The Meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on Tuesday, November 12, 2024, began at 5:30 p.m. in the Board of Selectmen's Conference Room at the Town Hall.

Members Present: Derek DeBarge, Manuel Silva, James Gennette, Antonio Goncalves and William Rosenblum

Members Absent:

First Order of Business: The Pledge of Allegiance

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Mr. DeBarge: You'll notice that 316 has already happened.

317. Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC) – Advising they will be performing routine inspections of its natural gas pipeline right of way.

Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum to file. **Mr. Goncalves second. Motion passed 4-0-1.**

318. Eversource – Gas Public Awareness Messaging to Public Officials.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to file. **Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

319. Ryan Churchill, Safety Committee Member – Informing the Board of his resignation from the Safety Committee effective immediately.

Motion made by Mr. Silva to accept the resignation and thank Mr. Churchill for his 5-6, quite a few number of years serving on that Board, which was very helpful. **Mr. Goncalves second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Mr. DeBarge: Thank you Ryan.

320. Michael Szlosek, Mobile Home Rent Control Board Member – Informing the Board of his resignation from the Mobile Home Rent Control Board effective immediately.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to accept the resignation and thank Mr. Szlosek. That's not an easy Board to sit on. We appreciate the time he did give us. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

321. Dylan Eagen, Resident – Requesting to be appointed as an Unenrolled Election Worker.

Motion made by Mr. Gennette to appoint Dylan Eagen as an Unenrolled Election poll worker. **Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

322. Deborah Potter, Resident – Requesting to be appointed to the Ludlow Cultural Council.

Motion made by Mr. Gennette to appoint Deborah Potter to the Ludlow Cultural Council. **Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

323. Brian Shameklis, Chairperson – Safety Committee – Informing the Board of their recommendation that a crosswalk be painted at the intersection of Holyoke & Cady Streets from Cady Street Market to Pop-N-Kork, from sidewalk to sidewalk at the discretion of the DPW.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves for approval. **Mr. Silva second.**

Mr. Gennette: This is across Holyoke or Cady Street?

Mr. Rosenblum: Across Holyoke.

Mr. Goncalves: Holyoke from the butcher shop to the package store.

All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.

VISITATIONS

5:35 p.m. – Liquor License – Change of Directors and Change of Manager Ludlow Tennis Club Carolyn Slifkin to Christoper McGrath – PUBLIC HEARING.

Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum to open the change of directors and change of manager public hearing for Ludlow Tennis Club Carolyn Slifkin to Christopher McGrath at 5:35 p.m. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Mr. McGrath: I'm Chris McGrath from the Ludlow Tennis Club. I'm the general manager and I'm here to transfer the license from the retiring manager, Carolyn Slifkin, to myself. We also made a change to the Board of Directors and I did notify the State.

Mr. Silva: Didn't we do this a few weeks ago?

Mr. McGrath: We did it in September but the State had the old Board of Directors list. We didn't know we were supposed to send them the new one. They requested we do the meeting again because they had the wrong Board of Directors.

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Mr. Silva: I don't see any issues.

Mr. McGrath: I have the receipts from the certified letters, the certificate of compliance and certificate of good standing. I submitted these by email to Amy and Sharon. I submitted the articles of organization through email as well.

Motion made by Mr. Silva to approve the change of directors and change of manager for the Ludlow Tennis Club from Carolyn Slifkin to Christopher McGrath. **Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum to close the public hearing for the liquor license change of directors and change of manager for Ludlow Tennis Club at 5:37 p.m. **Mr. Goncalves second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

324. Chief Valadas – Request to charge off medical expenses and lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for an injury sustained by a police officer as a result of an incident that occurred on October 20, 2024.

Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum to approve the request to charge off medical expenses and lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for an injury sustained by a police officer as a result of an incident that occurred on October 20, 2024. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

325. Chief Valadas – Request to charge off medical expenses and lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for an injury sustained by a police officer as a result of an incident that occurred on October 18, 2024.

Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum to approve the request to charge off medical expenses and lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for an injury sustained by a police officer as a result of an incident that occurred on October 18, 2024. **Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

326. Chief Valadas – Request to charge off medical expenses and lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for an injury sustained by a police officer as a result of an incident that occurred on October 18, 2024.

Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum to approve the request to charge off medical expenses and lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for an injury sustained by a police officer as a result of an incident that occurred on October 18, 2024. **Mr. Goncalves second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

327. Chief Pease – Request to charge off medical expenses and lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for an injury sustained by a firefighter/paramedic as a result of an incident that occurred on October 23, 2024.

Motion made by Mr. Gennette to approve request to charge off medical expenses and lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for an injury sustained by a firefighter/paramedic as a result of an incident that occurred on October 23, 2024. **Mr. Goncalves second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

328. Chief Pease – Request to charge off medical expenses and lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for an injury sustained by a firefighter/paramedic as a result of an incident that occurred on October 28, 2024.

Motion made by Mr. Gennette to approve request to charge off medical expenses and lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for an injury sustained by a firefighter/paramedic as a result of an incident that occurred on October 28, 2024. **Mr. Goncalves second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

329. Lt Michael Brennan – Request to hold the annual Sgt. Joshua D. Desforges Challenge at Ludlow High School on April 26, 2025, and to use any Town owned property adjacent to the High School including parking lots, cross country course and Town property under the control of the Ludlow DPW.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to approve the request to hold the annual Sgt. Joshua D. Desforges Challenge at Ludlow High School on April 26, 2025, and to use any Town owned property adjacent to the High School including parking lots, cross country course and Town property under the control of the Ludlow DPW. **Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

330. Maria Crespo, Event Chair, Ludlow Rotary Club – Request to confirm Tree Lighting/Toys for Tots December 1st @ 4:30 p.m. Also requesting police presence to assist in traffic flow.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to approve the request from Maria Crespo, event Chair of the Ludlow Rotary Club to have the Tree Lighting/Toys for Tots December 1st @ 4:30 p.m. and whatever is necessary to be provide. **Mr. Silva second.**

Mr. Strange: The last time we received one of these requests it was from the chapel and they wanted to have police presence and fire presence as a touch a truck event. We informed them they would have to pay for their own overtime. They chose to go with fire because police was going to be too expensive. Not suggesting what you should do with respect to this but I do think we need a policy that when organizations come in front of the Board because we're in danger of not treating everyone the same and we're trying to mitigate our overtime expenditures every year. Something to think about.

Mr. Goncalves: While we have the Chief here, what do we normally do? Are they OT or on duty?

Chief Valadas: They'd be on OT.

Mr. DeBarge: Is there correspondence between us and the Rotary Club about this?

Mr. Strange: No.

Mr. Goncalves: Maria Crespo reached out to me and wants to make sure the 250th and they coordinate this whole thing. She's aware of the fact that the 250th wants to help. Maybe we can get a copy of this to Linda and let her know this is happening.

Mr. DeBarge: They know it's happening. I don't think the overtime expenditure has been talked about.

Mr. Goncalves: Is it an overtime expenditure either way?

Chief Valadas: It would be.

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All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.

VISITATIONS

5:45 p.m. – Liquor License – Transfer of License from Pop-N-Kork – Idalina Rodrigues to Keshavah Corporation dba Pop-N-Kork, Harmit Raval – PUBLIC HEARING

Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum to open the public hearing for transfer of liquor license from Pop-N-Kork – Idalina Rodrigues to Keshavah Corporation dba Pop-N-Kork, Harmit Raval at 5:45 p.m. **Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Mr. Porter: I'm Matthew Porter, the attorney for Keshavah Corporation, 480 Turnpike Street, South Easton, MA.

Mr. Raval: Harmit Raval, 2 Pond Street, Mendon, MA.

