiscal year.

Mr. Strange: If we're going to use 40R it doesn't matter. I think she sent the letter to the Rec Commission but I'm happy to get back to her.

Mr. McBride: That is fine.

Mr. Archambeau: We received a request from Gabrielle Denae, an organization that is looking to utilize Liberty Park and the gazebo area for an event on June 1st.

Mr. Rosenblum: Is this a town sponsored non-profit or is it located in town?

Mr. McBride: This is a young lady who came to us who owns a business in town on East Street. It was explained to us that she wanted to have a pop-up event at her store and she has reached out to her landlord to see if she could use the sidewalks around the 77 corridor of East Street between Chestnut and Sewall Street. She would have most of it there and she was looking to have this event shift towards the gazebo where she planned on having some sort of open mic or DJ. It's not a non-profit although a lot of work she does in other communities helps support young people and her church mission. She reached out to the police department about hiring detail officers and has spoken to the folks over there about the number of detail officers she would need. She said the block party would have a couple food trucks on Chestnut Street. She didn't indicate any need to block off the street. One of my concerns was that she was looking for this to go until 9:00 on a Sunday. There is a number of residents. It did seem like she did a lot of homework. Why we bring this to you guys is there was a lot of talk about use of that particular park and limiting the use of that park to town sanctioned or not for profit events. I didn't know if this request fell into that category. She indicated it would help support her local small business and it would be a positive, Christian theme to center on the mission of her church. Our main concern was the hours and getting some level of confirmation from the police department.

Mr. Gennette: It sounds like it's pretty big. She's talking about food trucks and using the gazebo park. Is the church in town?

Mr. McBride: I don't know any details other than she said it would help support the mission she has. She has a small business in Ludlow.

Mr. Archambeau: It's a Christian based clothing store and she's done similar events in different areas.

Mr. Gennette: My recommendation is if it's Christian based that she approaches any of the churches in town and see if they'll sponsor the event. Then it becomes a sponsored event and we can work with the church on that level. Nobody wants to stifle anybody trying to grow their business and do economic development but we need to organize it a little better and we've had a hard time trying to say who can and can't so we want to make sure that it's backed by an entity in town. It doesn't matter to me if it's a non-profit but I would like to see it represented by something. Celebrate Ludlow with Love came up and they wanted to use the gazebo and I think if they went to the Cultural Council Celebrate Ludlow with Love would be sponsored by the Cultural Council. That was the approach we took. There's no bylaw currently?

Mr. Strange: Right now, yes. There is a draft policy that you all went through and it's going to be on for the next meeting.

Mr. Gennette: I would say if she could get sponsored by any one of the churches in town that would be my recommendation.

Mr. Rosenblum: I'd like a better description of what TRPL THR3AT is. I googled it and can't find it. We have to be consistent with what we've done in the past. We've had this park policy for almost a year. On June 1st, do we have anything else going on? We do have the music series that goes on.

Mr. McBride: There is nothing booked at the moment.

Mr. Silva: The issue I have is that it says it's scheduled for Sunday, June 1st.

Mr. McBride: That paper you have is an internal planning document that she shared with us.

Mr. Silva: If we had more time I would say have her come in here.

Mr. Gennette: I don't know that we could do that this year. I don't know if we could get the police in time to do that. If they're going to do anything on that street police have to be there. If she's planning on getting enough people to be parking at Walgreens and up and down Chestnut Street the police is going to want a detail.

Mr. Silva: I think we need more info. We're meeting in 2 weeks.

Mr. Gennette: I think this might be something they have to wait for unless they want to pick something later in the year. It might be too close for us to organize.

Mr. McBride: We did say to her that we didn't make any decision at our last meeting last week. We indicated we were coming here this week and we would get back to her. We can say logistically from the town's perspective June 1st is probably unattainable. If she wants to pick another date and provide us with additional information we can certainly do that.

Mr. Silva: I think we'd like to have her come in and discuss it and find out some more details.

Mr. McBride: We can reach out to her and suggest that she come on the 20th.

Mr. Strange: I would have her reach out to Amy.

Mr. McBride: We will do that.

Mr. Rosenblum: Every Sunday starting June 23rd is the summer concert series which starts at 6:00.

Mr. Gennette: Do we have to approve those dates?

Mr. Strange: You already did.

Mr. Alves: Irrespective of the group, when I saw this I reached out to Marc because I recalled last year talk of instituting a policy for open use. Marc alluded to that and it's still in draft form. I requested that to be on our agenda in 2 weeks. If we're going to have someone come in we should be mindful of their time as well and give them a checklist of the hoops they need to jump through and a lot of that is outlined in that policy. As we get into spring and summer I'm sure more of these requests are going to come in so I think getting that policy into final form is prudent to do, especially as long as it's been sitting out.

Motion made by Mr. McBride to adjourn. Mr. Lebeau second. All in favor. Motion passed 3-0.

Ms. Belanger: We stopped in the Selectmen's office and we inquired about the rent control board. I'm Debbie Belanger and I live at 350 West Street. I had a few concerns about the fact that we might be going up against the rent control board again because the case has proven to be void and annulled by the judge. We have a landlord that we have been trying to work with and the rent control board would be the people we would like to go up in front of as opposed to dealing with the landlord. Right now, my understanding is there is no rent control board. I don't know what the procedure is.

Mr. Silva: Right now, we're posting to get 3 more members. We need at least 3 members to get a quorum to get a meeting and you could go to that meeting. That's all we can do at this time.

Ms. Boulanger: Can I give you some documents and questions?

Mr. Silva: Yes.

6:00 p.m. – Treasurer/Collector Interview – Erika Cunningham

Mr. Silva: We'll have you give a spiel about you and what it is you wanted to come in for, we'll ask you some questions and you can have a final statement.

Ms. Cunningham: My name is Erika. I am currently a branch manager at M&T Bank. I started my career as a part-time teller when I lived in Connecticut. I worked my way up and most recently with M&T Bank for the past 3 years. Throughout my career in banking, I also obtained my real estate license in Massachusetts, though I have let it expire. I do have some knowledge of real estate law. I also did a lending internship and got a consumer lending certificate through the Center for Financial Training. I have been a key player in making sure my bank is audit ready and has been able to pass our audits and independent inspections to remain compliant. I'm looking to do

something more local. I live in town and just moved here a year ago and I find it important to be connected to my community. Working with the town would be a dream of mine.

Mr. Alves: Welcome. Can you take me through if you have any Munis experience or any other financial accounting software.

Ms. Cunningham: I do not. My experience is with mostly banking systems. I've utilized Core, Fiserve, Pace and bank specific software but I am quick to learn software. I've been able to do hands on training and I adapt to it very quickly.

Mr. Alves: Within your banking experience, anything with forecasting or cash flow?

Ms. Cunningham: Yes. We do have to monitor cash flow so we can meet the needs of the cash in our branch so I do have experience with that.

Mr. Alves: Take me through your comfort and experience with delivering bad news to people.

Ms. Cunningham: I can share a recent example from a customer that I have been talking with, a young gentleman who was a lost soul who didn't behave at banks the way he should have. We unfortunately did have to close his account due to some activity he had. The important thing was that we got in contact with him before any type of letter goes out. In the banking world we send a letter before we exit people. I made contact with him and had him come in person so I could give him the news and let him know that unfortunately we would be ceasing our relationship with him and we wished him luck but it would no longer be with our institution. He was upset about it; however, I stood my ground and said I understand why you're upset but these are our policies and I've outlined exactly what it was that made our decision. He ended up leaving and his mom did thank me for letting them know why he was exiting.

Mr. Alves: Looking at your resume, it seems like you have a lot of experience in banking so I'm curious as to why you're looking to pivot into a different industry and sector.

Ms. Cunningham: I'm trying to take on a new challenge. I'm trying to get closer to home. Staying in my community is really important. Amherst is a little bit of a drive and I'm not as connected with some of the businesses as I would like to be. Being local makes me want to be more involved and be able to take on a new role.

Mr. Gennette: I appreciate you applying. I like your resume and I like seeing experience. You have quite a bit in banking. As a treasurer you're required to oversee the investments portion of the town. Are you aware of the processes and procedures that have to happen with investing?

Ms. Cunningham: On a personal level, I do have some knowledge of in although I'm not a licensed banker. I haven't had direct experience with it. I do work with our investment partners so I'm aware of some of the regulations. The insurance aspect and the ability to have to keep something in for a set time period. Usually 3-5 years.

Mr. Gennette: I appreciate your honesty. If that's the case would you say that you're risk adverse, that you would follow the financial advisor who's managing the portfolio or are you a risk on person?

Ms. Cunningham: I would say risk adverse. Follow what a financial advisor would suggest especially if that's something they're specialized in. Sometimes you have to take a look at the bigger picture. I'm not afraid to speak out if I feel as though we should go a different direction.

