



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

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TOWN OF LUDLOW

The Meeting of the Select Board held on Tuesday, March 17, 2026, began at 5:30 p.m. in the Select Board's Conference Room.

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

First order of business: Pledge of Allegiance

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

5:30-5:45 P.M. – PUBLIC COMMENT

**VISITATION**

5:45 P.M. – **Public Hearing** – Pioneer Valley Planning Commission – Proposed FY26 CDBG Application.

**Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum** to open the public hearing for Pioneer Valley Planning Commission - Proposed FY26 CDBG Application at 5:45 P.M. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

Mr. Mastroianni: Hello members of the Select Board it's great to see you all again for the second time I think in about a month so good to come back here and see you all. As we had mentioned at the previous Select Board meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> of February actually, this is going to be the formal ask if you will for us that we're going to be presenting to you folks with the proposed and I should mention these are proposed, these aren't final amounts that we'll be having, but these are our up to amounts that we're going to be at least to the very most level applying for funding for CDBG funds for this FY26 year. I believe you folks have the handout that we have submitted if not I can pass these around. But we're going to be doing a few different activities here so I'm gonna just touch on mostly the infrastructure elements, the social service aspect and as well as just the general admin portion of this and then my colleague Joe Hagopian here is going to speak on the housing rehab program activity of this grant. So, I'll just get into it. So, the first thing that we're going to be proposing to apply for is a design grant for the Robert Street neighborhood improvement project. If you folks remember, actually we currently are doing this right now, this is through an FY22/23 project. It was a phase one construction project was done there with water, sewer, drainage, and roadway resurfacing work for that project. So, this will be a phase two of those improvements. So, it'll be building off of the success of that project. It'll be for design of that so we'll be soliciting, going through the open bid process to solicit an engineer, to get a design for bid ready plans and specifications for that project to move forward with eventual construction of those improvements there. That's gonna be about \$250,000, again up to amounts, so it's not necessarily going to be the exact amount that we apply for, if anything it'll be a little less than 250,000 but the goal will not to be, it'll be the most 250 we'll apply for that. And then it'll be a PVPC admin cost of \$50,000, again approximately. And then the next thing that we're gonna be applying for is social service funding. So, we had had some discussion with Marc initially and then also with members of the Select Board and then also in addition multiple engagement efforts with members of the community in Ludlow through the form that you just mentioned Mr. Chair, as well as through some informal electronic survey efforts that we've been distributing to folks. And one of the clear kind of indicators or

activities that folks wanted to see in addition to the current activities that we provide in CDBG applications for the Town of Ludlow is social service activities. Which is a typical/very normal activity that we do apply for other communities as well for CDBG funding. For the grant itself you're allowed to allocate up to 20% of the total grant towards social service funding. Again, with discussions with Marc as well as with members of the Select Board and then again, we were also able to talk with the Board of Health Director Paulina. She was telling us about the need for a domestic violence prevention program to be implemented in the Town of Ludlow and so from that we initiated a solicitation for social service proposals. We did get one proposal back from Alianza domestic violence prevention services. They would be the administrators of this proposed domestic violence prevention program. The goal would be to provide services like outreach, assistance to folks that are experiencing domestic violence, a lot of advocacy as well for things of that nature. And again, we've initiated efforts like this in multiple other communities as well. So, where this is an activity we're very well versed in terms of applying for CDBG funding and it's gonna vary I would say typical type of activity you'd see in a block grant application. It's nothing that would be shooting for the stars if you will with regard to that. It wouldn't be like we were; it would be a very typical thing to fund for a block grant funding. So, that's about \$40,000 for that activity that we would apply for and then a delivery cost for that would be about \$5,000 for PVPC to administer. And then the general administration cost that is again something we would just have in all of our grant application. That's just for again just the general oversight of this entire grant for things like startup, contracting, discussions with the Town, really reporting requirements as well, budget amendments, those sorts of things. That's where that amount below is coming from as well and again that's an up to 100,000. So, again, just approximate and again if anything that'll be the high end of what we would apply for. That's just a basic review of those three elements. If you folks don't have any other questions I can kind of transition over to my partner in crime here Joe and he can talk a little bit more about the housing rehab aspect of it.

Mr. Hagopian: What we've proposed here or what the Town has expressed some interest in is an additional year of the housing rehab program in the Town's previous grant. We're currently administering a similar housing rehab program in Ludlow that provided funding for eight units I believe and about 5 of which are completed. The last two are getting wrapped up and I know through this process of working on this program we've heard from a lot of Ludlow homeowners that there's still a lot of interest, still a lot of need. We've connected with Way Finders, who is the town's home modification loan program provider agency, and they've said that a lot of their clients have asked about needs, especially regarding roofs and foundations. Those have been kind of some of the biggest things we've been hearing as kind of outstanding needs within kind of Ludlow residents among all different demographics, age groups, economic brackets. So, how this program is allowed to work is the program will provide a deferred payment loan for a 15-year term to correct code violations based on state sanitary code, federal lead abatement laws, and there's a couple other things regarding septic replacement. If it's someone further out in town who may be off of town water and sewer. It's a 15-year depreciating loan where if the homeowner sells their home within 15 years of having the work done, they will owe a portion of the total amount back to the town. Which the town can then use for additional CDBG work either on a future grant or standalone. But it depreciates typically about 10% per year. It's a little bit more specific of a scale to down but kind of where you see some of that higher activity verses delivery cost on this one verses some of the other activities is the delivery for this includes our inspector consultant who completes initial inspections of every project, conducts full specifications based on what's required for CDBG and state requirements and then puts the project out to bid and inspects the work for it to be complete before any payments are made. And then we also work with the town building, electrical, plumbing, and health inspectors depending on the scope of work for full permit clearance before any items are paid. So, in this case, based on the increase in costs we've seen and the estimates we've seen based on the current program we would estimate there would be 6 units of housing could get completed within the ideal timeframe for the grant assuming approximately 60,000 each and that is considered the allowable limit by the state per unit. If it ends up being less per unit then chances are we'd be able to complete an additional unit, but this errs on the side of caution there and some of the things that have really caused a lot of projects to be higher in cost are the lead abatement piece. A lot of homes, especially the older homes around here. Ludlow is one of those towns where we've seen that too, is that a lot of homes require a significant amount of lead abatement. And the way lead abatement law works in Massachusetts is,

once state funding is used to touch any painted service in a home if that triggers a lead violation then we have to do full abatement and compliance with the law. So, not fully removing lead from the home but to bring it fully up to standard. So, that's where we've seen those cost increases across the board and based on the ages of homes in Ludlow since most of the ones that have come through the program were all built prior to 1978 there has been a decent amount of lead paint violations to correct in this first round of houses. That's a lot of information all at once but happy to take any questions either from the Board or if we're opening up to the public as well.