Mr. Porter: Before the Board is an application for transfer of license for Keshavah Corporation for Pop-N-Kork at 12 Cady Street, Ludlow. Harmit Patel is the sole, 100% shareholder, president, treasurer, secretary, director of the proposed corporation. He has 3 other licensed locations in the State of Massachusetts and certainly understands the responsibilities that come with the operation of a store. He's alcohol TIPS certified and all employees will be required to be alcohol TIPS certified as well. They'll have a scanning machine in place. One of the sellers, Philip Rodrigues, is staying on as a licensed manager so it should be a very smooth transition. No major anticipated changes to the hours, structure of the business or anything along those lines. They are going to keep the employees on. They've already had conversations with them. There is a request for pledge of license in addition to the transfer. The seller is financing the transaction so we'd be asking for the Board to approve the pledge of license to the seller as well, but otherwise a pretty straightforward transfer of license application.

Mr. Silva: I know you mentioned the operation is virtually going to be the same, just wondering if you are planning to do any changes or just going to continue.

Mr. Porter: Temporarily it will be very similar to how it's operated. They are buying the real estate as well so eventually there will be upgrades that will be taking place. Some signage and interior and exterior upgrades. There's nothing planned in the immediate future but over a period of time I'm sure there will be substantial upgrades.

Motion made by Mr. Gennette to approve the transfer of the license from Pop-N-Kork – Idalina Rodrigues to Keshavah Corporation dba Pop-N-Kork, Harmit Raval in the public hearing and also to approve the pledge of license. **Mr. Silva second. Motion passed 4-0-1.**

Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum to close the transfer of license from Pop-N-Kork – Idalina Rodrigues to Keshavah Corporation dba Pop-N-Kork, Harmit Raval at 5:48 p.m. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

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331. Chief Pease – Promotional List for Fire Department

Mr. Gennette: I did not see the list to approve.

Mr. Rosenblum: There is a letter for retirement coming up.

Mr. DeBarge: It's a letter of retirement and also a request from the Chief for a list to fill that.

Mr. Gennette: This is from Chief Ryan Pease to Carrie Ribeiro, head of HR. I am requesting that we call for a CS promotional list to fill the future vacancy of a fire captain position that will occur with the retirement of Captain Kent Doyle. There is an established CS promotional list. The official promotion will be effective after the retirement of Captain Kent Doyle. I would like to establish who will fill that position at least a month in advance of his retirement for the purposes of training the next captain. This training will not have any adverse financial effects to our budget. Please let me know if you require any additional information.

Mr. DeBarge: The retirement is slated for February 1, 2025, hence the request for the promotional list. If you gentleman are inclined to move forward with the request, it should say Chief Pease to request promotional list for the pending retirement of said firefighter. I don't know if waiting until the next meeting is necessary.

Mr. Strange: I don't think so. The point of the whole agenda is providing notification to the public.

Mr. Gennette: So it's just a notification of what's happening. There isn't a formal approval of anything?

Mr. Strange: I don't think so. We weren't quite sure so we wanted to make sure.

Mr. Gennette: In the letter he didn't request anything.

Mr. Strange: He requested it to Carrie, Carrie posted it.

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Motion made by Mr. Gennette to file. **Mr. Silva second.**

Mr. Goncalves: Does Carrie have the official capacity to call for that list or is it something this body has to approve?

Mr. Gennette: I think she gets the list when she gets the list.

All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.

332. Brian Bylicki, Chair, Ludlow 250th Book Committee – Requesting attendance at the 250th Book Release event on Tuesday, November 19th @ 6:30 p.m. at Ludlow High School Auditorium.

Mr. DeBarge: I did convey to Ms. Collette that we have a meeting that night and unless it's really quick most of us will not be able to attend.

Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum to file. **Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

VISITATIONS

5:55 p.m. – Liquor License – New Beer & Wine License for TCO Party Occasions, LLC, Selenia Cruz – PUBLIC HEARING

Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum to open the public hearing for liquor license for new beer & wine license for TCO Party Occasions, LLC, Selenia Cruz at 5:55 p.m. **Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Motion made by Mr. Silva to hold the hearing open for 15 minutes. **Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Board to approve and sign the Selectmen meeting minutes of October 1, 2024.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to approve and sign the Selectmen meeting minutes of October 1, 2024, with all members present except Antonio Goncalves. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Board to approve and sign Executive Session Minutes of October 15, 2024.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to approve and sign Executive Session Minutes of October 15, 2024, with all members present. **Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Board to approve and sign the Selectmen Meeting Minutes of October 15, 2024.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to approve and sign the Selectmen meeting minutes of October 15, 2024, with all members present. **Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Board to sign licensing authority certification form for Keshavah Corporation dba Pop-N-Kork, if approved.

