

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
HAMPDEN, SS**

To Ms. Kim Batista, Town Clerk of the Town of Ludlow, Massachusetts in said County:

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
2025 APR 23 A 8:06

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town qualified to vote on Town affairs to meet at the **Ludlow High School Auditorium**, 500 Chapin Street, Ludlow, Massachusetts on **Monday, May 11, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.**, and if the Auditorium of the LUDLOW HIGH SCHOOL, shall not, in the opinion of the Moderator, be adequate to contain such inhabitants who shall meet, then to meet also in such other locations in the LUDLOW HIGH SCHOOL as the Moderator deems appropriate, at such time and place then and there for the purpose of acting on the following articles in the warrant.

ARTICLE 1: TOWN OFFICER REPORTS

To hear and act on the reports of the Town Officers.

Pass any vote or take any action relative thereto. Submitted by the Select Board.

Article 1 Explanation: The Town Bylaws call for the Select Board to print a report "For distribution at least seven days before the Annual Town Meeting" containing the records and reports of the Select Board and all official boards, committees, commissions, town officers and librarians for the preceding year. This falls under Chapter II Section 3 of the Town Bylaws and the report must be presented to the Town Meeting and officially accepted by it.

ARTICLE 2: TOWN COMMITTEE REPORTS

To hear and act on the reports of the outstanding committees appointed pursuant to prior warrants and continued at each succeeding meeting and to continue said committees further, unless discharged by vote of this body.

Pass any vote or take any action relative thereto. Submitted by the Select Board.

Article 2 Explanation: Chapter I, Section 33 of the Town Bylaws reads as follows: "A vote to accept a report of a committee shall, unless otherwise provided, discharge the committee: but it shall not operate as an adoption of the recommendation of such committee without an express vote duly passed to that effect."

ARTICLE 3: ELECTRONIC VOTING DEVICES

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the purchase of electronic devices to be used to record Town Meeting members' votes.

Pass any vote or take any action relative thereto. Submitted by the Select Board.

Article 3 Explanation: The EZ VOTE system is used by many cities and towns to automate record keeping, and speeds up and replaces hand, voice, and paper votes. The way the system works is that each voting member is handed a keypad. The keypad has 5 voting buttons, including buttons marked Yes, No, Abstain. Prior to the event, motions or warrant items are typed into the voting software that comes with the system. When it is time for a vote, the warrant item is displayed on a main screen, the moderator then opens the vote, and the participants press the button on their voting device to approve of or disapprove of the warrant item. The audience can see within the software that votes are registered in the system. When the moderator closes the vote, the system automatically calculates the votes and displays if the warrant item has passed or failed,

The biggest benefits of the system reported by other towns are:

- *The system records each Town Meeting member's vote, which is recommended for Representative Town Meetings*
- *The system quickly calculates a simple majority, 2/3 majority, and 4/5 majority requirements*
- *The system produces a permanent record of each warrant vote*
- *The system is a lifesaver during contentious votes*
- *The system is a one-time purchase*
- *The system comes with Live Instructor Led training and Phone, email, and chat support*

If approved, the first Town Meeting to use these devices would be October 2026. It is anticipated that a 2/3 majority vote will be necessary to pass this article. See Attachment A.3.

ARTICLE 4: TOWN MEETING VOTING

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town Bylaws by amending Sec. I-21, "Town meeting voting requirements," as follows:

All voting **on warrant articles** in town meeting shall be **made by electronic voting devices. In the event the electronic voting devices are not available for use, then the vote shall be made** by show of hands. **Procedural votes may be made by a show of hands.** If the result is in doubt, or if a vote declared by the moderator is immediately questioned by seven or more town meeting members, the moderator shall divide the meeting by taking a standing vote.

If a two-thirds vote for an action at a town meeting is required by statute, the moderator in accordance with General Laws chapter 39, section 15, as amended, may dispense with the requirement for taking a count of the vote if the moderator, in his discretion and without taking a count, determines that two-thirds of those voting supported the action.

Pass any vote or take any action relative thereto. Submitted by the Select Board.

Article 4 Explanation: Electronic voting is used by many cities and towns because it increases efficiency and transparency in making and recording Town Meeting votes. This bylaw changes would allow voting by electronic devices in future Town Meetings.

ARTICLE 5: FY27 BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or otherwise provide such sums of money as may be necessary for Town purposes and charges during Fiscal Year 2027 to fund the first year of a 2-year contract with the Ludlow Supervisors & Patrolmen's Unions and to fix the salary of all elected officials of the Town for the same Fiscal Year, beginning July 1, 2026.

Pass any vote or take any action relative thereto. Submitted by the Select Board.