Mr. Gennette: Mr. Chairman, just one question, just overarching, how does Ludlow compare to other cities and towns in the area as far as their CDBG grants go?

Mr. Hagopian: It's been I know in the past Ludlow hadn't been applying for as many for awhile and is "newer" to the scene but kind of the overarching scoring that towns are given considering right now what the state uses as a score 1 out of 10, 10 intending to express the highest level of need or highest proportion of residents who are considered low to moderate income by HUD income limits, Ludlow's right around the middle ground. So, there's some towns like Palmer scores a 9 whereas Ludlow scores a 5. So, based on the feedback we've seen Ludlow is still kind of very eligible for funding. It can be not as "automatic" to get funding, but kind of this structure of activity is very similar to other towns. Some other towns tend to work with us or another consulting agency or themselves every single year. Then there's certain towns, the ones around here, who automatically get funding every year are Springfield, West Springfield, Westfield, Amherst, and Northampton so you see those ones they kind of automatically get funding every year. But based on the rest of the towns, Ludlow's kind of right along I would say pretty in line with a lot of the other towns especially towns like Agawam is one we've worked with longer and they score similar, similar activities sought through the programs and stuff like that.

Mr. Silva: It just seems strange to me that we're doing housing infrastructure like we have done over on Carol Street and then part of that jumps into the domestic violence. It's like a whole nother realm of. How did that come about? It's well needed.

Mr. Mastroianni: I think the initial step was when we first got such high and good input from community members in town. First, through both the exercise we did at the community forum where folks identified doing more with social services and then also with the survey too seeing the same kind of number reflected, I think it was about 50, maybe 60% of folks responding to that saying they wanted some kind of social service activity there. So, from there we really tried to work with Marc and folks in the town to whittle that down to okay what would be an activity specifically in the social service umbrella that would be most effective for an application this year. And that's where we again got discussion then with the Board of Health Director here in Ludlow to then say okay, this specific area of town comes in need of domestic violence prevention network. This is where something there's a clear need for us to do some work in and where there's been some effort lacking from what we've seen from communications with any of those folks there in town. This is an area that we really could apply for and there's a need there. So, it was coordinating with that and then also again talking with Marc and as well as my colleagues here, this is with domestic violence prevention program specifically it was very much like when we heard that we were like okay we can definitely do it because it's one it's meeting the need of the Town of Ludlow but then its also still a very complete and traditional application activity for Block Grant funding. So, I think that's again where we were able to go from the big picture and then whittle it down from there with the Town to think about okay what would be a very doable kind of ask for us for this year especially for funding. And then theoretically we could use this as a springboard to future funding as well where like Joe said, this is the first year that Ludlow's doing a social service activity with CDBG funding, but you can do more than just domestic violence prevention. So, theoretically for next year or maybe the next time that Ludlow will be up for a Block Grant application funding we can apply for more than one social service activity. So, it could be things like we do domestic violence and then we do another activity like a food pantry. We've also done things with community health centers, funding adult education centers as well so there's multiple different avenues that we can do. But again, I think for in the time period that we've had now where this is again the first time Ludlow's been able to really have a social service activity, I think this is probably, definitely not, this is definitely a very typical and very competitive ask for us for this year especially.

Mr. Alves: Thanks, guys, for the presentation. It looks like it's on the notice it says application Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities up to 950,000, is that limit for Ludlow or is that the standard limit for all?

Mr. Mastroianni: That's the max grant amount for the state. So, for each community they can apply for up to \$950,000 in total funding.

Mr. Silva: Does anyone want to comment on this hearing? Hearing none, go ahead Mr. Gennette.

**Motion made by Mr. Gennette** to authorize PVPC to submit the proposed FY26 CDBG Community Development Fund Grant application to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Living Communities in an amount not to exceed \$877,000 to include design of the Robert Street neighborhood infrastructure improvement project phase 2, housing rehabilitation and public social services. **Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

**Motion made by Mr. Gennette** to authorize the chair of the board to sign all required documents and authorizations pertaining to the proposed FY26 Ludlow Community Development Fund Grant application. **Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

**Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum** to close the public hearing for the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission – Proposed FY26 CDBG Application at 6:00 P.M. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

6:15 P.M. – **Public Hearing** – Eversource Pole Hearing – 156 Poole Street.

**Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum** to open the public hearing for the Eversource pole hearing at 156 Poole Street at 6:14 P.M. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

Eversource: Engineering designer at Eversource. I'm one of the people who actually was helping design that little area there. All we're looking to do is add one extra pole for reliability. Actually, today power went down on Poole Street. One extra pole. The span lengths are just a little bit too long so that's all basically it is. Shortening up that span length.

Mr. Silva: The only question I have is hopefully it's well researched in the spot where it's going. It's not really impeding anybody like driveway and stuff cause sometimes the poles get a little bit too.

Eversource: We take into consideration everything we're putting on the streets.

Mr. Rosenblum: It's not near a driveway. It's across the street from one. That's about it.

Eversource: No.

Mr. Silva: You gentlemen have any questions because I believe that we probably have someone that does have a question.

Ms. Chase: Resides at 174 Poole Street. I got a registered letter for public hearing.

Mr. Silva: Okay. Do you have any concerns about this?

Ms. Chase: Well, right now I have a wire that's connected to a tree in my yard that my father-in-law authorized, I don't know, 30, 40 years ago. I'm hoping to take that tree down, so I don't want the wire in my yard anymore. And I don't know if the pole is going in my yard because I got this registered letter.

Mr. Silva: So, something like that is something you probably gotta check with the company and see what it is it can do.

Mr. Gennette: Actually, Mr. Chairman, if it's relative to the pole that you're putting in now if this long span is there and this is a guide wire holding it.

Resident 1: I think the guidewire that they put in is holding up the pole across the street with a streetlight which is actually across the street from, my brother-in-law lives across the street. Then the wire goes from that pole.

Mr. Gennette: Does this remedy that?

Ms. Chase: That's a really bad picture and I'm not sure which way we're. Which way is to East Street?

Eversource: You'd be going towards Belchertown. This is towards East Street. So, you'd be going down the hill this way.

Mr. Rosenblum: And that pole is for 156.

Ms. Chase: So, 156 is my mother in laws next door. Here's a Chase and there's a Chase and then there's a Chase across the street. But I don't know why I got the registered letter then. We abut each other.

Eversource: We have to notify all of the abutters in the area.

Mr. Silva: Yeah. It's required that submission for all. They probably sent out 10 or 12 registered letters to the whole area.

Ms. Chase: Okay. I didn't hear from any of my in laws or anything about it.

Mr. Silva: Usually, they don't.

Ms. Chase: Like I said, my mother-in-law lives next door. My brother-in-law lives across the street. We keep in touch. So, I just wanted to make sure.