Motion made by Mr. Gennette to sign the licensing authority certification for Keshavah Corporation dba Pop-N-Kork. **Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Board to sign the licensing authority certification form for TCO Party Occasions, LLC, if approved.

Mr. DeBarge: They're not here so we're waiting.

Board to ratify and sign employment contract extension for Town Administrator.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to approve and sign the employment contract extension for the Town Administrator. **Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Board to discuss and possibly vote on using ARPA funds for the renovations at the library in the amount of $32,275.

Mr. Gennette: A little bit of background, and Marc correct me if I'm wrong, we had capital requests come in for the library to replace the historical windows 4 years ago. It was $64,000. They came back the next year and it was $134,000 and that really had me concerned that we were going to see this increase again and they ended up with architectural designs on top of what was going on so they don't need any more funds for the capital renovation but I thought since we needed to use these ARPA funds before the end of the year the only real contract we have left is the windows for the library to exhaust the last of the funds, which in this case is $32,275 towards that architectural fee.

Mr. Rosenblum: What are we at?

Mr. Strange: If you approve this we're about $85,000 because they also did the parking lot at the library and that was about $25,000.

Mr. Goncalves: How much time do we have to do this?

Mr. Strange: You either have to have it spent or contracted for by December 31st. If you have a contract you can spend it by December 31, 2026.

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Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to approve the ARPA funds for the renovations of the library in the amount of $32,275. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

Board to discuss the use of remaining ARPA funds.

Mr. DeBarge: The Christmas Tree lighting ceremony on December 1st has been growing over the past few years. I have been concerned that too many people are standing on our front lawn. With more people, you start backing out and you're standing on the street and it's unsafe. We're trying to work on the quad that is adjacent to this building between here and the high school. One of the things I talked to Jamie, our DPW Director, about is putting a concrete pad in the center of that property so that all of our town events; we'll put a tree up there and do the lighting there and have the pad there. Linda Collette from the 250th is up on this as well. She talked to the Fire Department about the possibility of bonfire like we did this past year. There's plans for electricity so we can light everything there. An estimate of the pad was $3,500. I don't have an estimate for the electrical that would need to be put there. A few of us, Eric Segundo, myself, DPW and 250th have been talking about doing something simple with that lot. The pad and some plantings and I don't see any reason why it being kind of short money that we can't use it for something like that if we can get the quotes in time.

Mr. Goncalves: $3,500 is probably the cost of the cement.

Mr. DeBarge: I can't answer that. That's the number I was told.

Mr. Goncalves: Concrete is kind of expensive and $3,500 isn't going to include much labor there but if we're doing it ourselves it's not that difficult to pour pads.

Mr. DeBarge: I think the quote was taken from one of the businesses we have contracted with us.

Mr. Gennette: I love the idea of having a town tree over there. I think it would be great.

Mr. Silva: Are we going to hold anything on the front steps of the Town Hall at all?

Mr. DeBarge: This year we have the same tree we used last year. We're going to put it on the steps and do it in the front with all the committees understanding the goal is to get everybody together with the money needed. The 250th is planning on purchasing the tree. This is an 18'-22' tree which is why a pad around it would be very cool. That's why I'm coming to you with this idea. We may be coming back for the time & material for electrical for the pad. The plan is to not do anything else on the steps. There's too many people now, which we're grateful for and want more.

Mr. Rosenblum: In the future will we be doing anything with irrigation to make the grass look a little bit better.

Mr. DeBarge: I was told by our very competent DPW Director, don't get carried away.

Mr. Rosenblum At least fertilize and mow it down a little bit.

Mr. DeBarge: Maybe some plantings with shade will help us out.

Mr. Silva: Are we all set at Veteran's Park with the things we wanted to do there?

Mr. Strange: They sent us 4 different designs. Considering what the vote was for Whitney Park I think we're at a crossroads in terms of how we move forward with the parks stuff.