Article 5 Explanation: This is the Omnibus Budget Article, which allows the Town to raise sufficient funds as it deems necessary to defray all charges and expenses that it will incur during the upcoming fiscal year. This Article eliminates the need for the printing and reading of a warrant article for each departmental budget, segregates each department's funds and provides a mechanism for Town Meeting members to be able to vote on each segregated budget. Also, Chapter 41, Section 108 of the Massachusetts General Laws provides that the salary and compensation of all officials of a town be fixed annually by a vote of the Town Meeting. See Attachment A.5.

ARTICLE 6: REVOLVING FUNDS

To see if the Town will vote to establish the annual expenditure limits for each of the following already established revolving funds for the use by certain Town departments, boards, committees, agencies or officers pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, § 53E ½ as outlined in the Town of Ludlow General Bylaws, **Chapter 2, Section 42: DEPARTMENTAL REVOLVING FUNDS** and printed below.

On-Site Sewage	\$24,000
CPR Training	\$25,000
Vaccine	\$20,000
Consultants	\$50,000
Wetlands	\$80,000
Purple Bags	\$55,000
Dog Park	\$5,000

Pass any vote or take any action relative thereto. Submitted by the Select Board.

Article 6 Explanation: This article will be setting the expenditures for the already established revolving funds outlined in the General Bylaws, Chapter 2, Section 42: Departmental Revolving Funds.

ARTICLE 7: COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money to be expended by the Commission on Disability, with the approval of the Select Board, for trainings, marketing materials, supplies, and other expenses related to the Commission on Disability.

Pass any vote or take any action relative thereto. Submitted by the Select Board.

Article 7 Explanation: This article will fund expenses, not to exceed \$4,900, expended by the Commission on Disability for training, marketing materials, supplies and other expenses.

ARTICLE 8: CELEBRATE LUDLOW

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money to be expended by the Celebrate Ludlow Committee, with the approval of the Select Board, for marketing materials, supplies, and other expenses related to the Celebrate Ludlow Committee.

Pass any vote or take any action relative thereto. Submitted by the Select Board.

Article 8 Explanation: This article will fund expenses, not to exceed \$5,000, expended by the Celebrate Ludlow Committee for marketing materials, supplies and other expenses.

ARTICLE 9: CHAPTER 90 FUNDS

To see if the Town will vote to accept and appropriate all State Chapter 90 Highway Aid Funds for engineering, construction, reconstruction and/or repairs to Town roads and bridges.

Pass any vote or take any action relative thereto. Submitted by the Select Board.

Article 9 Explanation: This is a standard article that authorizes the Select Board to utilize funds made available from the State through Chapter 90 programs for various road construction and maintenance projects directed by the Select Board. The estimated State Chapter 90 apportionment received for fiscal year 2027 is \$1,093,781. No Town funding is required for this article.

ARTICLE 10: MASS DOT CONTRACT

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to enter a contract, upon such terms and conditions as deemed necessary and appropriate by the Select Board and which may exceed three years, with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation for the construction and maintenance of public roads for the ensuing years.

Pass any vote or take any action relative thereto. Submitted by the Select Board.

Article 10 Explanation: This article authorizes the Select Board to enter a contract with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to accept all Chapter 90 funds, allocated to the Town from the State for construction and maintenance of road projects. No Town funding is required for this article.

ARTICLE 11: FY27 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds such sums of money as may be necessary for Town Capital Improvements during the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2026 (Fiscal Year 2027).

Pass any vote or take any action relative thereto. Submitted by the Select Board.

Article 11 Explanation: This article appropriates funds as will be necessary for Town Capital Improvements during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026. It is anticipated that a 2/3 majority vote will be necessary to pass this article. See Attachment A.11.

ARTICLE 12: DIF SPECIAL REVENUE FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the Fiscal Year 2027 DIF Special Revenue Fund.

Pass any vote or take any action relative thereto. Submitted by the Select Board.

Article 12 Explanation: In October 2025, Town Meeting authorized the creation of a District Improvement Financing (DIF) Special Revenue Fund, which will be used to pay for infrastructure and other improvements within the DIF district. The funds are derived from new development and new growth within the district with the idea that increased tax revenue resulting from the new development can be used to improve its infrastructure. The Town intends to move forward with repaving Stevens Street in FY27. It is anticipated that a 2/3 majority vote will be necessary to pass this article. See Attachment A.12.

ARTICLE 13: RESERVE FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the Fiscal Year 2027 Reserve Fund.

Pass any vote or take any action relative thereto. Submitted by the Select Board.

Article 13 Explanation: Chapter 40, Section 6 of the Massachusetts General Laws allows towns to appropriate money into a Reserve Fund for "extraordinary or unforeseen circumstances." The amount so appropriated may not exceed five percent of the tax levy of the current fiscal year. Transfers from

this fund may be authorized from time to time. It is anticipated that a 2/3 majority vote will be necessary to pass this article.

ARTICLE 14: BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money to fund the Building Infrastructure Fund which was established at the October 1, 2012 Special Town Meeting, Article 17 and to authorize the Select Board to expend such funds for the purpose of assessing and addressing the repairs, maintenance and construction of municipal buildings.