Mr. Gennette: If the financial advisor had recommended that the town do something specific with their portfolio and you did not agree with that but the financial advisor is saying I understand that you're not happy with this but this is the way to go and you're really uncomfortable doing it, what would you do in that situation?

Ms. Cunningham: I would first ask more clarifying questions as to why the financial advisor thought that was the direction to go. Sometimes knowledge is power and you have to understand why they are suggesting that and also bring my concerns to them about why I don't think we should

go that route. I'm big on communication with the financial advisor so we are seeing eye to eye and understand why a decision is being made.

Mr. Rosenblum: Thank you for applying and making the time to come in and speak with us. What do you see as your biggest weakness?

Ms. Cunningham: My biggest weakness would be delegating. It's something I have been working on quite a bit. It comes from a place where I have had situations where I have tried to delegate in the past and it was something that either didn't get done or done to my quality. As I work on that, I find it important that while I'm delegating to a team member that I am sitting down with them to let them know what my expectations are and having open communication with them so I can see how the process is going and doing a follow up so I understand that what I delegated did happen and happened correctly.

Mr. Rosenblum: My 2nd question was how would you describe your way of managing people.

Ms. Cunningham: Observing and coaching. I like to see how they are doing things. If it's a specific task, say opening an account, I would observe them and sit down with them afterwards to talk about it and see what they feel they did well, tell them what I feel they did well and come up with a plan on what they could do better next time. I look to celebrate the successes and provide the coaching opportunity for them.

Mr. Silva: Thank you for applying. Have you researched what the treasurer/collector is doing for the community and the stress level? This position is pretty difficult. I'm presuming it's something that you look forward to.

Ms. Cunningham: Absolutely. Stress level is not something that I'm afraid of. I look forward to a challenge. As a manager of a financial institution, I deal with my fair share of stress. I understand it is a stressful job but I'm up for a challenge.

Mr. Silva: How versatile are you? Previously we had a treasurer and collector and now we've combined the 2 so you have to transition from one to the other.

Ms. Cunningham: Time management is important and being able to utilize your calendar to manage your time correctly. A big part of a lot of people's stress is they aren't effectively using their time. Even reading the job posting there is some human resource expectations with this job. I have a business admin associates degree and I did take some human resources courses. I'm pretty versatile with being able to switch how I can work on tasks, figure out which tasks are the most important and switch things in the order they need to be done and be able to switch my communication styles with who I'm speaking with, whether it's a resident of Ludlow or someone who works here.

Mr. Silva: Now you can give us your final statement.

Ms. Cunningham: Thank you for taking the time to let me come in and talk to you about my experience. I hope that I gave a good impression to you. I love living in this town and would like to be more a part of the community. Whether it's this position or just reaching out more in the community is something I look forward to. I believe I am the person that would be a great fit for this position. I feel that my background, although in banking, is a great thing to have. I am a very fast learner and I would be able to accomplish any goals that were set forward appropriately and make this town grow.

6:20 p.m. – Treasurer/Collector Interview – Charles Mullin

Mr. Silva: I'm sure you've seen interviews. We'll give you an opportunity to introduce yourself, tell yourself about yourself.

Mr. Mullin: I'm Charles Chad Mullin. I'm a 28-year resident of Ludlow. I'm an operations leader working in the health care industry with a focus on organizational leadership and stake holder engagement and project management. I've been recognized for collaborative leadership and making contributions to profit share at both of the hospitals that I work for. I'm a former Ludlow

School Committee member for 12 years on the School Committee and currently a 2-month member of the Finance Committee.

Mr. Gennette: Thank you for applying for the position. It's nice that we have a group of people to select from. My question revolves around the investments. I don't know if you're aware that the Treasurer takes care of the investments specifically by law. Are you more of a risk on, follow the leadership of our investment portfolio manager or a risk off kind of person?

Mr. Mullin: Initially I would take direction from both the Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator on how best we should be managing our investments and take the direction from the leadership team so we're all operating under the same guidance.

Mr. Gennette: By law we do not have the ability to tell you how to invest. We may be able to request reports to see how our investments are but by law that's on you. If you're talking to the financial investment portfolio manager and you don't necessarily agree and he's trying to encourage you to invest in a specific way, what would you do in that situation?

Mr. Mullin: I would counsel with town officials so folks would know the position I'm leaning towards. I want to make sure folks are aware of any decisions I make that would impact the town.

Mr. Rosenblum: What do you believe to be your biggest weakness?

Mr. Mullin: My biggest weakness is I like to involve a lot of folks as part of the decision-making process. Good or bad I like to garner a lot of opinions and factual information in order to get to a decision. Some may feel that slows down the process a little bit but I do enjoy hearing what other folks have to say.

Mr. Rosenblum: How would you describe your way of managing people?

Mr. Mullin: It's a collaborative leadership style. I enjoy spending time within my departments getting to know the team and working alongside the managers. I feel it's important seeing the work that they do on a daily basis so I can know how to better support them when they need it.

Mr. Alves: Do you have any experience with Munis?

Mr. Mullin: Outside of looking at the weekly reports for the School Committee and Finance, that's the extent of my Munis knowledge. As a lifelong learner that is something I would like to get more knowledge about.

Mr. Alves: Any other financial systems you've used?

Mr. Mullin: Peoplesoft mainly with the 2 hospitals that I work for.

Mr. Alves: How about experience with forecasting cash flow analysis.

Mr. Mullin: Outside of forecasting for projected volumes relative to patient activity at the hospital, that's the extent of the forecasting that we did as part of our budgeting process. We would use forecasting to determine what we would be looking at for patient volumes over the next 6-12 months so we could appropriately budget both revenue and expense.

Mr. Alves: Take me through your comfort and method to deliver bad news.

Mr. Mullin: It has to be deliberate and face to face and personal. A recent example is we had to endure some layoffs at the hospital. I had to meet with all impacted staff. At the time it was 10 staff members. I had to deliver the news and I wanted to make it as personal as I could separating them from the work environment in order to be personable, honest and to let them know it wasn't a reflection on them and their performance. It was a culmination of where we were financially and what we needed to do to improve our overall bottom line. It has to be thoughtful and you need to bring value to the people you are delivering the information to.

Mr. Alves: Looking at your resume, it looks like over 30 years in healthcare, so why pivot industries?

Mr. Mullin: First and foremost, I have a passion for the success of the town. To me this boils down to wanting to offer up my knowledge, skills and ability in order to help the town move forward. I've been involved in town government for a number of years now and it is a pivot but I look at it as an opportunity for me to help the town.

Mr. Silva: You've been in town so long you probably know what the treasurer/collector does. Have you researched that department and what your functions would be? That's a stressful job.

Mr. Mullin: I took each of the core responsibilities and made some bullet points relative to what I feel is a lot of duties and responsibilities are. There's a lot of management of daily tasks. A lot of development of standard operating policies and procedures. This will lend itself an opportunity to work across the town across a number of different departments and work with a lot of talented people in order to help with a lot of these daily and weekly tasks.

Mr. Silva: We had a treasurer and collector and we've combined them. Now you'll have days you'll have to jump from treasurer to collector. How versatile are you?

Mr. Mullin: In my career I've overseen a number of different hospital-related departments delivering different kinds of healthcare with different kinds and types of providers. One morning I could be talking to a GI provider about a particular issue and 30 minutes later I could have a meeting with a neurosurgeon to talk about something entirely different. I have had to navigate through a host of different topics on a daily basis. Being able to pivot in healthcare is critical just like being able to pivot in a municipality is equally, if not more important.

Mr. Silva: Thank you. Do you have a final statement for us?

Mr. Mullin: I think I said it when I was talking about the pivot. This comes down to an opportunity where I can apply my knowledge, skills, abilities and experience with working across a number of departments within the Town of Ludlow in order to support it and help it moving forward. I wish you gentlemen the best of luck as you continue to work through your candidates and I thank you for your time this evening.

Mr. Gennette: Is there a conflict of interest?

Mr. Mullin: If there were I would step down from Finance Committee.

Mr. Strange: There's no cooling off period.

6:40 p.m. – Treasurer/Collector Interview – Allison Pelissier

Mr. Silva: We're going to have you tell us a little bit about yourself and we'll ask you a series of questions and you'll have a closing statement.

