



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

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TOWN OF LUDLOW

The Meeting of the Select Board held on Tuesday, April 7, 2026, began at 5:30 p.m. in the Select Board's Conference Room.

Members Present: Anthony Alves, James Gennette, William Rosenblum, Antonio Sanches, 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.

Board to reorganize after election.

Mr. Silva welcomed and thanked the newly elected member of the Board, Tony Sanches. He thanked Mr. Sanches for stepping up.

Motion made by Mr. Gennette to nominate Bill Rosenblum for Chair. **Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-1.** **Motion made by Mr. Gennette** to nominate Anthony Alves for Vice Chair. **Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

5:30-5:45 P.M. – PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeff Stratton of 631 East Street in attendance as the Chair of the Superintendent Search Committee. He congratulated Mr. Rosenblum, Mr. Alves, and Mr. Sanches. He wanted to publicly thank Mr. Gennette for his effort on the committee and stated he was an asset to the committee. Sharon Cournoyer will be joining from Storrs.

Elaine Hodgman of 1475 Center Street stated that she saw on the agenda a few resignations and was wondering if there was anything they can do to be more proactive to get people to step up for the individual committees that are needed.

Mr. Rosenblum suggested possibly using the robocall and has some other suggestions he has thought of. It is posted on the website and possibly using the paper and on our social media. He finds that no matter how much you put the word out, it's never enough.

VISITATION

5:45 P.M. – Karen Sunnarborg, Housing & Planning Consultant – To provide update on the Housing Production Plan. Board to approve and send to State for approval.

Ms. Sunnarborg presented the updated Housing Production Plan, noting that the previous five-year plan has expired and that the State requires a new plan including a housing needs assessment, demographic and economic analysis, and strategies to address identified needs. She explained that Ludlow currently has 307 subsidized units, representing 3.51% of the year-round housing stock, stating, "Of the 8,720 year-round housing units in 2020, 307 or 3.51% are currently included in this subsidized housing inventory." She added that upcoming projects at Fuller Street and Mill 8 will increase the SHI to approximately 4%, still well below the State's 10% goal. She reviewed the criteria for units to qualify for the SHI, including deed restrictions, income limits, and affirmative marketing, noting, "They have to be available to households earning at or below 80% of area median income."

Her presentation highlighted demographic trends, including modest population decline, a shrinking number of children, and significant growth in residents aged 65 and older. Housing vacancy rates remain extremely low, and home prices and market rents continue to rise. She emphasized that the tight market is contributing to escalating housing costs.

The draft plan recommends expanding community outreach, pursuing new State and federal funding sources, considering the creation of an Affordable Housing Trust, updating zoning to allow more diverse housing types, expanding 40R districts, encouraging infill development, and exploring cluster zoning and redevelopment opportunities. It also suggests making suitable public property available for affordable housing and establishing a housing rehabilitation program.

Board members discussed the challenges of rising construction costs and the difficulty of building modest homes. Mr. Silva expressed concern that inspection and construction expenses make smaller homes financially impractical, saying, "It cost us the same amount of money to do a little house versus a lot of a large house." Ms. Sunnarborg responded that subsidies and partnerships with experienced developers are essential to closing the financial gap. Members also discussed potential impacts of future legislation, the need for long-term planning, and the importance of incremental progress. Questions were raised about the role of the Housing Authority, and Ms. Sunnarborg explained that while housing authorities primarily manage existing properties, some communities have expanded their development role using the same financing tools available to private affordable housing developers.

The Board also discussed community concerns about multifamily development, the availability of redevelopment sites such as the mills, and the need to balance growth with the town's character and resources. Ms. Sunnarborg emphasized that smart redevelopment, small-scale infill, and partnerships with developers are key strategies for meeting Ludlow's housing needs. **Motion made by Mr. Gennette to adopt the 2026 Housing Production Plan. Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

6:45 P.M. – Linda Nawracaj – Pond Committee – Update & request for funds.

Linda Nawracaj, Bill Simon 736 East Street, Elaine Hodgman 1475 Center Street, and Julie Markiewicz 23 Stevens Terrace are in attendance. Ms. Nawracaj explained that past funding sources for pond maintenance, including the 40R funds previously used by Judy, are no longer available except for an estimated remaining \$15,000 that is restricted to Minechoag Pond and cannot be used until a permit is obtained. She reviewed the longstanding permitting issues caused by a historically identified but currently unfindable plant species, which has delayed treatment of Minechoag for years. The result has been severe weed overgrowth, low oxygen levels, and a recent large fish kill. She emphasized the urgent need for treatment and the importance of establishing predictable annual funding rather than relying on one-off requests.

The Board discussed how to move forward, noting that the town is still in a discovery phase regarding all ponds and that long-term budget planning cannot yet be finalized until surveys and permit costs are known. While some members suggested a general estimate of \$30,000 for future budgets, others stressed that the exact figures depend on pending surveys and permitting. Several members reiterated support for the pond work but emphasized the need for structure and validated numbers.

There was discussion on funding for the current year. For FY26, the total needed is \$20,765, reduced to roughly \$5,765 if the remaining 40R funds are confirmed. Additional work for Minechoag depends on receiving a final permit cost estimate from consultants. Board members explored the option of front-loading expenses into the current fiscal year using residual funds in order to reduce FY27 budget needs. This approach could allow treatment to proceed this spring and fall while setting up a clearer baseline for FY27.

Board members agreed that Minechoag Pond is in critical condition and that the permitting—not lack of support—has been the main obstacle. They also agreed on the need for a future five-year plan once the full scope of pond requirements becomes clearer. The Board confirmed that budget request submissions typically occur in September or October.

In closing, the Board reaffirmed support for funding immediate needs this spring. Mr. Strange summarized that the next steps include verifying the availability of the \$15,000 in 40R funds, determining how to supplement that amount with the needed \$5,765, and evaluating whether additional funds from the current fiscal year can be used to prepay for other required work. The goal is to cover spring and fall treatments this year, reduce the FY27 request, and place the Pond Committee on a regular budget line moving forward.

