

The Meeting of the Selectboard held on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, began at 5:30 p.m. in the Selectboard's Conference Room.

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

First Order of Business: The Pledge of Allegiance

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TOWN OF LUDLOW

**VISITATIONS:**

**5:35 p.m. – PVPC and Weston & Sampson – Engineering Plans for FY25 CDBG Grant Application – Robert Street Neighborhood – PUBLIC HEARING**

Moved by Mr. Rosenblum to open the public hearing at 5:51 p.m. for PVPC & Weston & Sampson Engineering Plans for FY25 for CDBG Grant Application – Robert Street Neighborhood, seconded by Mr. Alves. All in favor. Vote 4-0.

Ms. Sarah Maroney is a planner in the community development department for PVPC and is working on the Robert Street neighborhood improvement project from the FY22-23 Community Block Development Grants. This meeting is to review the engineering plans. They are in the final stages with Springfield Water & Sewer and will then go out to bid.

Mr. Daley from Weston & Sampson is the engineer on the project and explains that the project is for Murray Street, between Robert through to Motyka and Carroll Street from Robert to Motyka. He explained that there is an old water main there, 6-inch cast iron owned and operated by Springfield Water & Sewer. They are going to replace that with a new cement lined, 8-inch ductile iron. The pipe has asbestos, and it would be very expensive to remove so they will line the sewer lines instead. This should improve the water quality. They will be installing a couple of catch basins along the street as well. They are installing new water mains and installing dry wells along the road. They will be reconstructing the road as well. This should handle the storm water much better.

Mr. Gennette asked if the town is going to have to replace the asbestos pipe years down the road?

Mr. Daley explained that a lot of communities have asbestos pipes, and they leave it in because they are going to line this pipe and will essentially have PVC pipe inside of the asbestos pipe.

Mr. Gennette asked if there are any other parties involved in the final project being done.

Mr. Daley explained that they will take the project through bidding, construction and closeout.

Ms. Maroney explained that they will be working with Springfield Water & Sewer because they own the sewer lines and the Town's DPW. At the end of the project, they will hand off the lines that they've been discussing.

Resident asked if the gas lines would be affected?

Mr. Daley said they will not, because those are privately owned.

Ms. Maroney stated she received one email from a resident stating they work from home and wanted to know if she should relocate during construction. Ms. Maroney explained that she does not have to relocate but there will be some noise due to the construction. There will be another discussion prior to the start of the construction to field questions or concerns.

Mr. Silva asked if there are any other areas that they looked at doing in Town.

Ms. Maroney stated that other areas were looked at, but its income driven so there's only certain neighborhoods that will qualify.

**Moved by Mr. Rosenblum to close the PVPC and Weston & Sampson public hearing at 6:03 p.m., seconded by Mr. Alves. Vote 4-0. All in favor.**

**6:00 p.m. – Michael Courtney – Newly appointed back up electrical inspector.**

Mr. Silva asked Mr. Courtney to give some information about himself.

Mr. Courtney stated that he was born and raised in Ludlow on Fuller Street. He's an electrical inspector in Belchertown and Bobby Costa reached out and asked him if he wanted to do some part-time in Ludlow. He likes doing it. He's been an electrician since 1980.

Mr. Gennette is very pleased with how busy the library is and what a great job they are doing there.

Ms. Collette said they get between 700-1000 visitors weekly.

Mr. Silva reminded Ms. Collette that the Planning Board has to approve this also.

Mr. Alves was very impressed with the memo the library sent out with the seven-year plan. He also stated that he thinks it would be more efficient if the library was able to use the grassy area without asking permission from the board every time.

Ms. Collette explained that the Veterans Memorial Park that is adjacent to the library is requested through the Recreation Department but the small grassy area next to the library is town property.

Mr. Alves asked about the expansion mentioned in the memo as well and if that includes the building.

Ms. Collette said it does include the building. The addition that was put onto that building is already 35 years old. There are two homes on Park Place that she also would like the town to purchase someday if they become available.

Mr. Silva asked if Ludlow has historical designations for areas.

Mr. Gennette stated that was the conversation they were having. They are trying to figure out how to purchase something with capital.