Mr. Silva: We have to spend some money over there to get a couple of things done.

Mr. Strange: I think we're at a good stopping point.

Mr. Rosenblum: I don't think $85,000 is going to make a dent on anything that's going to be done there.

Mr. Strange: It's an awkward amount of money.

Mr. Goncalves: Does it need anything? Could we spruce up the field to make it more usable? Maybe basketball nets?

Mr. Rosenblum: What about the bleachers at the football field at Whitney? Maybe making it a little bit smaller?

Mr. Rosenblum: I think that's a great idea. Is there a bleacher resurfacing company? That set of bleachers is atrocious. I'd get rid of them and buy mobile bleachers. I think we take that whole thing down.

Mr. Strange: I can look into it.

Mr. Rosenblum: They're kind of unsafe.

Mr. Gennette: Just remember we have a time crunch.

Mr. Strange: Hopefully I can have something for you by next Tuesday.

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Mr. Rosenblum: You can probably ask Tim who he uses. Based on the amount you'd have to get 3 quotes, go to procurement.

Mr. DeBarge: Does anyone have any other ideas for ARPA?

Mr. Goncalves: Can we get something in writing that we can approve for the piece next door or something official from DPW.

Mr. DeBarge: I hope to have it on the agenda next week.

NEW BUSINESS

Board to discuss and possibly vote to approve use of the Community Center by the MomWalk Co.

Mr. Strange: There were 2 requests to use the Boys & Girls Club facility. One was Tim Brillo's and the high school swim team. I approved that one. This is a MomWalk. They were good with it.

Motion made by Mr. Gennette to approve the use of the Community Center by the MomWalk Co. **Mr. Rosenblum second.**

Mr. Gennette: Is that a Wilbraham entity?

Mr. Strange: I believe they're in Wilbraham.

Mr. Goncalves: Do we get liability policies from these people?

Mr. DeBarge: If we do that would probably be at the club.

Mr. Goncalves: Any type of organization like that I don't want to say I'd let them off the hook but in essence if you don't get that certificate and you let them off the hook and something happens it affects our loss ratio.

Mr. Strange: I'll ask Josue.

All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Rosenblum: At this time, we've reached 15 minutes on the 5:55 new beer and wine liquor license for TCO Party Occasions, LLC – Selenia Cruz.

Mr. Strange: Should we leave it open?

Mr. Rosenblum: Yes.

Mr. Strange: In case there was a miscommunication.

Mr. Goncalves: Or something could have happened.

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Mr. Silva: I think they should readvertise because I don't think anybody is here for it but the issue is there could be somebody.

Mr. DeBarge: I'd be inclined to close it because we don't know what it is.

Mr. Silva: We also don't know that everybody was notified. I think we should close it and have them reapply.

Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum to close the liquor license hearing for new beer & wine license for TCO Party Occasions, LLC – Selenia Cruz at 6:12 p.m. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

6:15 p.m. – Police Chief Dan Valadas

Mr. DeBarge: We have asked you to come in tonight so we could discuss your comments made at Town Meeting October 7th. We've asked through correspondence from our office to yours to bring in some documentation to back up the statements you said. The Board feels we do not agree that we do not support the Police Department and that's what we're here to talk about. If you would like to open with some of the information that you brought to back up those statements or a reason why you made those statements, we're open to hearing that.