Mr. Gennette: Is that wire, that wires meant to hold the pole upright?

Ms. Chase: The pole upright because it spans across the street to the other pole that holds the streetlight.

Mr. Rosenblum: I would guess that's a separate issue because it's not, you're not connecting.

Eversource: No. We actually are and I don't know exactly where it is.

Ms. Chase: I know where the pole is because this pole here, they tried to put in?

Eversource: Nope they haven't put it in yet.

Ms. Chase: Well, they dug a hole.

Eversource: Right, they dug the hole, but we didn't have permission to put it in so that's what we're waiting for.

Ms. Chase: So, that's my brother-in-law and my mother-in-law.

Mr. Gennette: Sorry, what's your name?

Ms. Chase: My name is Louise Chase. 174 Poole Street. My mother-in-law is 156.

Mr. Gennette: We'll take care of this and then I'm gonna say a comment after this hearing closes for this pole.

Mr. Rosenblum: So, then I would say if you've seen the hole, you know where the poles going now.

Ms. Chase: Yes, I do. It's what they call the north 40. The big field before my mother-in-law's house occurred.

Eversource: I just drove down it just a second ago and I'm trying to remember that pole.

Ms. Chase: It's a great big open field and it's laying on the ground.

Eversource: No, no, no. I'm saying where you're asking cause I help do the whole pole line so I'm just trying to remember. Is it by some mailboxes further down? No.

Ms. Chase: No. Well, it's probably 10, 15ft from my mailbox on my side.

Mr. Silva: The issue you're having is just the guidewire. Not so much the pole but where the pole is going, you're okay with.

Ms. Chase: Yeah. I just want to make sure they're not gonna try and put another guidewire in.

Eversource: No. Whatever poles are up right now those are the ones, that's where they're staying.

Ms. Chase: They gonna come clean it up?

Eversource: I'm sure they are. I'll have to ask on that.

Ms. Chase: I got like a huge pile of mess.

Mr. Gennette: They should.

Eversource: I'll definitely have to ask that question.

Ms. Chase: But, yeah, I do know where that is. It's not in front of the house or either houses.

Eversource: No. There's white fence it's in front of.

Ms. Chase: That's my mother-in-law's property.

Mr. Gennette: So, as far as the pole goes, you don't have any issues with where the poles going?

Ms. Chase: I don't have any issues, and I don't think they will either. I can ask them for sure.

Mr. Rosenblum: Mr. Chairman, before you were saying was that that's pretty much in a field abutting to the side of your mother in laws, brother in laws?

Ms. Chase: It's my mother-in-law's property. They don't do anything with it except for mow it because half of it's swamp.

Mr. Rosenblum: I just think the main concern is that the concerns we've seen obviously with poles is that they're too close to a driveway or if they, you're putting on the boxes have been. I remember one pole that went in and the box was against almost the mailbox.

Eversource: Right and I don't think there's anything by the mailboxes but.

Mr. Rosenblum: That's the concerns that we've run into generally with the poles is driveway or mailbox.

Ms. Chase: There's nothing there. Everything's across the street from us.

Mr. Velevitch: Benjamin Velevitch, 137 Poole Street. Is something going on that pole? Cause I live across the street and the poles going across.

Eversource: All we're running is the three lines that are going down and what they're gonna do is they tie down on Alden and go back to Center. And all it is, is for reliability. I'm sure you guys must have had power out on Poole Street today. So, that's hopefully going to help you guys in the future.

Mr. Velevitch: So, just wires?

Eversource: Yep. Wires and new poles.

Mr. Velevitch: That's all I came to find out.

Eversource: And hopefully like I said reliability, so you guys don't lose power. That's our main goal.

Ms. Chase: I know they cut a lot of the trees down.

Eversource: They sometimes have to trim trees, and our arborist comes over and he'll do all that.

Ms. Chase: My brother-in-law they took down a couple of there's but that's fine they use it for their fireplace.

**Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum** to approve pole #178/46M at 156 Poole Street. **Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

**Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum** to close the Eversource pole hearing at 156 Poole Street at 6:23 P.M. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

Mr. Gennette: George, is there anything you can do to take a review of Mrs. Chase's guidewire?

Eversource: I'll get her information and we'll double check. I'll probably be out tomorrow.

Mr. Gennette: Yeah. If you wouldn't mind taking a look and see if there's something you can do to help her out. If there's nothing that you can particularly do, let me know that you're getting into a spot and I'll do what I can. Thank you.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

26-027 Melanie Trexler – Letter of Resignation from the Celebrate Ludlow Committee.

**Motion made by Mr. Gennette** to accept the letter of resignation from Melanie Trexler from the Celebrate Ludlow Committee. **Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

26-028 Kara Jorge – Letter of Resignation from the Celebrate Ludlow Committee.

**Motion made by Mr. Gennette** to accept the letter of resignation from Kara Jorge from the Celebrate Ludlow Committee. **Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

26-029 Penny Lebel – Letter of Resignation from the Conservation Commission. Board to post the vacancy.

**Motion made by Mr. Gennette** to accept the letter of resignation from Penny Lebel from the Conservation Commission and to post the vacancy. **Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

Mr. Alves: Thank you for 13 years of service on that committee.

Mr. Gennette: Thank you.

Mr. Rosenblum: Thank you, Penny.

Mr. Silva: Thank you. Job well done.

26-030 Commonwealth of Massachusetts Office of the Governor – Informing the Board of Ludlow’s Chapter 90 apportionment for FY27 is \$1,093,781.27.

Mr. Rosenblum: Mr. Chairman, thank you to the state and the Office of the Governor. I think it was a couple years ago, it was about 700,000. Last year it was about 1.3. So, it’s good to see that it didn’t jump back down to a 6 or a 700,000. That it’s at least basically 1.1 million and a clarification on that is that the Chapter 90 funding is the only place our funding comes for paving our roads. So, there’s no other money that comes out of the budget to pave our roads. This is where it comes from is right here. I think there’s a misconception that out of our taxes we pave roads, but we don’t. So, this is where it comes out of.

Mr. Silva: Yeah. Once it’s expended, it’s expended and we can’t do any other roads. So, everyone’s always questioning when their roads are gonna be done. We have it on a list.

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

26-031 MMWEC – Herbicide Application Notice.

Mr. Alves: I was trying to look at it earlier. Does it say what they’re treating it with?

Mr. Gennette: I think it’s a standard herbicide that they all use.

Mr. Silva: Yeah. That’s something they do each and every year.

Mr. Alves: I’m not doubting that I’m just curious what they’re using. Alright. At least it says approved by the Department of Agricultural Resources.

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

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Board to discuss FY27 Budget Proposal (continued from March 3, 2026).

Mr. Rosenblum: Mr. Chairman, same numbers, right Marc? Did anything change cause it looked like.