Ms. Pelissier: I'm currently an assistant business manager at Pathfinder Tech where I support budgeting, financial reporting and day-to-day operations to ensure fiscal responsibility across the departments. I have a background in finance and accounting and over the past few years I focused on helping streamline processes to improve transparency in the school district spending. I'm passionate about helping support public education through strong financial stewardship. I'm always looking for ways to help make our resources work smarter for students and the staff. In my role as the assistant business manager, I've developed a strong foundation in public finance, budgeting, audits, procurement and compliance; skills that I believe directly align with the treasurer/collector position. I've managed multi-million-dollar budgets, overseen payroll, handled grants, collaborated closely with auditors. What draws me to this role is the opportunity for me to be able to broaden my impact beyond the school system and contribute to the overall financial stability and efficiency of the town. I know there's going to be differences between the school and municipal operations but I believe that my experience managing the public funds under tight constraints prepared me well to take on those challenges and I'm excited to try a new opportunity.

Mr. Rosenblum: Thank you for applying. What do you see to be as your biggest weakness?

Ms. Pelissier: Public speaking, hence the preparedness. Being the business manager and working in these financial departments and the slow growth would be attending meetings and speaking in

front of the public. The live meeting stresses me out but the only way that I've learned to overcome this is to prepare myself heavily. I don't do well in settings where I'm uncomfortable but I'm throwing myself into it and speaking with confidence.

Mr. Rosenblum: How would you describe your way of managing people.

Ms. Pelissier: My most effective way has been to submerge myself in their job and I've found that has been my most effective way of being managed, when my superior knows how to do my job in full. I've taken on the accounts payable, accounts receivable role at my school in addition to payroll so I've been able to be the back up to both of those positions. We lost both of those positions within a month and a half of each other and I had to take on both of those roles and we had to hire those people and I had to train both of them. We have a phenomenal team right now and we work really well together and I find that I'm able to help them in all aspects of their jobs because I know how to do them perfectly.

Mr. Alves: Welcome. Can you take me through your experience with Munis if you have any, and if not any other financial software.

Ms. Pelissier: I work with Tyler ERP so it's a smaller version of Munis. I've heard it's very similar.

Mr. Alves: How about experience with financial forecasting or cash flow?

Ms. Pelissier: I have not dabbled with that. We get our budget; we project our budget and present that figure because we're given the figure from the state. We branch off of that as to our needs. I don't know how to answer that as far as cash flow goes.

Mr. Alves: How about your comfort and method to deliver bad news?

Ms. Pelissier: I think I can do that very well. I don't see myself doing that poorly.

Mr. Alves: How would your approach be if you had a disgruntled resident?

Ms. Pelissier: I have more of an empathetic approach. All of our taxes are high and I completely understand. The beautiful thing about finance is that numbers don't lie. Unfortunately, the tax rate is the tax rate. You can compute that in front of them and do the calculation. If you approach it with a little bit of empathy and understand their situation I'm sure you can level with somebody a little bit.

Mr. Alves: It looks like you have a lot of good background on the school side of things. What's been your thought process to make a pivot away from school and more into general town government?

Ms. Pelissier: They're a parallel position. Doing some research, you're dealing with the same bucket of money dispersed a little bit differently. Everybody is in a budget crisis right now so positions aren't guaranteed anywhere. Right now, there's business managers 1 to a school district and once you get one you stay in that position. It's hard to stay local and having an opportunity raising them this close to home is worth exploring and broadening my horizons. I'm looking forward to growth in this aspect as well. As you can see from my resume, I got thrown into the school and that was a huge learning curve. Municipal finance has been very enjoyable for me. This is very similar, just a different licensure route. That's my driver for it. I enjoy it.

Mr. Gennette: Thank you for coming in. I like your resume. The treasurer is in charge of the investment accounts. There is a financial advisor who oversees the portfolio and everything they do has to go through the treasurer and they decide where investments get made. Were you aware of that?

Ms. Pelissier: Yes.

Mr. Gennette: Are you more risk adverse? Are you more of a follow the lead of the financial advisor or are you more of a risk on?

Ms. Pelissier: That would be based on the market and I'd have to hear what the advisor would have to say. I'd have to do a market study on that before making any kind of decision. That's too difficult to answer broadly. I'm more of a conservative person. I err on the frugal side. I like to make my money last and I like to make the taxpayers money last.

Mr. Gennette: Let's say through your market research the financial advisor has come to you and said we really need to take this position with this portfolio, but you don't see it that way and you've expressed that to him but he's adamant, how would you approach him at that point?

Ms. Pelissier: I would assume the level of hierarchy this position would lay out is this position would have a discussion. I would lay out the facts and ultimately leave it up to you 4 with my strong recommendation being one direction.

Mr. Gennette: I like that answer because that's the answer I'm looking for but we don't make those decisions. You're the one that has to make that final decision.

Mr. Silva: You mentioned you did some research on the position. Have you realized how stressful this position is? And how are you at dealing with jobs that have high stress?

Ms. Pelissier: I do understand the level of stress. I have quite a few friends that have been treasurer/collector. I did reach out to a resource we have as part of the MASBO group and this gentleman went from town accountant to business manager to town accountant and business manager. He and I had a zoom call and it was pretty lengthy and I asked him what the parallels were to the position and why did he flip flop. He said he loved both positions and the flip flop was because he was losing his licensure on both sides. He loved both of the jobs and he gave me a lot of pros and cons. My preparedness at Pathfinder dealing with the 16 different programs would prepare me pretty well for a position like this. I say that because in 16 different programs, a good majority of them have their own revolving accounts. We have an automotive program that services vehicles for teachers and the outside public. They bill, invoice and have their own revenue stream. We have a cosmetology program that does the same thing. We have an in-house restaurant that does the same thing. We have a lot of revenue streams that come in and out, which is whole separate accounting entity from the district. We have a night school program that I oversee that's a whole other entity in the district. We have a lot of moving parts and I have dealt with that very well. I wouldn't say it's super high stress because it is a high school but I do work better under high pressure situations. I like being busy and prioritizing my work. I do understand this could be a position where people are upset more times than they are happy and that comes with the territory. People are not happy with business managers in a school district either. I'm facing that no matter what job interview I go on.

Mr. Silva: We had a treasurer and collector and we decided we were going to combine the 2. You'll have times when you are working on the collector side and then you'll have to switch over to the treasurer side. Do you foresee any issues?

Ms. Pelissier: Absolutely not. At the school I've worn a ton of hats. When we erupted that whole department and I had to take on those 2 roles on top of my own position and we lost our maintenance director a little bit of time and I was getting elevators serviced and purchasing vehicles and I didn't know what I was doing but I'm doing it. Everything got done and it was compliant. You have to submerge yourself into it to figure it out. I think I've been pretty successful in doing that. While I have not done these 2 roles specifically I don't think it's anything out of my realm. I'm a quick learner. I've only been at the school 3 years and from the ground up I'm leaving licensed. I think that should attest to my learning and my ability to do the role. What is the expected relationship between the treasurer/collector and finance committee?

Mr. Gennette: The Finance Committee is more associated with the town accountant. The treasurer does a lot of handling of the money that comes in whereas the town accountant handles a lot of the level 1 budgeting and things like that that have to go to the elected boards.

Ms. Pelissier: How does the town currently coordinate fiscal planning between the municipality and the school district? Does that have any relation to this position?

Mr. Rosenblum: How we run the budget process is generally it starts in September/October and getting requests from the departments to get to level 1 which is then presented and in this town the budget is presented by the town administrator.

Mr. Silva: The school is another animal. They do their own thing. We deal with the school mostly during the budget and trying to figure out what money we can give them. In turn they give us what they feel they need. There's not much you would be dealing with.

Mr. Rosenblum: The school budget in this town is about 45% of the overall budget. They have a business manager and superintendent who write the budget and come to us and we say this is what we hope to give you. They do their thing, come to us and we put in what numbers we think would fit with them.

Mr. Gennette: You're a business manager for a school, right? How often do you have to deal with the treasurer?

Ms. Pelissier: We're a regional school so we don't at all.

Mr. Gennette: They have a business manager over there. They do a lot of their own financing. They do a lot of their own grant writing. It's not all that different from a regional school. They handle a lot of that stuff in house.

Ms. Pelissier: How do you envision someone with a school background contributing effectively to a municipal finance operation?

Mr. Rosenblum: I like that crossover because there's a discord in a lot of municipalities between school department and municipal. To me, someone with your credentials I would like because you have the insight on what goes on with the school budget to a business manager. That's probably the toughest relationship. We want that relationship to be better and we want everyone to understand that this board in general isn't out to get the school department. We want to give them as much as we can. Unfortunately, especially in this environment, we promised one number and we had to ask for a little bit less. An experience like yours, I would welcome it.

Ms. Pelissier: Are there any areas within the treasurer/collector responsibility, such as long-term planning, grants or audits where you see my school finance background being especially valuable?

Mr. Gennette: I think you're going to be busy enough.

Mr. Silva: I think Marc would be glad to have you.

Mr. Silva: The grant writing and procurement aspect can be a help.