CORRESPONDENCE

26-32 Letter of Resignation from Manny Lopes from the Zoning Board of Appeals. **Motion made by Mr. Gennette** to accept the letter of resignation from Manny Lopes from the Zoning Board of Appeals. **Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

26-33 Letter from Valdemar Rodrigues requesting to be appointed from an Associate Member to Full-time Member of the Zoning Board of Appeals. Board to post the vacancy. **Motion made by Mr. Gennette** to appoint Valdemar Rodrigues from an Associate Member to Full-time Member of the Zoning Board of Appeals and post the vacancy. **Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.** Mr. Silva commented that he has known Val since he was a small boy and his dad as well. Val has always been interested in doing this stuff and developing and will be a good asset.

26-34 Letter from Ronald Saloio requesting to be appointed to the Celebrate Ludlow Committee.

Mr. Silva asked if we disbanded this committee. Mr. Strange stated we disbanded the 250th and whatever members wanted to stay active are on this committee. We have had resignations from Celebrate Ludlow. Ms. Hodgman confirmed that Celebrate Ludlow has been around since the 225th. **Motion made by Mr. Gennette** to appoint Ronald Saloio to the Celebrate Ludlow Committee. **Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

26-35 Letter from Edith Tipton – resignation of Poll Worker. **Motion made by Mr. Silva** to accept the resignation of Edith Tipton as a poll worker. **Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

26-36 Letter from Susan Swift – requesting to be appointed as a Poll Worker. **Motion made by Mr. Silva** to appoint Susan Swift as a Poll Worker. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

26-37 Letter from Ian Thompson – resignation from Westover Golf Commission. Board to post the vacancy.

Mr. Silva recalled having these from time to time and had several applicants before. Would like to go back to the applicant we didn't choose and invite them to come in and be appointed rather than to go out and doing this again. Been a couple of times they've been excellent people that wanted to serve and if they were interested then they'd be interested now. **Motion made by Mr. Silva** to accept the resignation of Ian Thompson from Westover Golf Commission and Board to post the vacancy. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.** Mr. Rosenblum believes there are 1 or 2 that are up now. Mr. Alves asked how that works. Mr. Rosenblum stated he thinks if you are on the Golf Commission you need to take an absence first and then you can come back on. Mr. Silva said once your term expires you have to step out.

26-38 Letter from Anna Pepin – resignation from the Mobile Home Rent Control Board. Board to post the vacancy. **Motion made by Mr. Silva** to accept the resignation of Anna Pepin from the Mobile Home Rent Control Board and Board to post the vacancy. **Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

26-39 Letter from Kim Batista, Town Clerk – Notifying Board of resignation of William Ellison from Precinct 6 Representative Town Meeting Member.

Mr. Silva asked if this was a member we gave special considerations passed. Mr. Gennette stated it was for the Planning Board. Mr. Silva is happy he is doing that and that there are conflicts whether we think so or not there is always a little bit. Mr. Rosenblum filed.

26-40 Letter of retirement from Officer Alexander Goncalves. Board to appoint to the Ludlow Special Police. **Motion made by Mr. Silva** to accept the letter of retirement from Officer Alexander Goncalves and to appoint him to the Ludlow Special Police. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

26-41 Letter of resignation from Detective Jordan Liszka. **Motion made by Mr. Gennette** to accept the letter of resignation from Detective Jordan Liszka. **Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

26-42 Chief Brennan – Request to call for a list and fill Police Officer vacancy. Chief Brennan said we had obviously just accepted two vacancies of the officer's resignations and retirements. We're looking to fill those two slots. **Motion made by Mr. Gennette** to approve Chief Brennan's request to call for a list and fill the Police Officer vacancy. **Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

26-43 Chief Brennan – Request to permanently appoint Michael Medina as a Patrol Officer. **Motion made by Mr. Silva** to permanently appoint Michael Medina as a Patrol Officer. **Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

26-44 Board to appoint Michelle Hill Custodian of Insurance Records and Custodian of Tax Possession. **Motion made by Mr. Silva** to appoint Michelle Hill the Custodian of Insurance Records and Insurance of Tax Possession. **Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

26-45 Linda Collette, Celebrate Ludlow Committee – Request to use Veteran's Memorial Park for "Falling into Fun" at Veteran's Memorial Park Saturday, October 3, 2026, 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Motion made by Mr. Silva** to allow the usage of Memorial Park for Falling into Fun at Veteran's Memorial Park Saturday, October 3, 2026, 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

26-46 Rachel Smythe – Adult Services Hubbard Memorial Library – Request to use lawn adjacent to the library for a sky viewing program on April 23rd. **Motion made by Mr. Gennette** to approve Rachel Smythe's request Adult Services at Hubbard Memorial Library to use lawn adjacent to the library for a sky viewing program on April 23rd. **Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Ms. Rickson said she thought last year the Board decided the library could notify Marc's office when using the lawn so they didn't have to send a request every single time, but Marc later said it had to be a request to the Select Board again. She asked whether going forward the Board wanted requests for every single use of the lawn or just notification to Marc's office. Mr. Gennette said he remembered voting to approve that because they had submitted a list for the whole year and that part of the lawn is mostly used by the library except for Falling into Fun. Mr. Strange said he didn't remember but typically the library sends a list of events and the Board approves the list. Ms. Rickson said they try to do a lot outside and if the weather's permitting they'd like to just be able to do it. Mr. Gennette said that lot was intended for the library and he didn't have a problem allowing them to use it, and if anyone else wants to use that lawn they would check with the library for availability. Mr. Alves asked how often non-library events use the lawn. Ms. Rickson said Celebrate Ludlow for Falling into Fun. **Motion made by Mr. Gennette** to allow Hubbard Memorial Library to submit their annual calendar to the Select Board's office for record without having to go to the Board of Selectmen for approval. **Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

26-48 Charter Communications – Annual Notification of License Fees. **Motion made by Mr. Silva** to file. **Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

26-49 Charter Communications – Annual Notification on Billing and Termination. **Motion made by Mr. Silva** to file. **Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

26-50 Zoning Board of Appeals Reorganization.

Mr. Alves: Mr. Chairman, from the Zoning Board of Appeals they have reorganized at their March 11th meeting and voted to reorganize as follows: Alan Aubin – Chairperson, Mike Parker - Vice Chairperson, Elaine Hodgman - Member, Valdemar Rodrigues - Alternate
April 7, 2026

Member. **Motion made by Mr. Alves** to file. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

26-51 Planning Board Reorganization.

Mr. Alves: Mr. Chairman, at the March 26th meeting of the Ludlow Planning Board they voted to reorganize as follows: Ray Phoenix – Chairman, William Ellison – Vice Chairman, Kathleen Houle – Secretary, Christopher Coelho – Member, Joel Silva – Member, Haley Rivers – Associate Member. **Motion made by Mr. Alves** to file. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

26-52 School Committee Reorganization.