Pass any vote or take any action relative thereto. Submitted by the Select Board.

Article 14 Explanation: This article will appropriate \$200,000 for the Building Infrastructure Article, which was established at the October 1, 2012, Special Town Meeting and authorize the Select Board to expend such funds for the purpose of assessing and addressing the repairs, maintenance and construction of municipal buildings. It is anticipated that a 2/3 majority vote will be necessary to pass this article.

ARTICLE 15: GENERAL STABILIZATION FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money for deposit into the General Stabilization Fund.

Pass any vote or take any action relative thereto. Submitted by the Select Board.

Article 15 Explanation: Chapter 40, Section 5B of the Massachusetts General Laws authorizes the establishment of a Stabilization Fund and is generally utilized for long-term capital projects. An appropriation into the Stabilization Fund requires a two-thirds vote of approval at an Annual or Special Town Meeting. It is anticipated that a 2/3 majority vote will be necessary to pass this article.

ARTICLE 16: LHS TURF FIELD REPLACEMENT FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money for deposit into the LHS Turf Field Stabilization Fun.

Pass any vote or take any action relative thereto. Submitted by the Select Board.

Article 16 Explanation: The new turf field at Ludlow High School has an estimated life expectancy of between 10-15 years depending on weather, wear-and-tear, and regular maintenance. Annually funding this new stabilization fund will allow the town to replace the field in the future without incurring a large one-time capital expense. It is anticipated that a 2/3 majority vote will be necessary to pass this article.

ARTICLE 17: RADIO COMMUNICATIONS MAINTENANCE FUNDING

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money for maintenance of the interdepartmental operational radio communications system.

Pass any vote or take any action relative thereto. Submitted by the Select Board.

Article 17 Explanation: Town Meeting approved this agreement at its May 10, 2021 meeting. This article would authorize the use of Free Cash to pay for the maintenance of the radio communications system. It is anticipated that a 2/3 majority vote will be necessary to pass this article.

ARTICLE 18: MUNIS IMPROVEMENTS

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money to optimize MUNIS ERP system functionality, workflows, and core business processes.

Pass any vote or take any action relative thereto. Submitted by the Select Board.

Article 18 Explanation: Both the town and schools rely on MUNIS for its enterprise resource planning, which includes processing payroll, processing accounts payable, tracking employee information, the general ledger, producing W-2s and 1099s, creating purchase orders, and much more. Though the town and schools have access to most modules offered in MUNIS, there has not been a concerted effort to configure the system to optimize performance and make staff efforts optimal. Nor has there been a targeted training program. This appropriation would reassess and refine enterprise-wide system functionality; optimize workflows and core modules; address system configuration gaps and inefficiencies; improve reporting accuracy, data integrity, and transparency; provide training for core functional teams and promote adoption of Department of Local Services guidelines. It is anticipated that a 2/3 majority vote will be necessary to pass this article. See Attachment A.18.

ARTICLE 19: CAPITAL STABILIZATION FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money for deposit into the Capital Stabilization Fund.

Pass any vote or take any action relative thereto. Submitted by the Select Board.

Article 19 Explanation: Established in October 2025 by Town Meeting, the Capital Stabilization Fund is designed to fund capital projects in the future and in the long-term. This appropriation would establish "seed money" for the fund to be used for future capital purchases. It is anticipated that a 2/3 majority vote will be necessary to pass this article.

ARTICLE 20: PARK & REC CAPITAL STABILIZATION FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money for deposit into the Park & Rec Capital Stabilization Fund.

Pass any vote or take any action relative thereto. Submitted by the Select Board.

Article 20 Explanation: Established in October 2025 by Town Meeting, the Capital Stabilization Fund is designed to fund capital projects in the future and in the long-term. This appropriation would establish "seed money" for the fund to be used for future capital purchases. It is anticipated that a 2/3 majority vote will be necessary to pass this article.

ARTICLE 21: OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money for deposit into the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) fund.

Pass any vote or take any action relative thereto. Submitted by the Select Board.

Article 21 Explanation: This article will appropriate funds for the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) fund. OPEB refers to benefits, other than pension, offered to employees after they leave employment. The most common benefits are medical, dental, and life insurance. The management of the town's OPEB liability (including the level of funding) is one element that rating agencies consider when determining a municipality's bond rating. It is anticipated that a 2/3 majority vote will be necessary to pass this article.

ARTICLE 22: HOUSING PRODUCTION CONSULTANT

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money to fund a consultant to implement the town's Housing Production Plan.

Pass any vote or take any action relative thereto. Submitted by the Planning Board.