Mr. Strange: Nothing has changed yet, Mr. Chairman. The only two outstanding issues that we have right now are the decision on the Pond Committee. Whether to put some funding for them into the operating budget or to give them a small chunk of free cash. And the second one is we’re gonna have to increase the vet’s department line for I think it’s general expenses but \$5,000. That’s not reflected in here. Nothing else has changed.

Mr. Rosenblum: Mr. Chairman, what was the amount for Pond? Was it 8?

Mr. Strange: So, they need I think 5,000 for fiscal 26 and then I think she said, I think the discussion was 30 for all of fiscal 27.

Mr. Rosenblum: And the 30’s in here, or no?

Mr. Strange: 30 is not in there. So, I’m happy to go through each line. I could highlight maybe the changes from level 1 to level 2 or happy to hand it over to the Board for questions. However, you’d like me to proceed.

Mr. Rosenblum: Mr. Chairman, so, this year would be 5 out of free cash most likely and then.

Mr. Strange: We’d have to deficit spend one of the accounts and then do a transfer.

Mr. Rosenblum: And then do a line-item transfer after. Alright. So, then you were saying 5,000 more for vets would put us at 190 and then if we did 30 next year for pond would put us at 160 excess.

Mr. Alves: What was the 5 grand for?

Mr. Strange: For the remainder of fiscal 26.

Mr. Alves: For the Veteran's department.

Mr. Strange: Oh, it was, and maybe when you received your excise tax bill recently, your fiscal 26 there was an envelope to make an optional donation to the vets. Did anybody see that?

Mr. Silva: Yeah, it's always in there.

Mr. Strange: The cost of those envelopes, Eric had budgeted for 10,000 envelopes but I think he needed 20,000. I could have those numbers wrong but the cost was an additional 5,000 that he had not budgeted for.

Mr. Rosenblum: That's under veteran's services?

Mr. Gennette: So, that's mailings total, that's not just envelopes, that's everything, right?

Mr. Strange: That's the cost of the envelopes.

Mr. Gennette: That's the cost of the envelopes?

Mr. Strange: Yeah, because we already paid to have the bills sent out and then Eric actually drove to Woburn and dropped off the envelopes just to make sure that they got in there.

Mr. Gennette: Mr. Chairman, as far as the pond goes, I don't know about you guys, but I really enjoy the Pond Committee. I think that we have a lot of water in Ludlow, and I think that we really let it get overgrown and they're doing some incredible things there. And I'm hoping that they're going to be able to do a lot more, including cleaning up around the pond. Haviland doesn't have any waterflow. It's a standing pond is basically what it is. Maybe a fountain in the future, those kinds of things. I think there's gonna be a lot of things that they're gonna need to do over the years and I hope that they stick with it. And I think giving them a line-item budget as a portion of that would be huge. Any large projects they can still go to capital just like any other department would be able to do. I don't think it has to be a massive budget, but I think we should at least plan accordingly for them.

Mr. Rosenblum: Mr. Chairman, piggybacking off of Mr. Gennette when this all started 3 years ago, 4 years ago, I have been a big proponent of it because I was approached by friends and the people that are on that committee and just saying yeah you know what and as we heard before here and I actually was on the phone today with Mr. Simons who lives on Minechoag and he's like what can we do here because that pond he's probably right is that eventually we're gonna lose it. Because once it starts growing over there and you drive by it or whatever when you're going to the club, it gets choked out. So, as I said before in the last meeting when the Pond Committee was here is that we've done this investment now and that we need to continue doing it because in too many instances throughout the years just in general this Board and prior Board's get pounded on the fact that we don't upkeep. We've committed to something. I 100% support a line-item that is recurring, that's annual and if we have to move stabilization money so that excess doesn't change or anything like that I have no problem giving them \$5,000 now out of this budget and so deficit spend and I'm sure that somewhere once we get into May or June, when you're able to do line-item transfers, I'm pretty sure you'll be able to find the 5,000. We've already done the 5,000 for Veterans services so, because it's been done or 10 grand whatever so. I have no problem with the 5, 5, and the 30 which is this budget here.

Mr. Gennette: I just think about the dams too. Those are gonna be costly. There's gonna be time involved in that and managing that.

Mr. Rosenblum: And don't forget also, Wade Pond. Just in general you heard it here too and actually Mr. Simon said it himself he goes they've done a really good job with the houses that are on East Street, there's one, the two big houses next to each other and down from Gavoni. A young family moved in there and done a great job renovating that home and he said that his back he has an inlet and it's choked out. It's actually starting to grow on to his grass almost. So, the thing is it will affect home values at some point. Is anyone gonna go ahead and pay 450 to 500,000 to live on that little street when all of a sudden, it stinks all summer.

Mr. Gennette: Not to mention the mosquitoes and the bugs and everything like that go up and it's compounding. So, the more it grows the worse it gets and then you just can't even get it under control.

Mr. Rosenblum: The homeowners then gonna have to incur the cost if they want to go ahead and have their yard sprayed too.

Mr. Gennette: And the water belongs to everybody. That's kind of the issue. I think that's a state law nobody owns the water.

Mr. Silva: You do own to the middle of the water though.

Mr. Gennette: Do you? You would know better than I would.

Mr. Silva: If you guys have no issues, I don't have any issues on this. We've been over this several times. We've gone through it with a fine-tooth comb. We've had our Finance Committee review it and review it over and over again, right Mr. Sanches?

Mr. Sanches: That is correct.

Mr. Rosenblum: Mr. Chairman, this includes the reclassifications? Dispatch is in this. The reclassification at 3,250?

Mr. Strange: Yes. The Dispatch Supervisor, the increase special rate for the Special Police.

Mr. Rosenblum: And what was that rate that we increased it too? We did it in half, we didn't do full rate?

Mr. Strange: Yeah.

Mr. Rosenblum: It was originally 21 and they wanted 42 and it went up half?

Mr. Strange: I think the total cost was about 20,000 for the year.

Mr. Rosenblum: Instead of 40. I would just double check that because the double time on that if we give them basically time and a half, I think it was 21 and they wanted to go to 42 so I think that we added 10 to put it to 32 and change or something like that. I don't have a problem with that but just doubling it is a lot.

Mr. Gennette: Yeah, we can grow into. This isn't something that has to.

Mr. Rosenblum: And then Dispatch Supervisor. I mean it's a no brainer. That position it's been banging around for five years. Instead, we did Detective Lieutenant at the time for that position instead of the dispatch well we were gonna do both. But now at this point with the possibility of also possibly bringing on other people to host other towns if that happens is that then we have someone that can supervise it and it's only a reclassification. Before it was gonna be a whole new position. And I think we've all agreed with that before, but I just want to make sure that that is in there. If everyone agrees.