Mr. Alves said the most important part right now would be to get that parking lot done.

Mr. Gennette said the DPW, and the Library can come into the Capital meeting to discuss further if needed.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

92. Historical Commission – Reorganization.  
**Moved to file.**
93. Letter from Lori Leduc – Retiring from Collector's Office.  
**Moved to file.**
94. Letter from Bruce Durand – Requesting to be appointed to Celebrate Ludlow Committee.  
**Moved by Mr. Rosenblum to appoint Bruce Durand to the Celebrate Ludlow Committee, seconded by Mr. Alves. Vote 4-0. All in favor.**
95. Board to appoint Chris Manfredi to Capital Improvement Planning Committee; per the recommendation of School Committee.  
**Moved by Mr. Alves to appoint Chris Manfredi to the Capital Improvement Planning Committee, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum. Vote 2-0-1. One Abstention.**
96. Board to appoint Jeff Laing to Council on Aging, per the recommendation of School Committee.  
**Moved by Mr. Alves to appoint Jeff Laing to Council on Aging, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum. Vote 4-0. All in favor.**
97. Letter from Caroline Suska – Requesting to be appointed to the Conservation Commission.  
**Moved by Mr. Alves to appoint Caroline Suska to the Conservation Commission, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum. Vote 4-0. All in favor.**
98. Chief Pease – Request to call for Civil Service List to fill vacant Firefighter/Paramedic position created by the retirement of Captain Doyle.  
**Moved by Mr. Rosenblum to call for the Civil Service List to fill the vacant Firefighter/Paramedic position created by the retirement of Captain Doyle, seconded by Mr. Alves. Vote 3-0. All in favor.**
99. Request from Bikers Against Child Abuse for assistance with traffic for Run Like an Animal Motorcycle Run Saturday, September 20, 2025.  
**Moved by Mr. Rosenblum to approve Biker's Against Child Abuse assistance with traffic for Run Like an Animal Motorcycle Run Saturday, September 20, 2025, seconded by Mr. Alves. Vote 3-0. All in favor.**

Mr. Alves asked if recycling will be the same week for the entire town and if not, how will residents be notified of their day.

Mr. Strange stated that it will not be the same and he is not sure how yet.

Mr. Rosenblum asked how they would be educating everyone.

Mr. Strange stated you can either keep the blue buckets and the trash barrels or bring them back to the DPW during the month of July. All recycling goes into the maroon barrel. The new barrels have wheels also. The FY26 trash bills will be \$200, and they will be due in September. The senior discount is \$50. If anyone has questions, please reach out to the DPW either by email or phone number. The USA website is also helpful.

Mr. Alves asked why the trash billing for FY26 is going out in July.

Mr. Strange stated they are trying to get back on the cycle and that is when the Treasurer's office is less busy.

Mr. Alves feels that will be a big hit for residents because they just received the FY25 bill.

Mr. Rosenblum does not think it should be due any later than November 1<sup>st</sup> because of the holidays. He suggested sending the bill August 1<sup>st</sup> and due November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Silva asked if these bills will be paid at the Treasurer's office or the DPW?

Mr. Strange stated they will be paid in the Treasurer's office, and the senior discount will be given at the DPW. If the resident does not pay within 60 days, they get an additional 60 days to pay and after that they get cut off from their service. They will be able to track these now.

Mr. Silva stated that we have to remember that the tax bills are also due every quarter.

Mr. Strange explained that the tax bills are due in November and February and May. October is probably the best bet for the trash bills.

Mr. Strange stated that they will table this until the next meeting so James can have input as well.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Board to discuss and possibly vote to adopt a Community Use of Open Spaces Policy.

Mr. Alves stated that he would like to have something in place by July 1, 2025, for the new fiscal year. He would also like an addendum with a checklist for applicants. He asked if there should be a fee? He would like the board to put up all of their comments and then vote on it.

Mr. Rosenblum suggested adding Camp White because there is a lot of space there and plenty of parking. Generally, it was given to the 5013C non-profits that reside in Ludlow. Also, try to figure out the actual name of all the parks.