Article 22 Explanation: At the March 26th, 2026, meeting, the Planning Board voted to request \$10,000 for consulting services from Karen Sunnarborg. Ms. Sunnarborg previously worked with the town through a grant to develop our Housing Production Plan. That plan outlines strategies to help the town address housing needs, including affordability, availability, and compliance with state goals. Ms. Sunnarborg's familiarity with our plan and community makes her uniquely qualified to assist with that next phase. The requested funding will support targeted consulting services to help the Planning Board prioritize actions, navigate state requirements, and position the town to access potential funding opportunities tied to housing initiatives. It is anticipated that a 2/3 majority vote will be necessary to pass this article.

ARTICLE 23: PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX HVAC BOND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or borrow a sum of money for the purpose of designing, constructing, reconstructing, remodeling, adding to, equipping and furnishing the Public Safety Complex with a new HVAC system, including the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto; to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, to borrow such sums under and pursuant to G.L. c.44, §7(1), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; to authorize the Select Board to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out this project; provided, however, that this vote shall not take effect until the Town votes to exempt from the limitation on total taxes imposed by G.L. c.59, §21C (Proposition 2½) the amounts required to pay the principal of and interest on the borrowing authorized for this project, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by the Select Board.

Article 23 Explanation: In May 2023, Town Meeting authorized a bond in the amount of \$2.4 million to upgrade the HVAC system at the public safety complex. That \$2.4 million authorization was based upon an informed estimate of cost provided by the town's engineering consultant. However, an updated estimate of cost was required to secure bonding funds, and the new estimate came in about \$400,000 more than the original cost estimate—derived from a more thorough investigation of the issues and increased cost of materials—resulting in an increased estimated cost of \$2.8 million. In My 2024, Town Meeting approved the additional \$400,000 in the bond for a total of \$2.8 million. In February 2025, the Town received an updated estimate of cost of \$3.9 million and put the project out to bid. Before the final bids were received, however, the Capital Improvement Planning Committee voted to not recommend approval of the project due to the increased cost considering the FY26 town budget situation; so, the public bid was taken down. The Town has received a new estimated cost of construction in the amount of \$6,852,061, which includes construction and construction administration costs. Due to the cost increases since May 2024, the Town is proposing a debt exclusion to cover these costs, which means the annual cost of the bond will not impact on the Town's restrictions under Proposition 2.5 and makes the project possible under current conditions. The estimated annual cost for the median assessed home (\$369,000) would be around \$55 per year. See Attachment A.23.

ARTICLE 24: ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION DATE

To see if the Town will vote to amend section I-3 – “Annual town election date” of the Town Bylaws as follows:

The annual town election will be held on the fourth ~~third~~ Monday in ~~March~~ May on which day shall be held the annual election of town officers and the determination of such matters as are required to be determined by ballot.

Pass any vote or take any action relative thereto. Submitted by the Select Board.

Article 24 Explanation: The annual town election is held prior to Town Meeting every year. This timing creates multiple operational inefficiencies for the Town. First, with the elections being held in March,

newly elected members of the Select Board are injected into the annual budget and Town Meeting warrant creation processes with one or two meetings left before the Board is required to vote on recommendations. That is hardly enough time for a new member to acclimate to their new role or otherwise understand the nuances involved in these processes. Also, when there is a Town Meeting article that also requires a ballot question be placed on the annual town election—and that article passes—then the Town must either hold a special town election (with an estimated cost of \$25,000) or wait until the following March for the next town election, which can interfere with cost estimates and otherwise make projects more difficult to educate the public.

A state regulation requires 35 calendar days between the Select Board vote to put a question on an election ballot and the election itself. With Town Meeting being held on the first Monday in April, the Select Board will be able to vote to place the question on the Town Election ballot at their first Tuesday meeting in April with the Town Election to be held on the third Monday in May.

ARTICLE 25: ANNUAL TOWN MEETING DATE

To see if the Town will vote to amend section I-8 – “Town meeting dates and agenda topics” of the Town Bylaws as follows:

The annual town meeting shall meet regularly on the second first Monday of ~~May~~ April at 7:30 p.m. to consider and adopt an annual operating and capital budget, and to act upon such other business as may properly come before the meeting, except the election of officers and the determination of such matters as are required by law to be determined by ballot. The October special town meeting shall meet regularly on the first Monday of October at 7:30 p.m. to consider and act on matters of planning, zoning, subdivision control, and all other matters of a bylaw nature, as well as to consider and act upon such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Pass any vote or take any action relative thereto. Submitted by the Select Board.

Article 25 Explanation: The annual town election is held prior to Town Meeting every year. This timing creates multiple operational inefficiencies for the Town. First, with the elections being held in March, newly elected members of the Select Board are injected into the annual budget and Town Meeting warrant creation processes with one or two meetings left before the Board is required to vote on recommendations. That is hardly enough time for a new member to acclimate to their new role or otherwise understand the nuances involved in these processes. Also, when there is a Town Meeting article that also requires a ballot question be placed on the annual town election—and that article passes—then the Town must either hold a special town election (with an estimated cost of \$25,000) or wait until the following March for the next town election, which can interfere with cost estimates and otherwise make projects more difficult to educate the public.