Mr. Gennette: Well Marc, what's your thoughts on Pond Committee?

Mr. Strange: I think we should fund it.

Mr. Silva: Yeah. I thought we had decided that when they were in here that we were gonna.

Mr. Strange: Yeah and I'd like to hear from Anthony as well but their was a line-item last year for fiscal 26 and then if you remember it was tight, so we had to go in and we had to do a lot of line-item removals and that was a casualty of the fiscal 26 budget. I would just echo everything you guys said about the work that they're doing. Doing a great job.

Mr. Rosenblum: I mean, they're doing all the work. But I think in the same sense in speaking with Mr. Simons and I offered up my support is to help them try and figure out what's up with Minechoag to get it done instead of letting it just kind of sit there.

Mr. Silva: I think it needs water quite honestly.

Mr. Rosenblum: I think it was Judy right; Judy was saying the ponds actually moved. It all comes down to a rare plant. Be good for them to figure it out so that we can address it at some point. This came up in my phone call, if you had anything to say because when we voted on it, we went 3-1. If you have anything to say.

Mr. Alves: We didn't vote.

Mr. Rosenblum: Didn't we vote on something? Someone said to me that you voted no on it and I was kinda like the same thing going I don't even know if we voted on it. But I think it was your concern was where is this coming from and how.

Mr. Alves: So, one I don't recall voting. I could be mistaken. I don't think we did. I still stand by most of what I said last time. I don't discredit any of the work that's being done. I don't think it's not needed, it is. My problem is with the process and how it came about with the budget process cause there's two sides to every decision. If we say okay let's put it in the budget, how many departments on this list probably held off from asking for another 30, 50 grand because we were told all year not gonna happen. That's where my concern is. Not what the committee is doing not with the situations of the ponds just doing things fitting the process in the right way. Now, Marc, you said there used to be, this is the last meeting I'm gonna be able to say this because I'm not a rookie after this meeting anymore, prior years you said pond had funding. What was that amount?

Mr. Strange: They did not have funding. We put it in for the first time or we proposed it for the first time last year for fiscal 26.

Mr. Alves: Oh, and it just never made it. I took that as it was there prior.

Mr. Rosenblum: We used 25 I think out of 40R which we no longer can do so it needs to come out of the budget somewhere instead of 40R.

Mr. Alves: I still think there's value in frontloading as much as we can before July because if we look at the year end for this year which is 2026 and if there's excess amounts that are just gonna roll over into unused funds the following year maximize that, they can take what they need and it would minimize whatever else we're gonna pull out of free cash this year being this coming year 2027 and then we plug a line-item for them the following year so we don't run into this problem.

Mr. Gennette: Doesn't that run into certifying your free cash though? I mean we can't hang on to funds. We gotta close the books here. So, if you're gonna push them.

Mr. Alves: No, no, no. I'm saying, what? Explain that to me where you're going.

Mr. Gennette: What you're saying is you're trying to frontload it on the next one right?

Mr. Alves: No, no, no. Frontload it now. So, when we do line-item transfers at the end of this coming year we can do an analysis where there's ever excess funds we can line-item transfer it over to the Pond Committee and have them be able to have some money this year and do whatever they can before July. So, we're putting less of a strain on next year's free cash or budget or whatever we decide to do.

Mr. Strange: Mr. Chairman, so Anthony, you're saying if they've said at a bare minimum they need 5,000 for fiscal 26 maybe see if we can get them to do another \$10,000 worth of work and then shave that off of the ask for fiscal 27 and that ask, say it's 20,000 would come from free cash.

Mr. Alves: Right. That's a separate discussion right. But while the budget calendar is July to July, their scope of work is essentially the calendar year when it's warm upcoming. So, whatever we can do and I think I asked that question, right, whatever we can do before this budget cycle closes let's get that done. And then we're not putting the strain on outward years. Not that that amount of money's a strain but it's already there and not being used and then let's say the remainders 5, 10 grand, if there's excess free cash which that's another topic I want to talk about that's a very de minimis number you apply it and we're not tapping into the excess capacity we can carry forward.

Mr. Strange: Mr. Chairman, I think and I could be mistaken I think the question still remains what for fiscal 27 funding do we want to use the operating budget or do we wanna use free cash for whatever that remaining amount is.

Mr. Alves: I can somewhat answer that in my opinion but I'm gonna start with a pivot, we still don't have free cash certified. So, that's a concern for me because when I look at this tax recap, free cash analysis, it's the rollup of everything, I can't make an educated decision, and I haven't even looked at it yet of where we're spending our free cash cause I don't know what our starting point is. No one can. If you don't know what the starting point is you don't know if we're allocating too much, too little. So, I think that needs to be, Marc, you and I talked about it whenever I talked to you, what's the update on that status and what are we doing to make sure cause ideally, we're getting that certified number with some lag time ahead of next meeting so I can contemplate some of those decisions.

Mr. Strange: Yep. We're meeting first thing tomorrow on it.

Mr. Rosenblum: When do we know? What's the date for certified?

Mr. Alves: You can't appropriate anything at Town Meeting without certified free cash.

Mr. Strange: It will definitely be certified before Town Meeting but to Anthony's point you guys need to know what the number is so you can make a determination as to.

Mr. Silva: Free cash you can almost get a five year average and it'd be very unless there was some very difficult year that we had but a five year average is gonna give you right around the ballpark where it should be.

Mr. Alves: Yeah, I don't disagree with that but there's no reason not to have the number. I think that's fair to say. I don't want to guess with taxpayer dollars.

Mr. Silva: Personally, \$5,000, we're talking about \$5,000 on and on and on for a long time and we decide on \$100,000.

Mr. Gennette: You mean certified free cash? It's a lot of money. It's not just \$5,000.

Mr. Silva: No, we're talking about \$5,000. The Pond Committee and it's \$5,000.

Mr. Alves: I was talking about; I pivoted to the free cash in general. That's a separate issue, right. I pivoted to that, but my preference would be that because it's such a small number. It's not even gonna feel it there and then we plan for it in the budget next year.

Mr. Sanches: To clarify the comment, yes, the Finance Committee has seen that executive summary tons of times. Like you said we beat it to a dead horse. We have not seen the line-item, and we've asked for it three times. So, to your points we have not seen the department line items since level two. So, that's what we are gonna be looking for and we've asked for it three times but the executive summary we've beat that several times. And as far as notes I had from last time it was 8,000 the Pond Committee was looking for this year. That's what I

had written down. And Anthony was right what he said when he recalled what you said earlier.

Mr. Alves: In terms of?

Mr. Sanches: On the Pond Committee. The 30,000, no other department had a chance to ask for the 30,000.

Mr. Alves: And they probably didn't based on the guidelines.

Mr. Gennette: And that's when we were talking about going over two and a half. That's when all that happened and everybody's like woah, woah, woah.