Mr. Alves: Mr. Chairman, at the March 24, 2026, meeting of the Ludlow School Committee they voted to reorganize as follows: Sarah Bowler – Chair, Amanda Coddling – Vice Chair, Jeffrey Laing – Secretary, Christopher Manfredi – Member, Jeffrey Stratton – Member. **Motion made by Mr. Alves** to file. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

26-53 Letter from Elizabeth Dumaine – Request for Special Municipal Employee exemption as a lunch monitor in the Ludlow Public Schools for the Senior Work Abatement Program (SWAP).

Mr. Alves said it's a situation where they're a town employee but they won the lottery for the SWAP program and to do both we need to approve it. Mr. Strange said you can't have two sources of revenue income through the town and this would make the lunch monitors special municipal employees. Mr. Silva said isn't there a requirement for income for the work program and that the program was developed to help out seniors and people that needed the help. Mr. Strange said there is no cap but others have talked about putting a cap on and the income verification process is cumbersome. Mr. Alves said his income could be zero while sitting on \$4 million taking RMDs. Mr. Silva said most senior abatements have caps for income and assets. Mr. Gennette said they also don't fill their open abatement slot. Mr. Strange said there are 60 something slots and 80 applicants. Mr. Alves said he didn't see an inherent issue if someone wants to work two jobs. Mr. Sanches asked if they can differentiate her work versus the abatement program. Mr. Strange said no, it's gotta be a different job. Mr. Rosenblum said that's vetted as part of the SWAP program. Mr. Strange explained the lottery process and assignments. Mr. Silva asked the age for senior and Mr. Strange said it's in the bylaw, around 62. **Motion made by Mr. Alves** to request Special Municipal Employee exemption as a lunch monitor for Elizabeth Dumaine. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0-1.**

26-54 Letter from Robert Callahan – Request for Special Municipal Employee exemption as a courier in the Ludlow Public Schools for the Senior Work Abatement Program (SWAP).

Motion made by Mr. Gennette to approve Robert Callahan for Special Municipal Employee exemption as a courier in the Ludlow Public Schools for the Senior Work Abatement Program (SWAP). **Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0-1.**

26-55 Letter from Office of Leasing and State Office Planning – requesting RFP for the Commonwealth's Search for Lease Space. **Motion made by Mr. Alves** to file. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

26-56 Letter from the Board of Health in support of Opioid Settlement Funding Request for Sharps Containers in the amount of \$1,565.70.

Mr. Gennette asked if we know what the balance is on that opioid fund right now? Mr. Strange said it's up there. We just got a couple more and they were big, but we got a couple more deposits. Certainly, more than \$1,500. **Motion made by Mr. Gennette** to approve the Board of Health in support of Opioid Settlement Funding Request for Sharps Containers in the amount of \$1,565.70. **Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

26-57 Eversource – Transmission right of way work scheduled for Spring 2026 at 648 East Street and a parcel off of Chapin Street. **Motion made by Mr. Gennette** to file. **Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

26-58 Christ the King – Annual Beano Report. **Motion made by Mr. Silva** to file. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

26-59 Charter Communications – Upcoming pricing changes.

Mr. Gennette said just to make note for the community service activation applies when services activated via self-installation or professional installation will decrease by \$10 from 30 to 20. Change of service will decrease by 15 from 65 to 50. Professional installation will decrease by 15 from 65 to 50 and the hourly labor charge will decrease by 15 from 65 to 50. But the reconnection fee will increase by \$3 from \$2 to \$5. **Motion made by Mr. Gennette to file. Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

26-60 Lupa Zoo – Invitation to Community Summer Safety Day to be held Saturday, June 20 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Mr. Gennette said thank you to Lupa Zoo. Will they be on the events board on the website. Mr. Strange said this wouldn't be on our town calendar cause it's not a town event but there's a get lost in Ludlow calendar that has all the town events. **Motion made by Mr. Gennette to file. Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

26-61 Ludlow Community Center Randall Boys & Girls Club – Request from LYSA to use the field from April 12 – June 15 Mon/Thurs weekly 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. and Saturdays weekly 9:00 – 3:00 p.m. excluding 4/11/26 and 6/6/2026. No rental fee. **Motion made by Mr. Gennette to file. Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

26-62 Ludlow Community Center Randall Boys & Girls Club – Request from Western United Pioneers to use the field from April 7 – May 29 Tues/Fri weekly 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. excluding 6/5/2026. No rental fee. **Motion made by Mr. Gennette to file. Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

26-63 Ludlow Community Center Randall Boys & Girls Club – Request from IFA to use the field from 4/8 – 5/27 Wednesday weekly 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. \$240 rental fee. **Motion made by Mr. Gennette to file. Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

26-64 MMWEC – Pipeline right of way work near Stony Brook Energy Center. **Motion made by Mr. Alves to file. Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0-1.**

26-65 Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (DPU) & Department of Telecommunications and Cable (DTC) – Notice of Public Hearing and Request for Comments. **Motion made by Mr. Alves to file. Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

26-66 Mass DOT – Bridge Inspection Report for West Street/Chicopee River – Dated 2/17/2026.

Mr. Silva asked if there was an update? Mr. Rosenblum said if I remember correctly reading it all it really did is it showed some pictures. **Motion made by Mr. Gennette to file. Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

26-67 Chief Brennan – request for authorization to charge medical expenses and lost wages to Chapter 41, §111F for an injury sustained by a Police officer while on duty on 3/30/2026. **Motion made by Mr. Sanches to approve the request from Chief Brennan for authorization to charge medical expenses and lost wages to Chapter 41, §111F for an injury sustained by a Police officer while on duty on 3/30/2026. Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Board to discuss and possibly approve repair and replacement of the roof at the Gazebo (continued from March 17, 2026). Tabled

Board to discuss and possibly vote on FY27 Budget Proposal (Continued from March 17, 2026).