A state regulation requires 35 calendar days between the Select Board vote to put a question on an election ballot and the election itself. With Town Meeting being held on the first Monday in April, the Select Board will be able to vote to place the question on the Town Election ballot at their first Tuesday meeting in April with the Town Election to be held on the third Monday in May.

ARTICLE 26: CHANGE "BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS" TO "SELECT BOARD"

To see if the Town will vote to amend the town's bylaws by replacing all references to "Board of Public Works" to "Select Board," and to authorize the Town Clerk to make non-substantive editorial revisions to correct an scrivener's errors and/or to ensure consistent and appropriate replacements and references to "Select Board" in the General Bylaws.

Pass any vote or take any action relative thereto. Submitted by the Select Board.

Article 26 Explanation: The town previously voted to dissolve the Board of Public Works (BPW's) and have the Select Board absorb the BPW's authority and responsibilities. This article would replace "Board of Public Works" references in the Town Bylaws to "Select Board" to make the bylaws consistent with the change approved by voters.

ARTICLE 27: UNREASONABLE NOISE BYLAW AMENDMENT

To see if the Town will vote to amend section IV-36 – "Unreasonable Noise" of the Town Bylaws as follows:

Sec. IV-36 – Unreasonable Noise

(1) Exterior Noise Standards

It shall be unlawful for any person at any location within the Town of Ludlow to create any loud noise, or to allow the creation of a loud noise, on property owned, leased, occupied or otherwise controlled by such person, **which causes the sound level when measured at the property line of the location of the noise or on any other property to exceed the greater of:**

- **65 dBA from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. and**
- **50 dBA from 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.**

(2) Construction Noise Standards

- (a) Noise associated with construction is permitted between 7am and 8pm on weekdays and Saturdays
- (b) Between the hours of 8pm and 7am, noise associated with construction shall be limited by the provisions **sound levels** set forth in paragraph (1) of this section.
- (c) Construction activities are generally prohibited on Sundays.

(3) Maintenance Noise Standards

- (a) Noise associated with maintenance is permitted between 7am and 8pm on weekdays and Saturdays.
- (b) Between the hours of 8pm and 7am on weekdays and Saturdays, noise associated with maintenance shall be limited by the provisions sound levels set forth in paragraph (1) of this section.
- (c) Maintenance activities are generally prohibited on Sundays.

(4) Definitions

For the purposes of this section, these relevant terms are defined as follows:

- (a) *Exterior*—any location sited outside of any structure with weight-bearing walls and intended to provide shelter and protection from inclement weather or similar hazards.
- (b) *Construction*—the process involved with erecting buildings, structures, infrastructure, industrial facilities, and associated activities, including demolition, dismantling, or decommissioning of the same.
- (c) *Maintenance*—the process involved in maintaining or preserving a building, structure, infrastructure, industrial facilities, personal property, and associated activities.

(5) Exceptions, Enforcement & Penalties

Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, loud noises resulting from the following situations are excepted from enforcement: (1) town-approved events, (2) transportation infrastructure, (3) public utility work, (4) operations at Westover Air Base; (5) any other use or activity explicitly permitted by the Select Board. The Ludlow Police Department is responsible for enforcing this bylaw to the extent necessary. Furthermore, the Police Department may exercise reasonable discretion in enforcing this section in instances of, for example, emergencies or other special situations. This bylaw shall not prevent the Police Department from relying on M.G.L. chapter 272, section 53; M.G.L. chapter 90, section 16, or any other applicable state law or regulation to enforce unreasonable noise violations. However, any violations of this section of the Town Bylaws shall be punishable by a fine of no more than \$300 per violation.

Pass any vote or take any action relative thereto. Submitted by the Select Board.

Article 27 Explanation: Town Meeting approved the Unreasonable Noise Bylaw in October 2025. Since then, the Town has heard from residents that they prefer more specific metrics to define what an "unreasonable noise" constitutes. Toward that end, the Select Board submits this bylaw amendment, which would create dBA levels to determine when exterior noise is unreasonable.

ARTICLE 28: PETITION FOR ADDITIONAL ALCOHOL LICENSES

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to file a petition within the General Court for special legislation, substantially as set forth below, authorizing the Town to grant additional alcohol licenses; to authorize the General Court to make clerical and editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Select Board approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court; and to authorize the Select Board to approve amendments which shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of the aforesaid petition;

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF LUDLOW TO GRANT AN ADDITIONAL ALL ALCOHOL LICENSE FOR ON PREMISES CONSUMPTION

SECTION 1. (a) Notwithstanding section 17 of chapter 138 of the General Laws, the licensing authority of the town of Ludlow may grant three (3) additional all-alcohol licenses for on-premises consumption pursuant to section 15 of said chapter 138. The license shall be subject to all of said chapter 138 except said section 17.