Mr. Alves: Even after I don't think we solicited.

Mr. Gennette: I mean, 30,000 from the Pond Committee, they could put in for Capital for that.

Mr. Alves: What asset are they buying?

Mr. Gennette: Well, it depends on what the capital allocation is, but I mean they have regular. No, that's true, it's a regular treatment it wouldn't necessarily be a capital allocation.

Mr. Alves: It's not an asset with use for life. I have other questions unless Manny still wants to still talk about the pond. Okay. So, I talked about my free cash concern. Increases to department. We're on the previous sheet I'm just gonna see the notes as to why. Oh, the building inspector, do we know why that went up almost 9%?

Mr. Strange: I'm not sure. I'll get with BJ and just make sure that she has an answer for that.

Mr. Alves: Animal Control, 5.5%.

Mr. Strange: Same, I'll have to get with Octavia.

Mr. Alves: Board of Health, 6+.

Mr. Gennette: I thought Veteran services was the only one that had an increase?

Mr. Alves: Since the prior version. I'm asking in general year over year. Board of Health is 6.37.

Mr. Strange: Yeah, I'll have to ask Paulina.

Mr. Alves: Yeah, if we can get those, I think those were the three. Those before the next meeting and then the Munis report with the year over year.

Mr. Strange: Yeah. That's what Tony's talking about. So, I missed one, so, Building Inspector, Board of Health, and what was the other one?

Mr. Alves: Animal Control. Council on Aging was the other one, but the notes are here now and that makes sense. I'm sure there's reasonable explanations there.

Mr. Strange: Yeah. I'll get you guys answers on that.

Mr. Alves: But again, only looking at the levy component, not the free cash component cause the numbers aren't certified, looking at the rollup, I think those are my questions that I need answers. And then obviously I would take that dive into the line-items to make sure that we're consistent there.

Mr. Gennette: Mr. Chairman, Marc, as far as the Chapter 90 funds it looks like it's reflecting now on the recap appropriately. What was the difference on that from where we were before?

Mr. Strange: It wasn't much. It was basically level funded.

Mr. Gennette: It was? Okay. So, yeah, .01. Okay. So, it's just reflected there okay. The other thing is the MGM Casino. It was at 100, wasn't that normally 260?

Mr. Rosenblum: No, it used to be 75 I thought.

Mr. Strange: It's 100 every year except every fifth year they do a lookback study, and it increases to 175. And I think last year was a lookback year.

Mr. Rosenblum: James, Mr. Chairman, did you in Capital, was there a new automobile for Animal Control?

Mr. Gennette: It was not approved. We're gonna do capital requests at the next one, right? So, capital requests are done. No, the ACO did not get a vehicle this year. We did some research on it. We asked her to identify the vehicle that she would need for capital and it just came in way too much. It was just the big all in like we had a full-on animal service kind of vehicle. It was just a lot of money and then we said we just couldn't afford it, especially when we were talking about much different numbers earlier in the year. So, she came back and she said, well you can buy me this vehicle instead which was a much lower vehicle and it's like well wait a minute do you need that other vehicle? This ones suitable and if it's not suitable why are we getting the other one? So, it just was too much back and forth so we just said let's hold off for this year and we're gonna revisit it again next year for the ACO. I think that was the only decline we had. I don't think we had anything else that was declined. It was a pretty light year as far as capital went. We'll talk more about it next meeting.

Mr. Rosenblum: We have a fire truck falling off next year, don't we.

Mr. Strange: Ambulance falling off and a fire truck coming on, I think. No, you're right.

Mr. Rosenblum: Are we already on year 1?

Mr. Strange: Year 1 will be fiscal 28.

Mr. Alves: That a gain or a loss?

Mr. Rosenblum: We drop one.

Mr. Gennette: We drop the ladder truck, and we pick up the pump truck.

Mr. Alves: But is that benefit? Is that a net gain, or no? We're spending more.

Mr. Gennette: I think we're actually spending less. I think it's coming in less.

Mr. Strange: I'm not sure.

Mr. Gennette: The ladder truck was expensive. I don't know if the new pump truck is on the report yet.

Mr. Alves: On the five year. There's the five-year outlook. I just didn't know if you guys knew off the top of your head.

Mr. Gennette: There is but I think those are kind of like a benchmark kind of a thing. I don't think it's been estimated out. I don't want to tell you that it is and then it's not.

Mr. Silva: Okay so, we're going to wait on a couple things for the budget for next meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**March 17, 2026**

Board to declare 63 Chestnut Street, 54 Winsor Street and 0 Chestnut Street as surplus property.

Mr. Silva: We've done that several years ago.

Mr. Strange: Mr. Chairman, we did a search in the minutes, we couldn't find anything. So, we figured just to be safe and just for the Boards information the reason that this is on is Josh Carpenter filed for an application for a grant to do a feasibility study for what possible uses of those buildings before we decide to tear them down. And in order to do that they have to be determined surplus property.

Mr. Alves: Mr. Chairman, Marc when is the granting period for the grant. Approval period, sorry.

Mr. Strange: Probably sometime in the summer.

Mr. Alves: Alright. I'm just curious what the timeline is. And that's tied to not a number just whatever the cost of the study would be?

Mr. Strange: We applied for 75,000.

Mr. Alves: Which should be enough to achieve. Okay. I'm just wondering if there's a gap there.

**Motion made by Mr. Gennette to declare 63 Chestnut Street, 54 Winsor Street and 0 Chestnut Street as surplus property. Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

Board to discuss and possibly approve repair or replacement of the roof at the Gazebo.

Mr. Gennette: Mr. Chairman, it's a pretty important little Gazebo down there. It's kind of the center of all of our stuff. I'm just wondering if, is it only the roof? Are we putting a new roof on an old dog or what?

Mr. Silva: There're repairs. I believe we have two bids on it. One is to repair certain issues and then the other one is for a new roof. I think the total is coming out to about 11, 12,000 I believe.

Mr. Gennette: And who's putting in the request?

Mr. Strange: DPW. And Mr. Chairman, there's about \$65,000 left in that account, Building Infrastructure.

Mr. Rosenblum: Mr. Chairman, now through procurement since they're combined it's the same person that's just a quote? This have to go out because it's over 10,000 total.

Mr. Strange: I can check. The rule is you have to seek three quotes.

Mr. Rosenblum: To solicit written responses from no fewer than three persons.

Mr. Alves: The cut off's 10, sorry, for procurement?

Mr. Rosenblum: Yeah. It's 10.

Mr. Strange: Yeah, between 10 and 50.

Mr. Rosenblum: 9999, cause I just did it in Connecticut too, is it's just basically an invoice and best practice is now it's 10 to 50 is that and then the bid process. Sealed bids would be over 50.