Mr. Rosenblum asked what's our number and if we're still around 190 excess. Mr. Strange said there were changes made and he would explain them, with a few outstanding questions. Mr. Alves said with the changes discussed tonight, particularly the pond, they should iron those out and be able to review them. Mr. Strange said in addition to the pond they received the new CMD proposal for fiscal 27 and beyond with a slight increase and the

library's cleaning contract bid was slightly higher. He said they also had to increase the vet's budget by 5,000 for postage, the Hubbard Memorial Library reclass savings is reflected, and the Treasurer Collector made a small adjustment for salary and increased postage. Pond Commission is not in the budget. Mr. Rosenblum asked the pond number. Mr. Alves said front loading and prepaying leaves 14,000 needed, maybe a little above that, not 36. Mr. Strange said prepayment for fiscal 26 is 38, and backing out the 15 leaves 23,250, with spring unknown. Mr. Alves said calendar year 26 is 43,000 if paid before July 1st. Discussion continued on how spring and fall treatments align with fiscal years. Mr. Rosenblum said fiscal 27 should be budgeted at 30,000. Mr. Alves agreed with 30 but said doing what they can this year gives breathing room. Mr. Rosenblum said maintaining ponds should drop prices and added ponds should still keep things in the 30 to 35 range. Mr. Sanches noted the prepayment does not include the 5,000 permit for Minechoag, making the total 43,000. He said remaining ponds for FY27 would be 14,440. Mr. Alves said he found 12,000 in fluff that could go toward this. Mr. Rosenblum calculated that into the excess number. Mr. Sanches recommended the 30 because of Minechoag. Mr. Alves said they need to vote on classifications. Mr. Gennette said he was fine with the classification. Mr. Sanches asked about the Fire Department and the request for two firefighters. Mr. Strange explained funding options. Mr. Gennette said he did not like using the ambulance subscription fund. Discussion continued on whether excess capacity could reopen the possibility of two firefighters. Mr. Alves said growing too fast too quick can be a problem and he preferred adding one at a time. Mr. Gennette said the chief plans progression over years. Mr. Rosenblum said one this year and one next year would give full rotations. They confirmed the classification list, including dispatch supervisor and library items. Mr. Alves asked for an update on free cash and how to get where they need to be. Mr. Strange said CLA is helping to close fiscal 25 and that free cash cannot be appropriated if not certified before Town Meeting. Options are using stabilization and replenishing later or trying to move Town Meeting, which may not be allowed by bylaw. They discussed meeting deadlines, the warrant timeline, and motions. Mr. Strange said if free cash is certified by Town Meeting there is no issue but CLA was doubtful. Mr. Sanches asked about impacts of using stabilization; Mr. Strange said no. They discussed replenishing stabilization once free cash is certified. Mr. Rosenblum asked whether to discuss next steps if free cash won't be ready. Mr. Gennette said they likely can't move Town Meeting and would have to use stabilization. Tabled.

NEW BUSINESS

Board to approve and sign minutes from meeting of March 3, 2026. **Motion made by Mr. Gennette** to approve and sign minutes from meeting of March 3, 2026, with four members present. **Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0-1.**

Board to approve and sign minutes from meeting of March 17, 2026. **Motion made by Mr. Gennette** to approve and sign minutes from meeting of March 17, 2026, with four members present. **Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0-1.**

Board to approve and sign Seasonal Liquor Licenses for Gremio Lusitano Club, Inc., Ludlow Country Club and Ludlow Fish & Game Club, Inc. **Motion made by Mr. Gennette** to approve and sign Seasonal Liquor Licenses for Gremio Lusitano Club, Inc., Ludlow country Club and Ludlow Fish & Game Club, Inc. **Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Board to review and sign the contract between Access Care Partners for its portion of the non-federal match required of the Area Agency on Aging in the amount of \$3,626.06. **Motion made by Mr. Gennette** to approve and sign the contract between Access Care Partners for its portion of the non-federal match required of the Area Agency on Aging in the amount of \$3,626.06. **Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Board to approve and sign the one-day alcohol permit for Purse Bingo to be held at St. John the Baptist School on May 15, 2026, from 5:00 – 10:00 P.M. **Motion made by Mr. Silva** to approve and sign the one-day alcohol permit for Purse Bingo to be held at St. John the Baptist School on May 15, 2026, from 5:00 – 10:00 P.M. **Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Board to approve the Environmentally Preferable Products Policy.

Mr. Strange said in the years past as part of the application package for a recycling grant from the DEP, Jim Goodreau would forward me an email that I would send to all staff and board members, essentially reminding people that they need to recycle. That was enough to suffice for the grant application. DEP has since increased or made the requirements more rigorous. So, now we have to actually have a policy that says essentially encouraging or requiring town employees to recycle. **Motion made by Mr. Gennette to approve the Environmentally Preferable Products Policy. Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0. Motion made by Mr. Gennette to approve the Town Administrator to sign the Environmentally Preferable Products Policy. Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Board to approve and allow Chief Pease to sign the Firefighter Safety Equipment Program Grant for FY2026 in the amount of \$19,000. **Motion made by Mr. Gennette to approve and allow Chief Pease to sign the Firefighter Safety Equipment Program Grant for FY2026 in the amount of \$19,000. Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Board to declare the Fire Department's 2002 Pierce Arrow Tower as surplus. **Motion made by Mr. Gennette to declare the Fire Department's 2002 Pierce Arrow Tower as Surplus. Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Board to discuss and approve adding the position of Municipal Finance Director to the Towns Classification Plan at the M7 level.

Ms. Ribeiro said one of the reclassifications was for the Finance Director position and that it was a formality because the position was approved at Town Meeting and then had to go through DOR approval with a 90-day wait. She said it got lost in translation that they never put the position on the classification plan where it belongs, so they are requesting to have it put on the classification plan as an M7 along with the DPW Director and Assistant Town Administrator/HR Director. Mr. Strange said the Board would have to vote on that. Ms. Ribeiro said they vote on classification changes and that this has to come to the Board, noting it is not included in the July 1 budget and would require a separate vote. Mr. Strange said the M7 doesn't have any costs associated with it and is literally putting it on the classification plan. Ms. Ribeiro said the salary offered to Cheryl was not an exact amount of one of the steps on the M7 scale so technically she was off step, but the annual salary is still in line with those six steps. **Motion made by Mr. Gennette to approve adding the position of Municipal Finance Director to the Towns Classification plan at the M7 level. Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Board to discuss and possibly vote to restructure committee liaison list. Board will review and vote at another meeting.

Board to discuss and possibly vote on FY27 CIPC recommendations.