**Moved by Mr. Alves to table, until further comments come in from the Board, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum. Vote 3-0. All in favor.**

Board to discuss and possibly vote on a plan for the buildings located at 63 Chestnut and 54 Winsor Streets.

Mr. Silva stated that he is under the understanding that the deed is under restriction.

Mr. Strange explained that the tax title attorney looked through all of the properties that the town owns and found out that these two locations in particular are deed restricted and have to be used for school purposes or public purposes only. He will send it to Town Counsel to find out if there is a way to change that restriction.

Mr. Silva asked if it can be any schooling or just public schools.

Mr. Strange stated that it can be any type of school.

Board to sign contract with Steve Santos Landscaping for DPW annual bid work.

**Moved by Mr. Alves to table signing the contract with Steve Santos Landscaping for DPW annual bid work, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum. Vote 3-0. All in favor.**

Board to sign contract with WestMass Area Development Corp for Grant Administrator Services for Millside Drive.

**Moved by Mr. Rosenblum to sign the contract with Westmass Area Development Corp for Grant Administrator Services for Millside Drive, seconded by Mr. Alves. Vote 3-0. All in favor.**

Board to appoint a member to the Westover Metropolitan Development Corporation.

**Moved by Mr. Alves to appoint Mr. Rosenblum to the Westover Metropolitan Development Corporation, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum. Vote 3-0. All in favor.**

Board to discuss and possibly approve Grant Proposal request from Veteran's Services to support a full-time VFW accredited Veterans Service Officer (VSO).

Mr. Segundo stated that the opportunity came up for this grant and he will be able to bring someone on board that can help veterans from other towns get assistance. They will also be able to help Mr. Segundo with VA claims. The grant is between \$50,000-\$65,000 per year for three years. The position should be self-funded and not at a cost to the town. Training and traveling would fall under the Veterans budget. They will not be answering phones or helping out in the food pantry, etc. However, in three years they may be laid off if the town cannot continue to fund the position.

Mr. Rosenblum asked if benefits come from the town.

Mr. Segundo stated it all comes from the grant.

Mr. Segundo also wanted to let everyone know about the Memorial Day festivities, Friday afternoon, weather permitting, they will be doing their wreath laying ceremony at Island Pond, Joshua Desforges, and Civil War, which starts at 3:00 p.m. There is a police escort, and they go around laying the wreaths with a 21-gun salute. Sunday night is the candlelight vigil. That's an opportunity for them to remember those that were killed in action. They read their names, toll the bell, and play Tapps. Monday is the parade that kicks off at the Portuguese Memorial at 10 a.m. You have to be registered to walk in the parade. The parade committee has done a great job with the lineup.

**Moved by Mr. Alves to allow Mr. Segundo to move forward and submit the grant request for funds, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum. Vote 3-0. All in favor.**

Board to discuss and possibly vote to appropriate \$4,983.27 in Building Infrastructure Funds for a new security alarm system for Town Hall.

**Moved by Mr. Rosenblum to appropriate \$4,983.27 in Building Infrastructure Funds for a new security alarm system for Town Hall, seconded by Mr. Alves. Vote 3-0. All in favor.**

Board to discuss Treasurer/Collector position and possibly vote to rescind the previous vote.

Mr. Rosenblum stated that he wanted this on the agenda tonight because he wants it known that he would not have voted for any of the four candidates and actually would have requested that it went back out for more applicants.

Mr. Gennette stated that Mr. McNutt is overqualified for the position and feels that it will lead to problems down the road. He would also go out for more candidates as well.

Mr. Alves stated that if the others were not comfortable with Mr. McNutt, then they shouldn't have voted for him initially. It's frustrating for him.

Mr. Silva agrees with Mr. Alves and reminded the Board that there is a probationary period as well.

Mr. Gennette stated that candidates need to be vetted before interviews, not after. The policies and procedures need to be changed if that is the case.

Mr. Alves agrees with possibly changing the hiring process. However he is still on board with hiring Mr. McNutt.

Mr. McNutt appreciates the board's concerns and understands it's a very important position within the town, but he has to get certified and additional knowledge and therefore does not feel like he's overqualified for the position. He just wants to do his best for the town and the residents of Ludlow.