Ms. Pelissier: I'm a certified procurement officer. In FY25 I have 1.5 million in grants that I was overseeing. Though I haven't written any grants myself I have overseen enough grants that I think I could do that. I feel pretty comfortable with that. What do you think the biggest learning curve would be for someone moving from a school finance role into this role and how do you see that being supported?

Mr. Gennette: Managing the stress. The department is busy, short-staffed and managing the department right out of the gate is going to be your biggest issue. Once you can get the department under control and things can start going out on a timeline you'll be able to develop it into a cohesive unit. We're short staffed right now and it's going to be a management issue.

Ms. Pelissier: Is there going to be someone to mentor or train?

Mr. Gennette: You'll probably have to follow town administrator's guide on it. You are never a person on an island and if you are then you should approach us.

Mr. Silva: We have an outside firm. I don't know if they'll be here long enough.

Ms. Pelissier: The Abrams Group offers a couple classes online about municipal law that work with chapter 39 and 40. I've taken a few classes through them and that was pretty helpful.

Mr. Silva: I believe the treasurer/collectors have an association and they hold different courses and classes.

Ms. Pelissier: What makes your town unique and what are you most proud of as select board members?

Mr. Silva: The town is very close knit. We have a very big Portuguese population. The polish side is also the same. Everyone knows everybody. It's a hometown.

Mr. Rosenblum: There's a lot of culture in town. As a board I think every person that sits at this table has the best interest of the town. Everyone is here because of the town.

Mr. Silva: I've been on for 15 years and we've agreed and disagreed but had no problems at all.

Ms. Pelissier: That's nice to hear. That's tough to come by sometimes. I know town politics are tough. My wrap up question is there anything about me that gives you any pause to be able to perform in this position?

Mr. Gennette: I don't know that I want to get into that because we're going to interview 4 candidates and they all have reason for pause.

Ms. Pelissier: Thank you for your time. This was very informative and I look forward to hearing from you.

7:00 p.m. – Treasurer/Collector Interview – Ryan McNutt

Mr. Silva: We'll ask you to give us a statement then each one of us will ask you questions and at the end you can have a final statement.

Mr. McNutt: I'm Ryan McNutt. I'm a local government chief administrative financial officer with a dozen years of experience. I'm looking for something more permanent within my skillset and challenging moving beyond my ambitions of being a town manager or town administrator.

Mr. Genette: Thank you for coming in. I like your application. Are you familiar with the investment portfolio of the town and that it is the responsibility of the treasurer to manage that?

Mr. McNutt: Yes. That's Massachusetts General Law Chapter 55B.

Mr. Gennette: If in that situation with those investments, would you say that you're risk adverse, leaning towards following the financial advisor or are you more of a risk on kind of person?

Mr. McNutt: Your duty is to invest the funds in the highest rate of return but also, these are public funds. I've always followed the financial advisors. For example, in Palmer we had Bartholomew & Company. We had a significant amount of money come to the town, over 3.5-4 million dollars and we needed a place to put it that was safe and stable and also offer the highest rate of return so following their advice paid off.

Mr. Gennette: Let's say the financial advisor has come to you and they say this is the way to go but your research is in opposition to that and you don't want to pursue that avenue. He's trying to convince you and you're at odds. What would be your action at that point?

Mr. McNutt: I've been very fortunate in my personal life. I invest myself and I've done very well. I feel like I know what I'm doing. I have a 43% rate of return. But when it comes to public funds I'm going to follow somebody who that's their professional job.

Mr. Rosenblum: Thank you for coming in and applying. What do you see to be your biggest weakness?

Mr. McNutt: My biggest weakness is telling truth to power. That's probably why I became frustrated as a town manager/town administrator. Why I did 2 years in the City of Claremont as city manager. I was asked to do something unethical and I pushed back against it. I was asked to resign and I didn't do anything wrong and I didn't want the perception that I did so I forced them

to terminate me. I'm a singular individual so the newspaper writes the story about me. Now the headline is terminated and nobody reads beyond the first paragraph.

Mr. Rosenblum: How would you describe your way of managing people?

Mr. McNutt: Collaborative but diligent. I'm their boss. These are small offices. The highest amount of staff in 2 different jobs that I've managed is in the City of Fitchburg and I had 12 direct reports. All the department heads answered to me as the mayor's gatekeeper and broadly there was 300 city employees. Recently in the City of Worcester I had 103 direct employees. In some cases, you have to be the father and some you're the mother. I always try to be folks' partner. We're all trying to pull the rope in the same direction.

Mr. Alves: Can you take me through your experience with Munis if you have any or any other financial software?

Mr. McNutt: I have experience with Munis and most of the different forms. Vadar and Harper's. In Palmer I wore a lot of hats as town manager. I worked very closely with the treasurer and collector and later to create the opportunity to combine those roles so I had to understand the job description and duties of each intimately to be able to have that plan, which is in effect now. Turnover in the payroll position particularly is severe so sometimes I find myself doing the payroll. I managed animal control for 4 towns. I managed the town through Covid. Dealing with all the federal money, ARPA, Cares Act and FEMA. Setting up the regional vaccination clinic for 11 towns. Setting up the payroll system for all of them because they were temporary special employees so I have a lot of experience with municipal financial software.

Mr. Alves: Take me through some experiences of financial forecasting and cash flow.

Mr. McNutt: It is very important to do at least a 5-year projection forward of where the town's finances are and the revenues are. All of the towns that I've been fortunate to work in unfortunately were struggling financially. When I started in Fitchburg there was a 5-million-dollar structural deficit. That was the first education I had of how do we reduce this deficit. Sitting with the mayor and you cut \$700,000 and she says do that 4 more times. I've done a lot of 5-year financial forecasting for various communities.

Mr. Alves: Take me through a situation where you need to deliver bad news. Your comfort and methods.

Mr. McNutt: There's many times I've had to deliver bad news, both to individuals and groups of people and boards and I find that transparency and directness and forthrightness is the best policy. For example, my first job as town administrator was in Lancaster. They had a public building project they were trying to get off the ground. They needed to build a town hall annex. In a small town with town meeting there's multiple steps to that process. You have to advertise, there needs to be an election, a town meeting vote, the town clerk has a role. Prior to me getting there, there was a glitch in the process and it was invalidated by town counsel so they had to start over. When I came in I had to pick that ball up. Two years had transpired so we had 1.4 million dollars in inflation on the cost of the project. At my very first town meeting I had to get up on the stage and explain to the voters in Lancaster that this was still a worthwhile project and we could still get this done but I need you to give me 1.5 million more dollars. They did so. We completed the project and the town employees inhabit that town hall today.

Mr. Alves: The last question I have, I think you alluded to it in some of your answers already, a lot of your background in administration and town manager, take me through the thought process behind deciding to pivot to something more focused in the financial realm.

Mr. McNutt: Why do I want to go back to being a department head? Because it's more stable. I've worked for boards that have changed. You have a vision for the community and you're chugging right along and the next thing you know different constitutions of folks are in front of you and it's not that they don't share the vision, their priorities might be so narrow minded you feel like you're banging your head against the wall and you don't enjoy waking up and driving into work anymore. I'm halfway through my pension so I want to stay in the municipal system. I have about 15 years left and I want it to be a more stable environment where I'm still doing something challenging and within my skillset, but I feel comfortable going to work every day. Monday morning is not a dread.

Mr. Silva: My question is about the stress level with the treasurer and collector. We've combined them and going from one to the other so I'm sure you know what they are. How do you envision yourself being more stable? We want somebody that is going to be here and take over and set that department. We've had turnover. How do you see yourself being in that position and dealing with that stress.

Mr. McNutt: You're kind of something I want to emulate. You did something that was important that in some cases is difficult to find. I had you as a consultant in Palmer because I struggled to find somebody to do it and you retired. You had a role that you can have as long as you want and you enjoy doing it. What would stress me out about being a treasurer/collector is we're coming up into some very challenging financial times for our country. What is one of the largest local receipts that a town has? Commitment #1 your excise tax. If folks can't buy new cars and they have their vehicle longer or they buy used vehicles, you're going to see a reduction in excise tax. That becomes a burden on revenue. Those types of stresses are the nature of the job. It's not like a town administrator where social media could be ripping you apart. This role you don't have the opportunity for those kinds of stresses. Angry residents and taxpayers can come in but that's customer service and I've dealt with that. Those types of stresses don't bother me because it's not personal. Folks can be upset about paying their taxes or getting the wrong tax bill, which I dealt with. When Tyler Tech did their upgrade and 248 people got the wrong tax bill I had to call some of them personally. I had to call some of their mortgage companies because their property taxes were paid by escrow. Those things are the nature of the job and you work through it. This is something within my skillset, it's needed and as long as I do it well, my goal is to become certified as a Massachusetts treasurer/collector in 3 years and once I'm certified why would I need to do anything else?