Mr. Gennette said the Capital Improvement Planning Committee made their recommendations, with only one request not approved, the ACO's vehicle. He said the initial price was exorbitant and then the ACO came back with a much cheaper vehicle, so they were unsure if it would meet her needs and expect to review it again next year. He said normally the schools request HVAC units but did not this year and he asked Mr. Manfredi to follow up because many units are at the end of their 25-year lifespan and one roof unit at the high school sounded like it was going to die. Mr. Rosenblum noted the cafeteria HVAC replacement on the list. Mr. Strange said that was an addition from fiscal 28. Mr. Alves asked about the asterisk on the Gazebo Park sign. Mr. Gennette said it didn't meet the requirements as a capital project and the committee didn't approve it, but the Select Board could choose to fund it. Mr. Strange said it wasn't that it didn't meet requirements but it wasn't listed in the capital list and the committee missed voting it, though they were in favor and the Select Board can recommend it. Mr. Rosenblum asked if the 32,2 was included and said he supported it because it would help with communication and town events. Mr. Gennette said since it was a light year, this would be the year to do it. Mr. Strange recommended tabling it in case stabilization is used so he can indicate the source as stabilization instead of free cash without redoing the whole document. This will be tabled to next meeting.

Board to discuss and possibly vote on FY27 new positions and reclassification requests.

Mr. Strange said the special police is on for the reclassification. Chief Brennan said he is requesting double because they currently make \$22 an hour and he is requesting it only for two different events a year, the Memorial Day parade and the Festa, where they rely heavily on their services. He said otherwise they would have to use mutual aid at overtime or detail rates. He said special police give up their entire weekend for the Festa at \$22 an hour and it is tough when they stand next to someone making overtime or detail rates. He said this is to get basic parity and acknowledge their service and that it is short money for only two events. Mr. Rosenblum asked if the number on the reclassification sheet is already in the budget and said he had suggested going half instead of doubling. Chief Brennan said doubling is still under the detail rate and brings it in line with overtime. Mr. Rosenblum said this will reduce overtime. Chief Brennan said if they don't have special police the unit may dwindle, they used to have 25 or more and now have about 15 or 16, and they would then have to bring in people from out of town at overtime or detail rates. Mr. Alves asked if they were helping Amherst 20 years ago. Chief Brennan said no. Mr. Rosenblum said the Board will look at this. Mr. Alves said the sheet is already baked in and they just need to make a decision.

Mr. Strange said he wanted, for reclassifications, specifically the Recreation Director, to give an update because there have been questions from fin com about funding the Finance Director and the Munis improvements. He said after touching on the Recreation Director they could vote on the reclassification requests and the new positions, and that the Finance Director classification and Article 18 on the Munis improvements would also be addressed. Ms. Ribeiro said the Recreation Director position is something they've talked about for quite some time and desperately need. She said they would like to have the position ready to go now but don't have the funding, and she hopes to post the position in early May anticipating approval. She explained the need for help running the camp, before and after school programs, payroll improvements, online enrollment, and compliance. She said the job description is ready as an M2.

Mr. Rosenblum asked about the salary amount shown in the budget. Mr. Strange said a \$75,000 salary breaks down to show 67 with the rest populated by vacation and personal day values. Mr. Alves said his comments were already contemplated in the draft and that a big component will be standing up programming they don't currently have, not just youth programming. Ms. Ribeiro said this can be the start of where they should be. Mr. Alves said kids playing sports in other towns is bad. Ms. Ribeiro said Wilbraham is a model with many programs and online enrollment, while Ludlow's process is unorganized for parents. She said it will be a large job.

Mr. Silva said Wilbraham's Recreation Department budget is very high. Ms. Ribeiro said it probably didn't start that way. Mr. Silva said one person can't do all that. Ms. Ribeiro said she meant it as a model and that building takes time. Mr. Alves said look at improvements at the senior center over the years. Mr. Gennette said same for the vet center. Mr. Rosenblum said this is the baseline and referenced past Park and Rec dismantling, adding that online platforms were previously denied and that a future park and rec director could oversee the golf course. He said they need to start, get fields and parks in better shape, and build it back up over time. Mr. Alves said the first year will be needs, assessment, and analysis. Mr. Gennette compared it to the Pond Committee building their program. Mr. Rosenblum said residents go out of town for many services, not just youth sports. Ms. Ribeiro said she didn't see any comments from Mr. Alves on the draft job description. Mr. Alves said his question was answered and it was probably just a thumbs up. **Motion made by Mr. Alves** to approve the new positions and reclassifications and contemplate them in the FY27 budget as presented. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Board to discuss and possible vote on reclassification of the following positions at Hubbard Memorial Library: Adult Reference/Technology Librarian from M2 to M3 and Youth Services Librarian from an M3 to M2.

Ms. Rickson said long ago the Youth Services Librarian was the only other management position at the library and when they reclassified, they made it as if it was going to be the second in command when the director's not there, but the position never developed that way. She said they got a Reference and Technology Librarian who is the person in charge in the absence of the director, and now Youth Services is at a higher level than the person who is actually in charge, so it makes sense to switch them to the proper labor grades. She said

they want to hire a new Youth Services Librarian but not until it falls within what's actually happening in reality. Mr. Gennette asked the funding difference. Ms. Rickson said ones recently filled and one's going to be filled and both will be at the bottoms of their labor grades, and because the person who vacated one position was at the top of the M3, there is an instant \$20,000 savings. Mr. Strange said switching the M3 to the M2 is a wash but the M3 being demoted was at a \$92,000 salary budgeted for fiscal 27, and the new replacement would probably be around a \$68,000 salary, which is the savings delta. Mr. Gennette said it's a nice budget savings. Ms. Rickson said not specifically because they're flipping but because both will be making the lower end of the scales. Mr. Alves said one of these is next year's budget. Ms. Rickson said this one would be effective immediately so they can fill the positions. Mr. Alves said adult reference. Ms. Rickson said yes, the adult reference is currently at 60 something thousand as an M2 step one or two and is second in command when she's not there. She said the M3 is vacant and they want to move the M2 above and the M3 below and that one will also be somewhere in the lower 60s. Mr. Alves said that's youth services. Ms. Rickson said yes. Mr. Alves asked if that is different from the youth services assistant. Ms. Rickson said the assistant is a separate thing to talk about. **Motion made by Mr. Alves** to reclass the adult reference/technology librarian from M2 to M3 and youth services librarian from M3 to M2. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.** Mr. Gennette said as far as the youth services assistant part-time and the change they're talking about, the \$20,000 savings and the 22,737 cost are pretty much a wash for the budget. Mr. Strange said plus the benefits. Ms. Rickson said that would be reclassifying from a part-time 18-hour-a-week to a full-time 35-hour-a-week at a NU7 step one. Mr. Alves said that one was already contemplated and is already built in. Mr. Strange said they talked about it but the Board hasn't voted yet. Mr. Rosenblum said it is built into the number they got last meeting.