Mr. Alves: Got it. Okay. I was thinking 50. Thank you.

Mr. Silva: I believe those you just have to make phone calls and just get solicited.

Mr. Gennette: Is that Gazebo electrified? It is, right?

Mr. Alves: Do we know, did they do I imagine an entire, kind of where James is going, an entire assessment to see if there's anything needed?

Mr. Strange: I'm not sure. I can certainly ask.

Mr. Gennette: I think if we're doing it, we should probably figure out what is the best situation down there. We use it a lot. We use it all summer. It's probably one of the most used structures in Town.

Mr. Rosenblum: I would check the stairs, the treads, railings, I mean instead of doing 11 now and then 15 later.

Mr. Silva: Well, the issue is if the roof is really bad and then the roof needs to be done then we gotta do the roof at least anyway.

Mr. Alves: Noone's gonna stop that.

Mr. Rosenblum: Oh, no I'm saying do that but just saying if we have a chance to do it at once and instead of someone leaning on a railing and going over.

Mr. Alves: How about this, maybe we just verify if they did a full assessment. If not, do a full assessment and if there's additional work see what else is needed and when we meet next, we take it up.

Mr. Gennette: Will it cost a full replacement? I mean, if we're just gonna go through just tearing the whole thing down and rebuilding the existing structure doesn't make a whole lot of sense to me.

Mr. Alves: Well, we'll be able to assess that based on.

Mr. Gennette: You don't need anything official right now, right Marc?

Mr. Rosenblum: I would say hold on to it and maybe get a full assessment of it and just see ask them if that was the full assessment or if that was a full assessment and then we can revisit it and then probably approve it.

Mr. Alves: Yeah. The answer might be yes and it's one phone call and the answers yes and it's back here in two weeks.

Mr. Gennette: That's probably not gonna happen this year though, right? The timeframe on that, that's probably not gonna happen this year, right?

Mr. Strange: They could do the roof now. In terms of if it needs more work depending on how much it costs; we might be able to get it in this fiscal year. We might have to wait until July to do the rest of it. It all depends on what the cost is.

Mr. Gennette: It's obviously structurally sound if they're only talking about replacing the roof.

Mr. Strange: Yeah, I assume so. Not sure.

Mr. Alves: Mr. Chairman, isn't the base not concrete? Like when there's a band, not standing on wood planks, right?

Mr. Gennette: I don't remember.

Mr. Alves: So, it'd just be the pillars and the roof, right?

**Motion made by Mr. Alves** to verify if a full assessment has been done and if not, see if there is a scope of repair beyond the roof and to table until we hear back from DPW. **Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

Board to sign alteration of premises liquor license for Tin Cup Facilities dba The Lighthouse, previously approved by the Board on December 16, 2025.

Mr. Alves: So, it's just back because we approved and haven't signed it?

Mr. Silva: To me it looks like we approved the liquor license on the 16<sup>th</sup> when we approve all the liquor licenses. But now they had an alteration. They have moved into next doors space, and this is an alteration.

**Motion made by Mr. Gennette** to sign the alteration of premises liquor license for Tin Cup Facilities dba The Lighthouse, previously approved by the Board on December 16, 2025. **Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

Board to discuss, and possibly vote to sign and submit, a letter of support seeking Congressionally Directed Spending for the Veterans Park Rehabilitation Project.

Mr. Strange: Mr. Chairman, I'm happy to talk on this. Just for the record, Congressionally Directed Spending is sort of the Houses nomenclature for an earmark. So, we've been working with Anthony to try to identify potential projects that might qualify for CDS funding and might be competitive and we identified Vets Park. So, we've been working with Tighe & Bond to create a conceptual plan, and they really created a really exciting plan for the town. Which includes pickleball courts, playground equipment, new soccer fields, a pavilion, and other gathering spaces, a redo of the parking lot. There's an opinion of cost estimate in your packets. It's about 2.95 million dollars. We asked Tighe & Bond to phase it into two phases. The first phase would be redoing the parking lot and constructing the family picnic area, the playground area, the pickleball courts and then the second phase would be laying down seed and grading for the new athletic fields, and the gathering area, and the pavilion. We identified that project as one that could be competitive when submitting to Congressman Neal's office and there's a letter here that is required. We need letters of support from at least three entities. Representative Aaron Saunders has submitted a letter of support, the Ludlow Cultural Council, and then the Select Board would be third entity to submit the letter of support. If we can get that letter from the Board, we will send off the three letters tomorrow and our application will be complete.

Mr. Silva: I don't know that there's anything to discuss quite honestly if we're gonna try to raise some funds.

Mr. Alves: Just to add Mr. Chairman if I can. So, in working with Marc on this, I think it was a few months back the idea was let's seek to potentially borrow because we have this wasted land back there currently not being utilized. And then seeing that this might be a fit for Congressional earmark I think it makes good sense to see what potentially we might be able to obtain before asking residents of the town to see if they'd be willing to kick in for a project like that. So, could get some of the money, could get all of the money, could get none of the money but if you don't ask you don't know. And it needed to be a, I forgot what the requirements were Marc. You needed the concept, you needed an opinion of cost, and it needed to be within, I forgot what the exact range was of amounts but that's why Marc kind of decided to go forward with this project because it's not like we could pick something out of the sky and say hey we hope to do xyz. You needed the basis of the foundation for that.

Mr. Strange: And Mr. Chairman, I think just generally speaking playground and community gathering spaces tend to be competitive projects.

Mr. Alves: And the scope of the Whitney plan was too large. The plan that we had was in excess of 5, I forgot what the number was, it didn't fit the scope of the ask.

Mr. Rosenblum: Mr. Chairman, going to Whitney though we also have in the budget we have like 830,000 that's already earmarked in the budget. We also are asking for the stabilization

fund for parks recreation open space whatever so we can use some of that money to start picking up the pieces at Whitney as well. Not to the tune of 5 million I mean, at least do something over there. Only one question. Did you put a walking path in between the two softball fields over to Baird? That's what that looks like.

Mr. Strange: Yeah. We also just for the Board's information we're also applying for a grant for that path. So, there's two bites of that apple. One is there's T-Mobile offers a grant package for public spaces like this and there's also a municipal ADA grant program through the state. So, we got a cost estimate from Tighe & Bond to create an ADA accessible path that would connect the front of the park where the playground is all the way back to where the pool is and where the athletic fields are. That would be a great addition to the park.

Mr. Rosenblum: And now actually seeing that path there that might be something that we would address also cause I know that that existing softball field just gets flooded. It's not good. With money that we have in the capital, in the stabilization fund is maybe do something with that. I don't know if it's grading or whatever, but I just know that I remember softballs now run by the Boys & Girls Club which is crazy but to the fact that needs to be addressed a little bit too because if you have softball teams coming in for high school and they're playing JV/Varsity maybe at the same time something to that effect.