(b) Upon its initial issuance, the licensing authority of the town of Ludlow may approve the transfer of the license granted pursuant to this act to any other location and it may grant a license to a new applicant at the same location if the applicant files with the licensing authority a letter from the department of revenue and a letter from the department of unemployment assistance indicating that the license is in good standing with those departments and that all applicable taxes, fees and contributions have been paid.

(c) If the license granted pursuant to this act is cancelled, revoked or no longer in use at the location of original issuance, it shall be returned physically, with all of the legal rights, privileges and restrictions pertaining thereto, to the licensing authority and the licensing authority may then grant the license to a new applicant at the same location under the same conditions as specified in this act.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Pass any vote or take any action relative thereto. Submitted by the Select Board.

Article 28 Explanation: As the town's downtown area—which is catalyzed by the Ludlow Mills Campus developments—continues to grow, the Town would be well-served to have additional alcohol licenses available for new restaurants that are interested in operating in Ludlow.

ARTICLE 29: VIRTUAL CRYPTOCURRENCY ATM BYLAW

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town Bylaws by adding Sec. IV-37 to Chapter IV, "Regulating the Conduct of Citizens," as follows:

Virtual Currency Kiosks – Cryptocurrency Automated Teller Machines

1. Purpose and Intent

Virtual currency kiosks and Cryptocurrency Automated Teller Machines are being used by criminals to defraud our citizens. The Town, acting upon reports of the Ludlow Police Department, finds that unregulated virtual currency kiosks and cryptocurrency Automated Teller Machines pose risks to consumers, including financial fraud, money laundering, and lack of recourse for users. Virtual currency kiosks and Cryptocurrency Automated Teller Machines can convert currency into virtual currency instantaneously and irreversibly, which exposes the most vulnerable of our citizens to unnecessary risk. The Town further finds that the current absence of sufficient federal and state consumer protections and regulatory oversight for such devices necessitates a municipal prohibition to safeguard residents and preserve public safety. The purpose of this bylaw is to prohibit the use of virtual currency kiosks and Cryptocurrency Automated Teller Machines within the Town to protect our citizens.

2. Definitions

For this article,

- a. **Virtual currency kiosk:** "Virtual currency kiosk" means an electronic terminal which enables a business or individual to facilitate the exchange of virtual currency for money, bank credit, or other virtual currency, including but not limited to by (1) connecting directly to a separate "virtual currency exchange" that performs the actual virtual currency transmission, or (2) drawing upon the virtual currency in the possession of the electronic terminal's operator.
- b. **Cryptocurrency:** A digital or virtual currency that uses cryptography for security and operates independently of a central bank, including but not limited to Bitcoin, Bitcoin Cash, Dash, LiteCoin, Ripple, ZCash, Ethereum, and similar blockchain-based tokens.
- c. **Cryptocurrency Automated Teller Machine (Cryptocurrency ATM):** Any self-service kiosk, machine, or device installed in a publicly accessible location that enables users to buy, sell, exchange, or transfer cryptocurrency through the machine using currency, debit card, credit card, or other means of payment.

3. Virtual currency kiosk and Cryptocurrency Automated Teller Machines forbidden

The operation of any Virtual currency kiosk or Cryptocurrency Automated Teller Machines that facilitates the exchange of virtual currency for money, bank credit, or other virtual currency within the Town is prohibited.

4. Administration and enforcement.

A. This article shall be enforced by the Police Department and the Building Department.

B. This article may be enforced through any lawful means, including but not limited to non-criminal disposition pursuant to MGL c. 40, § 21D. In the event of such disposition, and subject to the safeguards of § 21D, any business or individual that violates any provision of this article shall be subject to the following penalties:

1. Any person or entity found to be in violation of this ordinance shall be subject to a fine of \$300 per day per device, enforceable under non-criminal disposition pursuant to M.G.L. c. 40, § 21D.

2. Each day that the violator continues to operate the virtual currency kiosk shall constitute a separate violation of this article.

3. Fines are cumulative and each day or portion thereof shall constitute a separate offense. If more than one violation occurs, each condition violated shall constitute a separate offense

5. Severability

If any provision of this ordinance is held to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions, which shall remain in full force and effect.

Pass any vote or take any action relative thereto. Submitted by the Select Board.

Article 29 Explanation: This cryptocurrency ATM/kiosk bylaw was recommended by Detective Bureau supervisor, LT. Knox. He noted that an increase in the use of such devices has posed risk to our residents and are being used for several purposes by criminals to victimize our residents.