Board review and discuss Annual Town Meeting warrant articles.

Mr. Strange went through the Town Meeting warrant articles, noting Article 1 is Town Officer Reports and Article 2 is committee reports. Article 3 would use reserve funds to purchase electronic voting devices for \$8,200, enhancing transparency and efficiency. Article 4 would change the bylaw to allow the devices. Article 5 is the budget. Article 6 is revolving funds. Article 7 is the Commission on Disability funding of \$4,900. Article 8 is for Celebrate Ludlow, which needs more funding beyond the \$5,000 community funding. Article 9 is the annual Chapter 90 acceptance. Article 10 is MASS DOT contracting. Article 11 is Capital Improvements. Article 12 is the DIFF Special Revenue Fund, likely paving Steven Street. Article 13 is the Finance Committee Reserve Fund. Article 14 is the Building Infrastructure Fund. Article 15 is \$300,000 for general stabilization. Article 16 is LHS Turf Field Replacement Fund, adding \$100,000 annually. Article 17 is Radio Communications Maintenance. Article 19 is seed money for the Capital Stabilization Fund. Article 20 is seed money for the Park and Rec Capital Stabilization Fund. Article 21 dedicates \$200,000 for the OPEB trust fund. Mr. Gennette and Mr. Strange discussed OPEB and cemetery perpetual care.

Article 22 requests \$10,000 for Ms. Sunnarborg to implement Housing Production Plan recommendations. Article 24 moves the town election to the third Monday in May, and Article 25 moves Town Meeting to the first Monday in April, to avoid unbudgeted special elections and allow newly elected Select Board members more time before budget votes. Article 26 changes references from Board of Public Works to Select Board. Article 27 is amendments to the Unreasonable Noise bylaw. Mr. Rosenblum explained adding decibel limits of 65 from 7 AM–10 PM and 50 from 10 PM–7 AM to give police guidelines. Mr. Gennette raised concerns that allowing 50 decibels at night could permit middle-of-the-night noise and might tank the article. The Board debated construction hours, dumpsters, enforcement, business hours, and whether decibels should be included at night. Mr. Alves said he was not a fan of re-litigating something they just approved and wanted to see how the current bylaw works first. Mr. Sanches noted construction is permitted only 7 AM–8 PM and generally prohibited on Sundays. The Board discussed that dumpster pickup times complicate enforcement and contract costs. The discussion continued on whether to keep or pull the decibel article, with differing opinions on public support and timing. Mr. Silva said the Board had previously told residents they would add decibels, so he felt it should go forward. Mr. Rosenblum said the article barely passed last time. Article 28 is a petition for additional alcohol licenses—three on-premises consumption—to support economic development,

especially on East Street and at the mills. Mr. Rosenblum explained it would not add liquor stores but allow restaurants flexibility.

Article 31 restructures the Recreation Department by making the Recreation Commission an appointed board and placing personnel under the DPW and Select Board for day-to-day management. Mr. Strange said this requires a local act. The senior work abatement article matches features of the veteran abatement program. Mr. Rosenblum asked to return to the stretch code. Mr. Alves said he misunderstood earlier and was concerned about enforcement and whether it would create a “paper tiger.” They discussed the ACO’s warnings and whether the policy is fully developed. Mr. Gennette said the ACO brought forward extensive policy ideas and they had to pick and choose. Mr. Alves and Mr. Sanches raised concerns about wording and enforcement, such as volunteers feeding cats being held responsible. Mr. Silva suggested pulling the article. Mr. Strange explained the ACO’s budget concerns and why the issue came up. Discussion continued about whether volunteers or random residents would be affected and whether it would discourage calls. The Board leaned toward pulling it. On the stretch code, Mr. Alves said he wouldn’t support it. Mr. Silva said residents don’t have enough information and grant funding can disappear. Mr. Gennette said only four towns in three counties have not adopted it and argued Ludlow should join. Mr. Alves said chasing funding cycles can be risky. The Board debated long-term costs, benefits, energy efficiency, and homeowner impact. Mr. Sanches recommended letting precinct members decide, noting 300 communities are on board and builders likely won’t reduce prices based on town differences. Mr. Alves agreed they must remember the Select Board is the one proposing articles and should propose only what they support.

Article 18 Munis

Ms. Ribeiro said from a payroll HR standpoint they are still plugging away, and they stuffed and sent out their final paper paycheck for town employees on April 3rd and will send the final paper payroll for the school department this week. Mr. Strange asked how many employees that is, and Ms. Ribeiro said about 725–750 with seasonals. She explained they could not get rid of paper statements until employees had another avenue to view payroll information and W2s. ESS launched about a month ago, allowing employees to update W4s, state taxes, addresses, and contact information. They are finalizing accruals for the town; many departments such as fire never had sick and vacation tracked in Munis, only pen and paper. She said accrual tables are now set up and by July 1 personal time will be automated and accessible through ESS. Next year they will not mail W2s; active employees will get them online. Mr. Silva asked if mailing W2s was required and Ms. Ribeiro said no, only furnishing by end of January is required.

She described work on job classes, pay codes, and eliminating paper time sheets. She reviews payroll manually every week and hopes to move to direct time entry, noting departments like police and fire will be more challenging. She said this is their progress on Munis for payroll and HR. Mr. Strange said the article would fund more of this work and the improvements from four years ago are unbelievable. Ms. Ribeiro said a big goal is automating personnel actions but they cannot automate promotions, reclassifications, or step increases until all prior information is accurate. ESS is view-only now, but eventually employees will request time off through the system. Mr. Rosenblum compared it to Tyler where he can see accruals and request time off. Ms. Ribeiro said employees can see balances now but not all are accurate yet. Mr. Sanches asked if there is a dollar figure attached and Mr. Strange said a hundred thousand.