Mr. Silva: My next question is about the transition within the office. Collector on one side and you have to jump over. Doing what you've been doing, I'm sure it's an easy transition.

Mr. McNutt: It's the car carrier and the dealership. My final statement is thank you for this opportunity. I'm sorry that you've had so much turnover. I'm looking for something stable so that means I want to be something stable for you all as well.

Mr. Silva: It's nice to see we have several candidates for a position. We should probably hear from Marc & Carrie.

Ms. Ribeiro: It's almost impossible to answer that question. You can go with your gut. When you interview candidates they can give a great sales pitch but it's hard to know if somebody is going to be a great fit. I had one where during the interview I had a great feeling about one of the candidates but something transpired and in the hallway and I thought maybe this is not the vibe I was getting. It's hard to answer that. With the amount of turnover we've had in the treasurer/collector's office, this is not a position where somebody is coming in and there's history or best practices of how the job has been done for the last 5-6 years. You're not coming in and taking over a smoothly oiled machine. You are taking over a broken machine that doesn't have a lot of parts and you have to try to put it back together. I think somebody that doesn't understand municipal government might be at a little bit of a disadvantage coming into the position as it sits today. I think it would be unfair for any of us sitting in this room to expect someone to succeed in that position without some understanding of municipal government and municipal finance. I have learned by supporting that office as much as I have in the last 6-8 months a lot about the idiosyncrasies of that office, even though I have a very extensive knowledge of payroll and benefits. There's a lot that happens in that office. We have good staff in that office now. We have an individual that just announced her retirement so we're going to be filling that position but the 3 constants we have in that office are doing very well. They're learning, they're thriving, we have payroll and we have a back up to payroll. As we transition and move forward with ADP, which is our goal in October, I think the responsibilities will shift. The staff needs somebody that can support them but this is a very hands-on position and not just managing people. There was one candidate that talked about managing people, collaborating with them and leading them. This is more hands on. You've got to step in and do payroll. I liked what Allison said, sometimes I don't know what I'm doing but I get it done. Whoever we choose for this role needs to be comfortable jumping into any one of those roles in the office. They might not have done it or have the experience to get through it on the first shot but somebody needs to have a little working knowledge of knowing how to post a payment, do cash receipts, muddle through payroll if they had to. Having somebody with municipal background and it's a bonus if they have Munis or Tyler

experience. It's a bear of a system to learn. Whoever we choose needs to have experience with Munis. Not know everything but have familiarity with the software program.

Mr. Strange: I agree with everything she said. I liked all 4 candidates. They're very different. I'm impartial to somebody who has worked in a municipality or worked in a school system. Allison worked with a version of Munis. I liked them all but Allison and Ryan had experience that's more translatable.

Mr. Gennette: I think management, finance and adaptability is going to be key if anybody is going to survive. I thought Erika was a really great candidate but she's up against 3 other candidates that have too much against her. I would love to see her take a position with a department and try to grow into it. Give her an opportunity to not lead the charge right away. Ryan has a lot of municipal experience. He seems like he would be difficult to manage because he's been a town manager, a town administrator. He's been all over. The mother/father thing threw me off a little bit. I had him next because if for some reason there's a change at the town administrator position, whoever is in that position would have a hard time managing this position. It worries me going from a town manager to a treasurer. Chad has organizational leadership skills. He did seem to be more of a collaborative and in this department we need to make decisions and he didn't seem like he was a decision guy. Allison threw me off a little bit when Mr. Alves asked about forecasting and she didn't understand forecasting but that's more of an accountant's position for me so I didn't put a lot of weight in that. I loved that she asked questions on the follow up. She was the only one that answered my question to say that if I find myself in a difficult position that she was going to go to the person above her for at least some guidance. That lends itself to be somebody that can be managed. She doesn't want to be on an island. She looked like she had the fortitude to be able to manage that department. I think that she would stick around. My vote is for Allison. Chad would be my second and Ryan would be my third and Erika would be my fourth.

Mr. Alves: Currently we outsource this? And that contract runs until when?

Mr. Strange: We don't have a contract. It's month to month. There's an article in town meeting that would get us through the end of this fiscal year. We're hoping to keep them on as long as we can to support whoever the new person is.

Mr. Alves: What do we pay now a month?

Mr. Strange: A lot. But they're here 40 hours a week. If they were here full-time the whole year it would be \$250,000.

Mr. Alves: What gave me pause with some candidates was I didn't get the feeling a lot of them knew the entirety of what this job would entail. I think the Munis experience is very important. I think a lot of these candidates had very good resumes in their fields. I have a hard time seeing how those would correlate directly to this position. It's another good point that you don't know if someone is a good fit until they're here. It's kind of like budgeting. You have the info you have and you see where you end up. My final point is the only candidate I would feel comfortable moving forward with would be Mr. McNutt. I would side with him strictly because of the experience. Allison would be a vote for me if it wasn't for the experience.

Mr. Rosenblum: I would be down to Allison and Mr. McNutt. I do like the fact that we were questioned. I do like the fact that she has experience on the school side as assistant business manager. Mr. McNutt, I see this as a step backwards for him. It's a safety net for him. We all understand that the position as a town manager that there's a bullseye on your back at all times whether it's warranted or not. I could go between the 2. Managerial style isn't as, but I also do see the need for a better culture in town hall. It's been stressful for a lot of people. My hope is whoever we pick, and that would be my 2 finalists, would be able to do that and be able to manage people and have people work for them and respect them. I could see Allison throw herself headfirst in and gobble up an information book and take it all in and within a week be able to do it. She does have Munis experience. I work with Tyler too. She didn't understand forecasting at first. She says her weakness is public speaking and she did a pretty good job. I do see where there could be a little friction with Mr. McNutt.

Mr. Gennette: I understand the experience. When we brought Marc in, he is kind of a bulldog and a 2nd bulldog in the building is not going to add to our morale in town hall. I get the impression

that Mr. McNutt is stern. I think he has got a little bit of power himself and I worry about what that would do to the culture here in town hall.

Mr. Silva: Let's ask Marc if he feels that would be problematic.

Mr. Strange: Ryan and I were in the same peer group when he was the manager in Palmer. I wouldn't have any problems managing Ryan. I agree with everything everybody said. If you reached out to the people that worked for Ryan I think they would have a different perspective than what you're saying. I really liked Allison too but the job is so difficult and I know that he has done a difficult job and I know that he will fight through it. Will it be perfect, probably not. It's not going to be perfect with any of them but I know having done the same job he has done how difficult it is. I think he's telling genuine truth and I can relate to this that this is a very difficult job. I understand that he wants to get out of the spotlight and stay in municipal government and he just wants to do the job without the boards and Facebook. That would be my suggestion. If you choose Allison she's a great candidate too. I think there's a little uncertainty whether she can navigate the job.

Mr. Gennette: Thank you for the clarity.

Mr. Strange: To Carrie's point, you don't have to decide tonight.

Ms. Ribeiro: We can talk to references. If you narrow it down we can start doing background checks. We're still taking applicants. It's posted until filled.

Mr. Gennette: Don't we do that anyway. All of those references and background checks done ahead of time?

Ms. Ribeiro: Not on every single candidate.

Mr. Gennette: I'm ready to make a vote if you guys are. I don't know that waiting is going to do anything.

Mr. Silva: Waiting is just costing us money if Marc is right that this is costing us \$250,000. We've got to get this office in position to move forward.

Mr. Gennette: You knew Mr. McNutt as well. Do you have a similar experience as Marc?

Mr. Silva: I didn't have any issue with him. He hired me to do some work. We got along and didn't have any issues at all.

Mr. Gennette: He's the most skilled for the job.

Mr. Silva: He's definitely the most skilled for the job.

Mr. Rosenblum: I'm torn. Mr. McNutt has the most experience.

Mr. Gennette: If Marc is comfortable managing either one of these candidates.

Mr. Silva: I agree. If Marc is comfortable managing him and he thinks he's the right person for the job I don't see why we wouldn't.

Mr. Gennette: That was my hang up so if Marc's telling me that's not really a hang up I have to pick the most experienced person.

Motion made by Mr. Alves to proceed with the appointment of hiring Ryan McNutt for the treasurer/collector position and give Marc and Carrie the autonomy they need to move forward. Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Gennette: I think extending an invitation to Erika might be worthwhile.

Mr. Strange: I really liked her.

Mr. Gennette: We have other positions that are available in the treasurer's office and if that's something she's interested in doing for a career it might be worth it to her. If this is an opportunity that could benefit Erika and we could benefit from her participation it might be worth an invite.

Mr. Strange: We're looking for a project coordinator. She's also a certified procurement officer.