ARTICLE 30:

RECREATION DEPARTMENT RESTRUCTURING

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court for special legislation to be adopted precisely as written below; provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Town Administrator approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court; and provided further that the Town Administrator is authorized to approve amendments that shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of this petition as follows:

AN ACT RESTRUCTURING THE TOWN OF LUDLOW RECREATION DEPARTMENT AND THE TOWN OF LUDLOW RECREATION COMMISSION

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding chapter 45 of the General Laws or any other general or special law to the contrary, the Town of Ludlow's Recreation Department shall hereby become part of the Parks & Recreation Division of the Town of Ludlow's Department of Public Works. The Director of the Department of Public Works shall oversee the operations of the Parks & Recreation Division and have all other authority over the Parks & Recreation Division that they have over other divisions within the Department of Public Works.

SECTION 2. Upon the effective date of this act, the appointed and elected offices of the Recreation Department, including those of the elected Recreation Commission, shall be abolished and the term of the incumbents in such offices terminated, provided, however, that notwithstanding section 1. the incumbent appointed Recreation Department employees shall become Parks & Recreation Division employees to the extent that their employment positions are established within the Parks & Recreation Division, and the elected Recreation Commissioners shall be appointed to the same post by the Select Board for the remainder of their previously elected terms. Once the incumbent Recreation Commissioners have reached the end of their respective elected terms, the Select Board shall appoint new members of the Recreation Commission, each for a three-year term, to be staggered so that each member's term ends in a different year.

SECTION 3. Upon the effective date of this act, the Select Board shall become the appointing authority of the Recreation Commission and the Parks & Recreation Division and all its employees. The Select Board shall also have the authority to appoint and remove a Parks & Recreation Division Director, who shall be charged with overseeing the daily operations of the Parks & Recreation Division and who shall be subject to the supervisory authority of the Director of the Department of Public Works. The Select Board shall appoint all previously active members of the Recreation Commission at the time this act takes effect as Recreation Commissioners for the remainder of their previously elected terms. The Recreation Commission and the Parks & Recreation Division shall have all powers and duties contained in applicable laws, including but not limited to chapter 45 of the General Laws.

SECTION 4. No contracts or liabilities in force on the effective date of this act shall be affected by the abolition of the Recreation Department in the town of Ludlow or the establishment of the Parks & Recreation Division of the Department of Public Works pursuant to this act and the Parks & Recreation Division shall, in all respects, be the lawful successor of the Recreation Department so abolished or consolidated. All records, property and equipment of the offices of the appointed Recreation Department shall be assigned to the Parks & Recreation Division.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Pass any vote or take any action relative thereto. Submitted by the Select Board.

Article 30 Explanation: This article works to provide departmental and resource support to the Recreation Department. In recent years, there has been an absence of clear decision making in the daily management of the parks and recreation department. This article would establish a partnership with the Recreation Commission, DPW, the Select Board, and the Town Administrator to ensure clear lines of communication, delineated roles and responsibilities, increased managerial response, and improved conditions to our park and recreational facilities.

ARTICLE 31: STRETCH CODE

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town Bylaws by adding Sec. VI-1 to Chapter VI, "Building Code," as follows:

- § ____-1 **Definitions**
- § ____-2 **Purpose**
- § ____-3 **Applicability**
- § ____-4 **Stretch Code**

§ ____-1 **Definitions**

International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) - The International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) is a building energy code created by the International Code Council. It is a model code adopted by many state and municipal governments in the United States for the establishment of minimum design and construction requirements for energy efficiency and is updated on a three-year cycle. The baseline energy conservation requirements of the MA State Building Code are the IECC with Massachusetts amendments, as approved by the Board of Building Regulations and Standards.

Stretch Energy Code - Codified by the combination of 225 CMR 22 and 231 , not including the Appendices RC and CC, the Stretch Energy Code is a comprehensive set of amendments to the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) seeking to achieve all lifecycle cost-effective energy efficiency in accordance with the Green Communities Act of 2008, as well as to reduce the climate impacts of buildings built to this code.

§ ____-2 **Purpose** The purpose of 225 CMR 22 and 23 is to provide a more energy efficient alternative to the Base Energy Code applicable to the relevant sections of the building code for both new construction and existing buildings.

§ ____-3 **Applicability**

This code applies to residential and commercial buildings.

§ ____-4 **Stretch Energy Code**

The Stretch Energy Code, as codified by the entirety of 225 CMR 22 and 23, including any future editions, amendments, or modifications, is herein incorporated by reference into the Town of _____ General Bylaws, Chapter _____.

The Stretch Code is enforceable by the inspector of buildings or building commissioner and effective as of _____.

Pass any vote or take any action relative thereto. Submitted by the Select Board.

Article 31 Explanation: In accordance with M.G.L. c 25A Section 10, a municipality must require all new residential construction over 3,000 square feet and all new commercial and industrial real estate

construction to minimize, to the extent feasible, the life-cycle cost of the facility by utilizing energy efficiency, water conservation and other renewable or alternative energy technologies.