Article 23

Mr. Strange said the bond request has come to Town Meeting three times because Town Meeting meets twice a year and costs keep escalating between estimates and bids, forcing repeated returns. Last year the estimate was about \$3.8 million; they pulled the bid due to fiscal 26 budget impact. Tighe & Bond is preparing a new cost estimate, expected tomorrow. He said the project is an upgrade and rewiring of the very old HVAC system, and the chief has to go into the attic to turn it on. It will be a debt exclusion, meaning outside the operating budget, and if Town Meeting approves it, it becomes a ballot question requiring a special election in June.

Chief Pease said it is one item—the HVAC. He described the system as failing and likely to critically fail, requiring him or the deputy to go on the roof and use a cordless screw gun to

adjust the only thermostat. He said there are multiple problems, the system is over 30 years old, and he has explained them before. Mr. Rosenblum recalled it started at about \$550,000. Chief Pease said they were going to use COVID money, but building codes triggered sprinklers, ADA compliance, and substantial renovation. He said the longer the delay, the higher the cost. He noted skyrocketing prices since COVID and said they need a compliant system.

Mr. Gennette said the project escalated from \$250,000 to over \$5 million and he pushed back when it got out of control but understands code triggers increased the scope. Chief Brennan and Chief Pease said the scope of work expanded and the original system may never have been installed correctly. Costs climbed from 2.4 to 2.8 to 3.8 million. Mr. Gennette questioned how costs dropped from earlier highs. Chief Pease said he had no explanation and that engineers are designing the system, not them. Mr. Gennette stressed protecting taxpayers while acknowledging the chiefs must protect people on their side. Mr. Silva said if it's a lot of money it might not pass in town. Chief Pease warned that if it breaks, the town will have to deal with health risks. Mr. Gennette said he wants the system but cannot sign off without cost constraints. Mr. Alves said the cost "is what it is" and they need to bring it to Town Meeting because people are working in a building that isn't functioning. He said he'll support it on the floor. Chief Pease said the cost is not going down. Mr. Gennette said it is still below the previous \$5 million peak. Chief Brennan suggested walking away previously may have reduced the number. Mr. Gennette said they only know dollars and cents and react when things appear unreasonable. Chief Pease assured they were not "pulling the wool over."

Mr. Rosenblum said the final cost will be determined by bids and the twice-a-year Town Meeting structure contributes to cost increases because delays push estimates higher. He said a different form of government could approve things faster. He recalled hearing the original \$550,000 presentation years ago and said the town could have completed it for less had it not been delayed. He supports moving it to Town Meeting because the system needs to be fixed and not doing so is a disservice to public safety services.

Article 29 Child Safety Zones Bylaw

Chief Brennan said the bylaw would create a child safety zone in town-owned buildings, particularly the libraries and leased buildings like the Boys and Girls Club. He said this was brought to him by the library and the Boys and Girls Club. Some towns already have such a bylaw; the state legislature considered it but left it to municipalities. He said it would prohibit certain sex offenders—level two or level three, especially those whose victims were children—from entering town-owned buildings, with exceptions for voting. He said some towns that border Ludlow restrict level twos and threes from their libraries, so they come to Ludlow because there's no restriction. He said people assume level three automatically restricts them, but unless it's a current condition of release it does not. This bylaw would give authority to restrict access.

Mr. Gennette said sold. Mr. Silva said he is all in but noted it looked like offenders couldn't leave their house, but Chief Brennan clarified it only applies to town property. Mr. Gennette said he doesn't know how they don't already do this and believes Town Meeting will be unanimous. Mr. Rosenblum agreed and said he doesn't think there will be a problem.

Article 30 Virtual Cryptocurrency ATM Bylaw

Chief Brennan said cryptocurrency or Bitcoin machines, of which there are currently two in town, are often used by thieves to defraud residents, especially seniors. He said the senior center director immediately recognized the issue. Scammers solicit someone, direct them to a Bitcoin machine, and once funds are put in and transferred it is almost impossible to trace. Mr. Silva said he had seen reports warning the elderly and asked if this was related. Chief Brennan said exactly, and that other towns have enacted something similar. The language in the proposed bylaw was borrowed from South Hadley's version, which passed Attorney General review. He said the two existing machines would have a number of days to be pulled.

Mr. Gennette asked about locations, mentioning the Mobil station. Chief Brennan said it wasn't there anymore; the two are at Uncle Bob's and Cumberland Farms on East Street. Mr. Gennette clarified that the machines themselves are not designed to defraud people,

but people use them as a vehicle. Chief Brennan said they are ostensibly for legitimate purposes but heavily used in fraud, and if someone wanted to invest in Bitcoin they don't need an ATM. Mr. Strange asked if it gives you a Bitcoin. Mr. Alves said it's an access point that gives currency. Chief Brennan said scammers direct victims exactly what to do. Mr. Rosenblum said they obviously want to protect seniors, a growing population in town.

Article 32 Stretch Code

Ms. Church introduced herself as the Building Commissioner. Mr. Rosenblum asked for her thoughts. Ms. Church explained that the 10th edition of the base code from 2020 is, in her opinion, just as restrictive as the stretch code in many areas, though there are differences. She said base code allows a prescriptive compliance path, while the stretch code emphasizes performance and HERS ratings. She described Massachusetts' aggressive goal to be net-zero by 2050 and said she could provide bulletins outlining the differences.

Mr. Silva asked about benefits and funding, recalling his office discussion with her. He said she told him the funding was insignificant compared to the increased costs to the public and contractors, and he described HERS complications and the \$30,000–\$40,000 added cost to build a stretch code house. Ms. Church said stretch code requires homes to be solar ready and EV ready. She confirmed 51 municipalities have not adopted it out of 351. Mr. Silva argued towns adopted it because of promised money like Palmer's \$1.2 million since 2009, which averaged to only \$30,000–\$40,000 per year. He said the stretch code makes modest housing unaffordable.

Ms. Church agreed she sees the same problems in the field. She described early issues like houses being so tight they needed mechanical fans installed for condensation. She said she supports building better-insulated homes but questioned "where do you say that's enough." Mr. Silva said he is building an all-electric home because he wants to but opposes forcing costly requirements on people. Ms. Church agreed that solar-ready requirements and solar panel lifecycle issues pose problems, noting panels become hazardous waste and contracts don't always save money.

Mr. Gennette asked whether such issues still occur. Ms. Church said yes. He asked whether contractors building in other stretch code towns change their practices in Ludlow. Ms. Church said overall they still build to those standards because the base code's prescriptive path can be more expensive than HERS compliance. She agreed that the new base code and stretch code costs are relative. Over 20 years the codes have aligned more. She said parts of the stretch code are already folded into the base code.