Mr. Alves: Do we keep a well of candidates? For example, if we have candidates we think would be good fits down the road?

Ms. Ribeiro: We typically keep them on file for 6 months. We would reach out to Erika and say you weren't chosen for the treasurer/collector position; however, we do have an opening you may be interested in.

CORRESPONDENCE

72. Letter from Alex Tassinari – East Street Repair Project Proposition.

Mr. Silva: I read the letter and it's a very nice thing if we could get it done.

Mr. Gennette: I took a look at this too. Is this something we should send to the DPW for their review of the project?

Mr. Silva: Some of it would have to be DPW. A lot of the pictures have weeds and grass and if it's a project they're willing to take on, I'm not quite sure what the whole plan is. We've had a study done on how we can improve the East Street corridor and I think at some point the project is to use DIF money. These are great suggestions and much appreciated. If there's some small safety concerns where people can trip and things like that I would say this should go to the DPW to see if there's anything for safety reasons that can be adjusted.

Mr. Silva: I think we should take it under advisement.

Motion made by Mr. Gennette to ask the Town Administrator to respond to Alexander and forward to DPW for review and recommendation. **Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

73. Memorandum from Finance Committee – Reorganization.

Mr. Gennette: Finance Committee reorganization as follows: Tony Sanches Chairperson, Dolly Cincone Vice Chair, Susan Boyea member, Matias Goncalves member, Mike Kelly member, Mike Kelliher member, Anita Lombardi member, Chad Mullin member, Bill Nicoll member.

74. Memorandum from Library Board of Trustees – Reorganization.

Mr. Gennette: The Library Board of Trustees voted to reorganize as follows: Linda Collette Chair, Ruth Saunders member, Antonia Golinski-Foisy Secretary.

75. Memorandum from Board of Health – Reorganization.

Mr. Gennette: The Board of Health voted to reorganize as follows: Kelly Lamas Chair, Tony Tavares Secretary, Adrienne Desantis member.

76. Memorandum from Safety Committee – Reorganization.

Mr. Gennette: The Safety Committee voted to reorganize as follows: Sgt. Brian Shameklis Chairperson, Det. Peter Gallagher Vice Chair, Melissa Graf member, Sharon Martins member, Capt. Zac Ellison member, Jamie Tomas member, Chris Coelho member, BJ Church member, Jeff Lavoie alternate member.

77. Memorandum from Council on Aging – Reorganization.

Mr. Gennette: The Council on Aging voted to reorganize as follows: Diane Peacey Chairman, Robert Mishol Vice Chairman, John DaCruz Treasurer, Karen Martin Secretary, Fernando Barroso

member, Kara Ribeiro member, Robert Radowski member, Debra Johnson member, Deborah Potter member, Rosalind Forti member, Helen Grabowski member.

78. Memorandum from Recreation Commission – Reorganization.

Mr. Gennette: The Recreation Commission voted to reorganize as follows: John Archambeau Chairman, Shawn Lebeau Vice Chairman, Sean McBride member.

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

79. Letter from Planning Board – Board Assignments.

Mr. Silva: Administrative Review Committee Chris Coelho and Joshua Carpenter, Open Space Recreation Committee Joel Silva, Safety Committee Chris Coelho, 40R Smart Growth Committee Joshua Carpenter, Community Preservation Committee Ray Phoenix, Capital Planning Committee Joshua Carpenter, PVPC Alternate Member Joel Silva, PVPC Commissioner Member Ray Phoenix, Fair Housing Joshua Carpenter.

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

80. Letter from Tammy Turcotte – Retiring from custodian at LPD.

Mr. Rosenblum: I'll read the letter. April 11, 2025. Attention Chief Valadas, to whom it may concern, this is my official retirement letter. After 20 years with the Town of Ludlow, Massachusetts, my official last day will be Friday, May 9, 2025. I appreciate the many years with my coworkers and the department. It has been a pleasure in my life and in the many roles I have filled within the department in Town. Wishing you all the best. Respectfully, Tammy Turcotte. Thank you Tammy for 20 years of dedication to our town and public safety.

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

81. Letter from Safety Committee – Recommending “No Parking” signs on Lakeview Avenue.

Mr. Silva: This is by Chin's. People are having issues on Lakeview at the corner.

Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum to approve the Safety Committee's vote of 5-0 to recommend replacing no parking corner to here on the Chin's Kitchen side of Lakeview Avenue, even side, up to 20' in accordance with DPW regulations. Also to place a no parking here to corner on the opposite side of Lakeview Avenue, odd side, on the existing utility pole and finally to replace the worn out no parking sign at the corner of East and Lakeview. Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.

82. Letter from Safety Committee – Recommending “No Parking” on cul-de-sac on Haswell Circle.

Mr. Silva: The residents have been having issues with people in the cul-de-sac and the lights flashing into their homes.

Motion made by Mr. Alves to approve the Safety Committee's recommendation and place large rocks from the new cemetery in the center circle at Haswell Circle to deter residents from parking there. Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.

83. Letter from Safety Committee – Recommending “Right Turn Only” sign at the Chapin Street exit of Harris Brook Elementary School.

Mr. Gennette: It looks like people are taking a left and they need to make it a right turn only because crossing that traffic is creating a line of site issue.

Motion made by Mr. Alves to approve the Safety Committee's recommendation and install a right turn only sign at the Chapin Street exit of Harris Brook Elementary School for the purpose of helping to increase the line of site. **Mr. Gennette second. Motion passed 3-1.**

84. Letter from Our Lady of Fatima Festa Committee – Clarifying comments made at March 4th Board of Selectmen meeting.

Mr. Silva: I read the letter. It's quite lengthy and I don't know how to proceed. Some of the comments were quite a while ago when the Police Chief made some comments. People were very uninformed online on what exactly was going on.

Mr. Gennette: I went through this letter and Our Lady of Fatima Parish letter is outstanding. They provided incredible information. I was completely satisfied with everything they said. They went above and beyond in explaining funds and all kinds of things. You could tell they were very bothered by the statements that were made. It is too long for me to read. The feeling is the same. It was really good to hear from them and get a good understanding of how they see everything going on and they've been doing everything above board and have nothing but the best interest for the town. I suggest to make this letter available to whoever has a concern about Festa and how Our Lady of Fatima Parish feels about it.

Mr. Silva: To go along with that, reading the letter I think they met all of their obligations in paying. They paid \$104,000.

Mr. Gennette: And it's a revenue generator for the businesses in the area. I would say to Our Lady of Fatima Parish that the Board of Selectmen support you.

Mr. Rosenblum: The request is to read this publicly. Subject: concerns regarding comments made on March 4th, 2025, Board of Selectmen meeting. Dear Members of the Board of Selectmen, we would like to kindly request that the Board publicly read the following letter to address some misunderstandings that have been circulating on social media and within the community. These misunderstandings seem to stem from people making quick judgements without fully understanding the situation or gathering all the necessary details before placing blame or making inaccurate assumptions. On behalf of the Our Lady of Fatima Parish, the Festa Committee is writing this letter to clarify misunderstandings regarding comments made by Chief Valadas at the March 4th Board of Selectmen meeting. While we hold the Ludlow Police Department in the highest regard and fully understand the Chief's concerns, we believe that important context regarding the Festa was omitted, leading to misconceptions now spreading on social media. The Chief's remarks, particularly regarding the costs associated with policing the Festa, have sparked false narratives about the event's impact on the town's budget and community. To clarify, the Festa Committee has always paid for security services provided by the Ludlow Police Department ensuring a safe and well-organized event. The expenses referenced by the Chief encompasses multiple factors beyond our control, yet the way the information was presented has unfortunately led to misleading assumptions about Festa's financial burden on the town. We want to take a moment to clarify the full scope of security expenses incurred by the Our Lady of Fatima Festa in 2024, as recent discussions have led to misinformation circulating within the community. In 2024, the Festa Committee paid a total of \$64,530.48 directly to various law enforcement agencies for security on the fairgrounds including \$61,849.37 to the Ludlow Police Department, \$268.40 to the Hampden County Sheriff's Department, \$990.42 to the Hampden Police Department, \$562.58 to the Easthampton Police Department, \$859.71 to the Monson Police Department. Beyond these direct law enforcement costs, additional security measures were required by law enforcement at the recommendation of the Chief of Police, which led to an added \$38,616.62 in expenses. These measures, which were not optional but mandated for the safety of all involved included \$12,000 for gate security screening personnel, \$13,490 for metal detector rentals (Gate Detection Solution), \$9,009.12 for temporary fencing securing the Festa perimeter. Additional costs for generators, barriers, and tents to facilitate multiple controlled entry points. As a result, the total security expenditure for the 2024 Festa came to \$110,077.37. This was a significant financial commitment to ensuring the safety and security of all attendees, staff, and the surrounding community. These additional measures, required by law enforcement, were not anticipated when the Festa Committee initially began planning and they ultimately led to the decision to begin charging for admission as a way to help defer the total costs associated with these new security requirements. Contrary to popular believe, this was not an attempt by Festa to raise additional funds, but rather a necessary step to help offset the increased financial burden caused by these mandated security measures. To