The recommended way for cities and towns to meet this requirement is by adopting the Stretch Energy Code (225CMR 22 and 23), an appendix to the MA State Building Code. Should a community choose not to adopt the Stretch Code and choose to use another standard, the community must provide evidence that this alternative standard minimizes the life cycle energy costs for all new construction and is enforceable by the community.

The purpose of the Stretch Energy Code is to provide a more energy-efficient alternative to the Base Energy Code for new buildings. A municipality seeking to ensure that construction within its boundaries is designed and built to the highest energy efficiency requirements of 780 CMR (i.e., the "Base" Energy Code) may mandate adherence to the Stretch Energy Code. Municipalities interested in adopting 225 CMR 22 and 23, the Stretch Energy Code, are directed to do so in the manner prescribed by law. The code may also be rescinded by any municipality in the Commonwealth in the manner prescribed by law.

Municipalities that have adopted the stretch energy code shall use the energy efficiency requirements of 225 CMR 22 and 23, which stipulates higher energy efficiency requirements for most new construction

ARTICLE 32: SENIOR WORK ABATEMENT PROGRAM BYLAW AMENDMENT

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Senior Citizen Property Abatement Program as initially approved in Article 15 of the October 2, 2000 Town Meeting (and subsequently amended in 2002, 2003, and 2024) by amending Section B.3 as follows:

B. Scope of Program

The Town will set up to no more than 60 slots as volunteer services in various Town departments for this program. The program will have a Board of Advisors composed of five (5) Town department managers and/or designees and the Town Administrator as an ex-officio member to assist in the counsel and advice to the Board of Selectmen for definition of the program, monitoring of its effectiveness and selection process. The Advisors will consist of the following: School Business Manager, Council on Aging Director, Town Collector, Assistant Assessor and Librarian. The Advisory Board shall meet annually to re- determine the allocation of the sixty slots.

1. Applications will be accepted from November 1st through December 31st of each year for the following fiscal year selection. The attached application must be utilized for all prospective volunteers. Only one application per household will be accepted. The Board of Advisors, with a majority vote, may deny applications.
2. Volunteers may begin the work on February 1st or later, whichever is more convenient for the assigned department and all work must be completed no later than November 30th.
3. Volunteers must complete the number of hours equivalent to \$900.00 divided by the Massachusetts Minimum wage. To qualify for the abatement, individuals must complete the assigned number of hours (~~no partial abatements will be recognized~~) **unless exigent extenuating**

4

circumstances prevent that individual from completing all assigned hours and the supervising department authorizes a partial abatement.

Pass any vote or take any action relative thereto. Submitted by the Select Board.

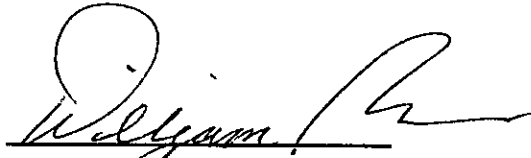
Article 32 Explanation: The bylaw does currently allow senior work abatement participants to qualify for a full tax abatement if they do not complete all required hours. To afford seniors who cannot complete their assignments due to unforeseen exigent circumstances, the ability to enjoy a partial abatement in direct relation to the number of hours worked, the Town submits this bylaw amendment for consideration.

And you are directed to serve this warrant by posting attested copies of the same in seven (7) public places in the Town seven (7) days at least before the time of holding said meeting.

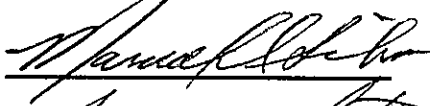
A true copy,

ATTEST:

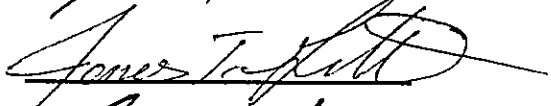
WILLIAM P. ROSENBLUM

Handwritten signature of William P. Rosenblum in cursive, written over a horizontal line.

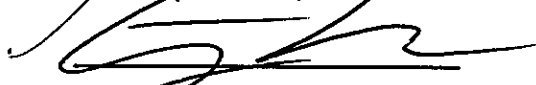
MANUEL D. SILVA

Handwritten signature of Manuel D. Silva in cursive, written over a horizontal line.

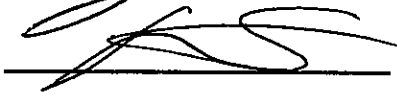
JAMES T. GENNETTE

Handwritten signature of James T. Gennette in cursive, written over a horizontal line.

ANTHONY ALVES

Handwritten signature of Anthony Alves in cursive, written over a horizontal line.

ANTONIO SANCHES


Handwritten signature of Antonio Sanches in cursive, written over a horizontal line.

SELECT BOARD

LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

April 14, 2026

I hereby certify that I have posted the above warrant in seven (7) places in the Town of Ludlow.

 Sim M. Batista TOWN CLERK
April 23, 2026