Mr. Gennette said they will eventually get to full adoption anyway, and contractors won't change prices in Ludlow. He argued they are leaving at least \$125,000 in designation grant money on the table and will end up complying in four years regardless. Ms. Church said she couldn't disagree. Mr. Rosenblum cautioned that grant money dries up and long-term costs often return to towns. They discussed net-zero goals, home values, and being wary of funding timelines.

Ms. Church said solar ready means wiring in place but not live, and EV ready is similar. She said stretch code requires higher insulation R-values, and the code has shifted over time. Additions of 1,000 square feet or more would require HERS ratings under stretch code, with variables depending on the project.

Mr. Rosenblum said they must consider all factors. Ms. Church said she is not against energy efficiency but questioned upfront costs. Mr. Rosenblum said he hopes grant money remains. Mr. Silva noted the significant work needed to qualify as a Green Community. Mr. Strange said stretch code is one of five criteria. Ms. Church said it is voluntary but widely adopted and often required for Green Communities designation. She questioned why something "so beneficial" needs to be tied to incentives and said after 20 years they haven't necessarily seen the benefit.

Mr. Silva said other building inspectors share her views. Ms. Church said commissioners are struggling with the 10th edition's complexity. She said her staff has worked to turn things around. Mr. Gennette said the community speaks highly of her work and he appreciates

what she has done. Ms. Church thanked him and said they work hard to keep things moving in the right direction.

Article 34 Regulation of Feral Cats.

Ms. Anderson said two feral cats in a five-year plan can be responsible for 8,615 extra cats and explained how repeated litters rapidly multiply. She said Ludlow has not had anyone controlling the feral cat population in years and it is rampant, noting she picks up deceased feral cats weekly in spring and recently caught two winter litters. She said kittens must be caught before 12 weeks or they remain feral. She said one local rescue, Halfway Home Cat Rescue, is trying but it is only one person, and she has been “chipping away” for four or five years.

She said this ordinance came about because she encountered an injured feral cat under a deck whose feeder had been feeding it since 2017 but said it wasn't her responsibility. Ms. Anderson said she is not trying to stop people from feeding feral cats but wants to know where colonies are so she can apply for grants and help with trap-neuter-release. She said feral cats cost her budget money and multiply costs when multiplied across the town. She said she wants people feeding feral cats to be responsible and that registering colonies would help; trap, neuter and release works but takes time.

Mr. Silva read the definition of feral cat. Ms. Anderson explained she is not licensing cats; the bylaw wording uses that category but it is not a license. She said knowing where colonies are would help because many people dump food with no oversight and neighbors complain. She said right now it is a free-for-all with no structure and she can only give suggestions. She said the ordinance would give her tools if someone refuses to keep areas clean or refuses to trap, neuter, and vaccinate. She said she cannot adopt out feral cats or relocate them.

Mr. Gennette asked about Section 6.2 regarding volunteers and colony caretakers, wanting to be sure they are not taking on ACO responsibilities. Ms. Anderson said complaints are completely hers and that wording could be changed. She said she wants feeders to take some responsibility because she sees severely injured cats that have been fed for years. She emphasized feral cats are wild animals, can carry rabies, and trap-neuter-release includes rabies vaccinations and clipped ears. She said she is not asking anyone to catch cats themselves but wants awareness so she can seek grants and help with supplies. She said she cannot remove feral cats except to release or euthanize.

Mr. Sanches asked about the last sentence of Article 34 regarding responsibility shifting to residents. Ms. Anderson said she has mixed emotions because if someone has fed a cat since 2013, that is their animal, but it is also a stray. She said she gets many calls about injured feral cats from people who then say it is not their problem. She said she tries to get people to trap cats themselves, and nothing legally requires it to go through animal control. She said the line about responsibility could be removed if it jeopardizes passage.

Mr. Alves asked about violations and enforcement. Ms. Anderson said last year she would have given at least 10 warnings. She explained she would enforce it, writing citations with 21 days to pay or contest. If unpaid, police send it to court. She said she is lenient with warnings but repeated issues lead to fines, and the goal is responsibility for animals being fed.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

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 said he wanted to thank Jeff Stratton for coming in earlier and said they had a really good superintendent search committee. He congratulated Mrs. Cournoyer for getting the position, saying she was arguably the strongest candidate and that it was good they already have a contract with her nearly finalized.

Mr. Rosenblum said the Mobile Home Rent Control Board met and made a decision on the rent increase—stay the same, decrease, or increase. He said the owner wanted an increase

from 195 to basically 495, 496, and the Board decided, based on possible undue burden to the residents, to reduce it to 390. He said he expects some openings on that board soon.

Mr. Alves announced town events: the Rotary Heart of the Community Celebration on Friday at 7:00 PM at Gremio Lusitano Club; the Town of Ludlow Memorial Day Parade on May 25th at 10:00 AM, noting that organizations can join by emailing Ludlowma250@gmail.com by May 1st; and the town-wide Community Cleanup Day on May 2nd at 9:00 AM at the Veterans Memorial, with information available on the town website or Ludlow.veterans.us.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Mr. Alves said that a few weeks ago he was at the senior center for a 100th birthday and presented a citation on behalf of the board to Miss Miriam Stone, wishing her a happy 100th birthday. He also said he attended the Easter egg hunt at the library with his daughter and appreciated how it was done, coloring eggs ahead of time and then finding specific eggs, which helped the younger children.

Mr. Silva congratulated Tony. Mr. Sanches thanked all the voters who voted, appreciated the support, and said he is looking forward to working with everyone and getting things done. Mr. Gennette also thanked Tony for running and said he appreciates that he's here and that he's going to be an excellent select person.

Mr. Rosenblum said someone reached out to him about Codtober Fest, spring fling edition, for Cali Codding, who is now awaiting a heart transplant. It will be Sunday, May 3rd, 12 to 6 PM at Vanished Valley with raffle items and food. He noted Amanda Codding is on the school committee. He congratulated Tony and thanked him. He said he would like to get boards and departments in more often to help the budget process. He thanked everyone who has run for or served in positions and asked that more people volunteer.

Motion made by Mr. Alves to adjourn the Select Board meeting at 11:10 P.M. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**


_____ Chairman



_____ Ludlow Select Board

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