provide further context, the security costs experienced in 2024 were not an anomaly. In fact, the total security cost for Fest in 2023 was \$95,944.25 and in 2022 it was \$90,774.64. These figures reflect the ongoing growing expenses necessary to ensure a safe, secure and successful event, one that continues to be a major economic driver for Ludlow businesses. The Our Lady of Fatima Festa is not only a significant event for our Lady of Fatima Parish but also the primary economic engine for Ludlow businesses. This five-day event generates an estimated 1 million in gross revenue for local businesses, ranging from hotels and restaurants to grocery stores, fast food chains, butcher shops, bakeries and other key establishments. The economic impact of this event cannot be overstated, as it provides a vital influx of income for Ludlow's economy. Given this, the relatively modest \$34,000 additional security cost to ensure the safety of Festa attendees and manage the increased traffic is a small price to pay when considering the immense financial benefit, the event brings to the community. The Festa is an irreplaceable asset to Ludlow, and its value far exceeds any associated costs. Furthermore, the Festa Committee has consistently worked in a close collaboration with law enforcement to ensure a safe and secure event for all attendees. We have always followed recommendations and taken a proactive approach in implementing necessary security measures. However, the Festa committee strongly believes that the burden of an additional \$34,000 in costs to the Ludlow Police Department and the overall town budget should be carefully reviewed to identify potential areas where costs can be reduced without compromising security in any way, shape or form. In past Festa planning meetings, the Department of Public Works generously offered to provide commercial dump trucks filled with sand to block streets and assist with crowd control all at no additional cost to the town or the Festa. We believe such measures should be reevaluated by law enforcement to determine their feasibility and effectiveness. We also understand that the Hampden County Sheriff's Department is willing and able to provide additional resources, which may help reduce the burden on both the town and the Festa, and we encourage exploring these options. As previously mentioned, the Festa Committee is always open to suggestions for improving the safety of attendees and finding ways to lessen the financial burden on the Ludlow community; however, it is important to note that we are not the decision-making body for these security measures, as they are implemented on public streets and are ultimately determined by the Chief of Police. We also want to address some misleading claims circulating on social media regarding the Festa's involvement in street closures and parking fees. Some individuals have wrongly stated that the Festa seeks to close streets and place no parking signs to force attendees to pay for parking. This is a flat out lie. The Festa does not own any parking lots, nor does it control which streets or areas are designated as no parking zones. This is entirely under the control of local law enforcement. The two main establishments that currently offer and charge for parking are the Polish American Club located on East Street and the Ludlow Senior Center located on State Street. Neither of these establishments has any connection to the Festa, nor do they share any of the proceeds with Festa. On the contrary, the Festa Committee works in good faith to assist the Friends of the Ludlow Senior Center by providing trash barrels and bags for use at their parking lot because we believe in being good neighbors and supporting local causes. The parking lot at the Senior Center is managed by the Friends of the Ludlow Senior Center and serves as a fundraiser to help raise money for their operations. Similarly, the Polish American Club uses the income generated from parking to offset the sponsorships it donates to students in the community. For anyone to claim on social media that the Festa profits from parking is not only wrong but also an insult to these local community organizations that use the event as a fundraising opportunity to benefit their missions. We respectfully request that the Board and the Ludlow Police Department acknowledge the full scope of the Festa's impact and ensure that accurate information is shared with the public. We remain committed to collaborating with all town departments to maintain the safety, success, and positive economic influence of the Festa for years to come. Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to your response and to working together in the best interests of our community. Sincerely, Our Lady of Fatima Parish Festa Committee.

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

85. MMWEC – 2nd Quarter Pipeline Inspection.

Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum to file. Mr. Alves second. Motion passed 3-0-1.

86. Letter from Lupa Zoo – Summer Fun Safety Day Saturday, June 21, 2025.

Mr. Gennette: This is from Lupa Zoo. Wally Lupa sent this in. Dear Board of Selectmen, I hope you are doing well. I am writing on behalf of Lupa Zoo to request the participation of Ludlow Fire

Department and Ludlow Police Department in our upcoming Summer Safety Day event on June 21st. The purpose of this event is to educate the community about summer safety practices and provide valuable information. Presentations from both the Fire Department and Police Department would significantly enhance the event by offering attendees important knowledge and skills related to campfire safety, child car seat usage and biking safety. We have already secured commitments from the Sheriff's Department and the US Fish & Wildlife to participate in this event. We are providing this event as a community service and it will be free to the public. We would greatly appreciate your help in arranging participation. Your support would mean a lot to us and help make this event successful. Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing back from you. I think this will have to get sent to the police department, as it would be a time constraint on them and they would need to be able to plan accordingly.

Mr. Strange: They are. Mr. Lupa is in communication with both Chief's. I informed them it's the board's inclination to not approve town funded overtime for these events.

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

87. Letter from Pineapple Express requesting cannabis delivery in town.

Mr. Silva: This is relatively new. I know that the Planning Board developed a bylaw that cannabis cannot be sold in the community but I don't know about delivery.

Mr. Gennette: It says according to state law, cannabis delivery companies may deliver to all towns that allow whether or not a retail location is operational and any municipality which after receiving notice from the commission has notified the commission that deliveries may operate within its borders. Basically, it's saying that we can't sell it retail but if we want to allow delivery we can, but if we say no it's no. I'm not willing to go against the current law or Town Meeting so my vote for this would be no. And you know how I feel about marijuana being sold in Ludlow anyway.

Mr. Silva: I am a no too. The only problem I have is there are some people that need it.

Mr. Gennette: This is from Pineapple Express in Ware. The revenues of them selling in Ludlow don't come to Ludlow. There's no financial benefit to us. I understand the convenience of getting delivery.

Mr. Rosenblum: It's pretty straightforward. Cannabis delivery companies may deliver to all towns that allow retail. We don't allow retail.

Mr. Gennette: That's why they need a special dispensation. I would want to put that before a town meeting.

Mr. Silva: I think it's a question for counsel.

Mr. Strange: I'm participating in an MMA committee that reviews legislation and the cannabis commission is looking at allowing this statewide. Right now, if you vote no, it's no unless the board wants to revisit.

Mr. Silva: We can keep it as that for now. There is no retail so there is no delivery.

Motion made by Mr. Gennette to decline Pineapple Express's request for delivery in Ludlow. Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.

88. Chief Pease – Request to charge off medical expenses & lost wages t Chapter 41, Section 111F for injuries sustained by a Firefighter/Paramedic as a result of an incident that occurred on March 30, 2025.

Motion made by Mr. Alves to approve the request to charge off medical expenses & lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for injuries sustained by a Firefighter/Paramedic as a result of an incident that occurred on March 30, 2025. Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.

89. Chief Pease – Request to charge off medical expenses & lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for injuries sustained by a Firefighter/Paramedic as a result of an incident that occurred on April 14, 2025.

Motion made by Mr. Alves to request to charge off medical expenses & lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for injuries sustained by a Firefighter/Paramedic as a result of an incident that occurred on April 14, 2025. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

90. Chief Valadas – Request to charge off medical expenses & lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for injuries sustained by a Police Officer as a result of an incident that occurred on April 29, 2025.

Motion made by Mr. Alves to approve request to charge off medical expenses & lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for injuries sustained by a Police Officer as a result of an incident that occurred on April 29, 2025. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

91. Letter from Sara Mendez resigning from the Dog Park Committee.

Mr. Rosenblum: I'd like to thank Sara for being a part of the Dog Park Committee.

Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum to file. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.** **Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum** to accept the resignation and post the opening. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

92. Commonwealth of Massachusetts Dept. of Energy Resources – Massachusetts Large Building Energy Reporting.

Mr. Gennette: As the newly appointed Energy Commissioner, I would be interested in understanding the scope of what we need to figure out and get this report done so I will take care of this.

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

Mr. Silva: Isn't this just a report they send us?

Mr. Strange: Mass Energy Inside tracks all the energy usage for all the buildings in town so they're looking for that report.

Mr. Gennette: Do we have a previous report?

Mr. Strange: I think I have access to MEI and I think I have to ask for permission for you to access it.

Mr. Alves: It looks like a lot of these are schools. Maybe review them and make sure all these buildings are over 20,000 SF. I got one of these letters this week and I live in a 1,500 SF condo.