Mr. Alves: Which field has that issue?

Mr. Rosenblum: The softball field at Baird.

Mr. Alves: The one at Baird, cause there's two there that's why. The one at Baird and then there's the one.

Mr. Rosenblum: The one that's here, is it getting cleaned up in this whole thing maybe?

Mr. Strange: It's not part of the scope. It's an alternate.

Mr. Alves: So, when we looked at it, we got the feedback to say, being as cost efficient as we could, what makes sense to keep. We talked to the Boys & Girls Club. They had the need for that softball field. If there's a need there, we didn't touch it. And to your point about Whitney Mr. Rosenblum, I think you hit it on the head, the scope's so big we'd have to break it up.

Mr. Rosenblum: I think we're starting to address that now with the stabilization and earmarking.

Mr. Alves: And you'd have to do it over time.

Mr. Rosenblum: And as you've said and I've said it over the seven years I've been on this Board there's not been anything done to be any recommendations for capital and so I think by the Select Board making the recommendation to spend 830,000 there already with new playground equipment and things of that nature it's a starting point.

Mr. Alves: Anything is a step in the right direction, right?

Mr. Rosenblum: Right. And as I flip the page because it's sideways on here, I saw the alternate.

Mr. Gennette: Mr. Chairman, love it. Don't dilly dally. Let's put it in.

**Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum** to approve and sign a letter to support seeking congressionally directed spending for the Veteran's Park Rehabilitation Project from the Select Board. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

## **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Strange: Just a few quick things, Mr. Chairman. Just a reminder that the annual town election is going to be held Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. The poles are open from 10am to 8pm. We're going to be hosting another pre-town meeting like we did last year, which will be Monday  
**March 17, 2026**

evening, April 27<sup>th</sup> starting at 6pm at the LHS auditorium. The meeting is primarily for town meeting members, but the public is certainly welcome to attend and encouraged to attend. We'll be previewing the Town meeting warrant articles and answering any attendees' questions on each individual article. Town meeting as a reminder is Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup> starting at 7:30. Public is also welcome to attend and participate at the discretion of the Town moderator. Only the Town meeting members will be voting. We'll be starting the first iteration of the new Town Administrator evaluation process soon. I should be able to send you all some information later this week or next week and that process will begin in earnest in early April and there will be a public presentation of the findings sometime at the end of June. And last but certainly not least we have a new Treasurer/Collector starting on March 30<sup>th</sup>, Michelle Hill. Just a reminder for folks, Michelle has upwards of 20 years of experience as a Treasurer/Collector, as a Town Clerk, and most recently as a Finance Director. She's also a Veteran and formerly an elected official in her Town and we're very excited for her to get started.

## **BOARD UPDATES/MISC**

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

Mr. Gennette: Mr. Chairman, just to follow up on Capital, we did close out our capital report and the capital expenses much like we said before we'll come out at the next meeting. It was a pretty good year this year. It was pretty on point and came straight through. We'll run down the list at the next meeting.

Mr. Rosenblum: Mr. Chairman, the Mobile Home Rent Control Board met, and we will be meeting again on Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at 5pm. At which time that Board should be possibly making a decision on a three year old case.

## **CLOSING COMMENTS**

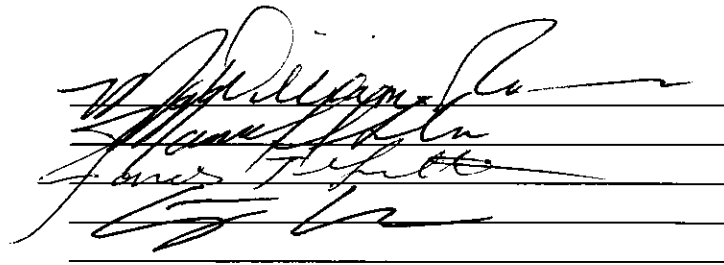
Mr. Rosenblum: I guess this is a Board thing anyways but I just got this today the flyers just came out today. We have the Town of Ludlow townwide Community Cleanup Day, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9am. You can meet at the Veterans Memorial down by the Gazebo. There'll be trash pickup, removals, sidewalk cleanup, flowerbeds and tree belts. For more information on it you can go to the Town website which is [www.ludlow.ma.us](http://www.ludlow.ma.us) or [ludlowveterans.us](http://ludlowveterans.us). I know in the past I think the boy scouts have come out and we've had a pretty good showing for this. So, be on the lookout. We're right now just giving you the first heads up on it but it's May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9am. Meeting at the Veterans Memorial at the Gazebo Park for Cleanup Day.

Mr. Gennette: Mr. Chairman, I think I followed up last meeting the Superintendent Search Committee ended. I think that the schools still needs to choose their next Superintendent of schools as Mr. Tiano has announced his retirement. And that went very well. I was really happy with the committee. They were very nice. We had such a great group of people. It was well worth the time, and I learned a lot about the school while I was there, so I appreciate all their patience with me. The other thing is NV5 is coming to a close with their energy audit which has been quite the educational process for me. I'm hoping to have that report soon and as soon as I do, I'm hoping that I can show it to the Board. And other than that, I think that I had a little bit of spring breeze. Those last nice days really just got me a little eager for the better weather. So, I certainly hope it's on the horizon soon. And Happy St. Patrick's Day.

Mr. Alves: I'll start with these flyers that we have of events for the public. Designer Purse Bingo to benefit Ludlow Cheer. Community, cheer and a little Irish luck Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, Ludlow Elks Club, 6pm. Cash bar, door prizes, raffles, 50-50. And then we also have Ludlow Public Schools from the Director of Food Service there is a Shamrock Share Celebrity Bartending Event on March 25<sup>th</sup> which is a Wednesday at the Student Prince & Fort in Springfield 5 to 8pm. As Mr. Gennette said, Happy St. Patrick's Day. I don't own a lot of green, but I think I'm wearing it all right now. Town election is Monday. I think the polls are 10 to 8 which is an awkward time if that's why I remember it, 10 to 8. And I don't think we meet again so Happy Easter to everybody.

Mr. Silva: I also wish everybody Happy St. Patrick's Day again and Happy Easter as well. And I just want to say that the Town election is the 23<sup>rd</sup> and although we don't have many contested races it's unfortunate really with all the chatter out there that we can't get people to step up. So, it's amazing how much people out there talk, talk, talk, but stepping up just doesn't happen. But I do encourage everyone to please go vote and keep spirits up in the community about voting. If we just decide not to go and vote our numbers are just gonna dwindle and dwindle and dwindle so everyone, please go vote anyways. I'm sure you have somebody that's your favorite whether or not there's a race or not, go and vote for them.

**Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum to adjourn the Select Board meeting at 7:02 P.M. Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

 Chairman  
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Ludlow Select Board

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