93. Eversource – Massachusetts Electric Meters are Getting an Upgrade.

Mr. Rosenblum: The meters are being changed over to smart meters. If the meter is on the outside of your house it's not an issue and they'll take care of it. They're doing the work on the poles already.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Board to confirm committee liaison list.

Mr. Gennette: As far as Mobile Home Rent Control Board, Fair Housing, First Meeting House, Hampden County Housing Services, Community Preservation Committee and Board of Registrars

looks like we're going to have to split those up. I already took FinCom. I'll take First Meeting House.

Mr. Alves: I'll take Community Preservation.

Mr. Silva: I can do the Mobile Home Rent Control Board. I can take Housing Services.

Mr. Rosenblum: Hampden County Housing Services.

Mr. Strange: I have Manny on the Rent Control Board and Fair Housing.

Mr. Rosenblum: James took First Meeting House. I have Hampden County and Board of Registrars and Anthony took Community Preservation.

Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum to accept the amendments to the committee liaison list as discussed. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

NEW BUSINESS

Board to post Notice of Vacancy for Mobile Home Rent Control Board (3 openings).

Board to appoint Michael Courtney as Back Up Electrical Inspector.

Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum to appoint Michael Courtney as back-up electrical inspector. **Mr. Gennette second.**

Mr. Gennette: This is obviously a paid position. Is this a new position?

Mr. Strange: No.

Mr. Silva: I would like to meet him. Have him come in.

All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.

Board to appoint Amie Fierro to Commission on Disability.

Mr. Strange: We have to table this. If you recall, the Commission on Disability implemented new procedures so any applicants or volunteers goes through the Commission on Disability first and they will send a recommendation. This being the first one since the implemented it kind of slipped through the cracks.

Mr. Gennette: Their next meeting isn't until the 22nd.

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

Board to discuss and possibly vote to create a Strategic Planning Committee.

Mr. Gennette: A couple weeks ago we met with FinCom and we talked about a strategic committee for a wide variety of things and I asked the Capital Investment Planning Committee last night if they decided if they wanted to be part of the strategic committee following the capital meeting. They are already there, there is already a member of the school board on there, a member of the board of selectmen on there, a member of Finance, a member of the Planning Board and a resident. If we closed our capital meeting we could roll right into a strategic planning meeting. Most of this is going to be involving a lot of capital projects. I asked them if they had the appetite for that and they said they did so I said I would bring that up tonight to see if we could vote to create this strategic planning committee. I would like to add another member from the Board of Selectmen and FinCom and I would like to see if we could find a volunteer secretary to keep minutes, track agendas and those kinds of items. Our first order of business would be to create the organizational and mission statement is and keep the Board of Selectmen and FinCom up to date. We would have to send a letter to the School Board to see if they would like Mr. Manfredi to participate on the strategic committee or if they would like a different representative.

Mr. Silva: I think we need to send letters to the relevant committees.

Mr. Gennette: If we vote to create this committee we can send the departments a letter.

Mr. Strange: I think we should do like with the Bylaw committee is come up with a draft charge & charter and memorialize all this stuff and you guys can take a look at it.

Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum to create a Strategic Planning Committee. Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.

Board to discuss Open Meeting Law Complaint from Patrick Higgins on April 19, 2025.

Mr. Silva: This complaint was that we did not announce that we were recording the meeting, which is something we'll be doing from here on.

Mr. Gennette: From Town Counsel I have a letter prepared to be sent to Mr. Higgins.

Motion made by Mr. Gennette to authorize the Town Administrator to send this to Mr. Higgins. Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.

Board to approve and sign Common Victualler License for GZ Bagel Inc. dba Tandem Bagel.

Mr. Strange: I think they're scheduled for a fall opening.

Mr. Silva: So, we're giving the license without inspections?

Mr. Strange: We can table it.

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

Board to approve and sign one-day beer & wine permit for Purse Bingo Friday, May 16th at St. John the Baptist School from 5:00 – 10:00 p.m. and waive fee.

Motion made by Mr. Gennette to approve and sign one-day beer & wine permit for Purse Bingo Friday, May 16th at St. John the Baptist School from 5:00 – 10:00 p.m. and waive fee. Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.

Board to sign All Alcohol License for Jai Umiya Ma, Inc./Ludlow Shell Convenience Plus (previously surrendered transferred beer & wine)

Mr. Gennette: We had many hearings related to this.

Motion made by Mr. Gennette to sign All Alcohol License for Jai Umiya Ma, Inc./Ludlow Shell Convenience Plus. Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.

Board to sign contract with Permit Eyes, an online permitting system.

Mr. Silva: I have reservations on this. I did it and it's cumbersome. People in this community are going to have problems with it. I'm ok having it online as long as they can come in.

Mr. Strange: Is there a way to provide step-by-step instructions. The thought is you can submit your permit and get approved anytime from anywhere. You can track all the interactions people have had with various departments.

Mr. Rosenblum: We still have the option to walk into Town Hall.

Mr. Strange: That was my understanding.

Mr. Silva: It's not cheap.

Mr. Strange: The annual is \$8,000. This is a very common permitting system.

Mr. Gennette: This initial set up is over \$20,000.

Mr. Strange: That's implementation and first year of subscription.

Mr. Gennette: Is that considered a capital project?

Mr. Strange: No.

Mr. Gennette: You couldn't do chapter 40R?

Mr. Strange: I don't think so. This is already in the budget. It's in the IT line.

Mr. Rosenblum: What are the terms on this contract?

Mr. Strange: 3 years.

Mr. Gennette: I understand the need for it and we're trying to get out of the stone age. I'm ok with this but in a year that we're trying to keep it as tight to the vest as possible \$20,000 would have helped.

Mr. Strange: The budget for fiscal 26 for this is \$8,000. Implementation is before July.

Mr. Alves: So, the IT budget was not increased because of this.

Mr. Strange: Not this line item. We had to increase the number of MS365 licenses so that was a little bit of a bump.

Motion made by Mr. Gennette to approve and sign the contract for Full Circle Technologies for Permit Eyes 2020E permitting software solution. **Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

Board to declare and proclaim May 2025 ALS Awareness Month.

Mr. Gennette: The Senior Center came in and presented a presentation for Alzheimer's Awareness so this is to proclaim May. Board to declare and proclaim May 2025 ALS Awareness Month. **Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

BOARD UPDATES/MISC

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

Mr. Gennette: Monday, May 12th is the Town Meeting. Jenn Aldworth's pickleball tournament is at the Ludlow Boys & Girls Club on Saturday, June 14 at 9:00 a.m. and the Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 26th at 10:00 a.m. I can't wait for town meeting to be over. I hope it goes smoothly.

Mr. Rosenblum: I'm glad we're doing the strategic committee. It's something we need to do to get communication a little bit better. I've always said we need to take a step back on how we do things. When we didn't have social media people had to come into a meeting and talk to you. The letter Fatima had clarified misconceptions. By us working together with town departments and strategic planning is we're getting face to face and we're getting back to the roots of how you make decisions and how you grow. I'll reiterate we sit here with empty chairs in front of us, yes we're recording, and I'm sure there's going to be a question about something we voted on or talked about today and at any point someone could send a letter. Get the facts and find out what's really going on. I reached out to someone after the election and said I know we've had our differences but let's put this election behind us and work for the betterment of the town. That person agreed and now let's work together.


Mr. Gennette: There was an error made on the ALS proclamation. It was not the Alzheimer's Association and I apologize to Mr. Mortimer. This is for Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, a devastating and fatal neuro degenerative condition that

progressively destroys motor neurons leading to complete paralysis and in most cases death within 5 years of diagnosis and there is no cure. I choose to make this proclamation on behalf of ALS. I, Selectmen James Gennette, do hereby proclaim the month of May 2025 as ALS Awareness Month. I call upon all Americans to join in supporting ALS research advocating for increased funding and standing in solidarity with those affected by relentless disease. Thank you Mr. Mortimer and I severely apologize. I misunderstood your letter but I'm glad I caught it before the end of the night.
Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Alves: I participated in town clean up day last Saturday. Thanks to those who coordinated that and everyone who came out and got involved. From the Cultural Council, they made me aware that there will be a tree carver named Cody on Chestnut Street on May 18th at 9:00 a.m. The public is welcome to stop by. The carving is expected to be completed the following day. Finally, Ludlow CARES has their monthly meeting tomorrow night at 6:00 p.m. at Baird Middle School.

Mr. Silva: I want to thank the candidates that applied today. It was a difficult decision and I hope they continue in their endeavors and hopefully we can get some of them to help us out with the committees. There will be more opportunities for you to apply again. The parade is coming up. It will begin at Gremio Lusitano. Jenn Aldworth has a pickleball tournament on June 14.

Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum to close the meeting at 9:06 p.m. Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.



Chairperson