Chief Valadas: I made a statement at Town Meeting as a Town Meeting member. I made one statement to 3 different articles. My statement was that I've asked for additional officers and haven't received them due to the fact that you couldn't afford them. It appears I provided you some correspondence from my predecessor, Chief Madera, as best as I could find. In 2012 we stood at 37 officers. At the time there was a request for 4 officers and a lieutenant. It looks that by the time the mid-teens happened, 2016 and his letter said 2018, the department stood at 42 officers. At least 4 of you were here when I became Chief in 2020 I was in the 2020 budget. I didn't prepare 2021, that was prepared by Chief Madera. We did have budget talks because we were told at the time by Ms. Villano and Ms. Collins that we're going to take a cut of 5%. At the time, myself and Lt. Brennan took it out of overtime for the following year. 2020 is the budget I prepared. I asked for 9 officers that year. I wanted to put a Sgt. on each shift, a Lieutenant in the DB and 5 patrolmen. The Board approved a Sgt. I talked to you about there was a detective working at night by himself. He was doing follow up and jurisdiction work. I asked and it was unsafe so you gave me a Sgt. so that brought us to 43 and our 11th supervisor. The following year I came to you and asked for a lieutenant in the DB. Lt. Kornacki at the time was acting Sgt. but he wrote a 5-page dissertation explaining what they would do if there was a Lt. in the Detective Bureau. You gave me that position. That gave me 12 Sgt's and 32 patrolmen. The following year, you see the correspondence from Chief Madera, there was a question that at one point in time we had 32 patrolmen; however, badge #31 was held pending a 2-year 8-month deployment by one of our officers into the Air Force. Until his deployment was completed, that position had to remain in effect due to USERRA laws. You granted him a 32nd position to replace the 31st so we had badge #'s 31 and 32. We went up to 44. Twelve supervisors, 32 patrolmen. In that year we accepted the resignation of the officer that was in the service. He came back and resigned. At that point in time, we had a conversation with Mr. Strange and Ms. Ribeiro about 31 and 32 not on the classification reports so my budget was remanded down to 30. The net gain of the 2 you gave me we lost 2 patrolmen but you turned them into 2 supervisors. We stand at 42. That's the same number in the letter Chief Madera wrote you in 2018. It's 12 supervisors, up 2 from back then, 30 patrolmen and dispatchers remained the same. Nine full time. I asked for a dispatch supervisor; I mentioned that at Town Meeting. The dispatch supervisor is going to be a separate manager position. That would have been 10. The Special Police budget you have raised for me. It used to be $22,000 and it currently sits at $90,000 because of the POST requirements. Fortunate for us, and surprisingly, we maintain 20 special police officers meeting all the requirements of a full-time police officer. The big expense was they had to complete 24 hours by the year 2027 and they had to complete a 400-hour police academy, which takes quite a commitment. These are people that have other jobs. They've all completed it. That's where we stand. That's in the synopsis I gave you. The 3 admin assistants and 1 ACO which is a separate budget. The ACO was added in 2022. The Quinn Bill, when I used to participate in the CBA negotiations, the last collective bargaining with 507 and 508 of Mass Cops, which is the patrolmen and supervisors, you gave them the full Quinn Bill. That expansion is around $178,000 per year. That's for everyone that has a career incentive. At the time Mr. Strange and I were talking and you don't want to be the have's and have nots. The trend is to go back to the whole career incentive. The State Police just did it again. They feel as if you have to attract good candidates. The career incentive is part of the built-in salary however you pay it. That was given to the unions along with 3-2-3 and some other fringe benefits. You see some budget figures and if our math is correct these are approximate. Those are percentage increases. Some of the Special Town Meeting requests I received that I asked for, specifically I pulled one in 2022. I asked for $120,000 and we only used $47,000. Ms. Collins at the time told me you've done it 2 years in a row. You asked for overages but we didn't need it so we transferred it out. I received notice last week the Police Department has been authorized to receive almost $95,000 from State 9-1-1. These funds go to backfill dispatch for overtime spent on training and the training costs. Right now, I'm $5-$6,000 over on overtime in my dispatch account because I count on these funds. It has gone up. Last year it was $89,000. We do all the paperwork done by one of the dispatchers and Lt. Irwin. It comes in one for training and one for personnel costs. Last year we brought in $204,000 in grants. The Town gets 10% for every detail officer that works so we turn over $100,000. That fluctuates depending on how many details. License to carry has been increasing, maybe flattening out a little bit after Covid.

Mr. Goncalves: Except on non-profits.

Chief Valadas: That doesn't go to my budget that goes to general fund.

Mr. Gennette: As far as the civil service list and open positions we've had year over year we've always fell short of filling positions. Is that accurate?

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Chief Valadas: We have one open now. It's because of either attrition, people leave.

Mr. Gennette: We've always had positions we needed to fill; we've always been chasing empty spots year over year. We've also given, I can name 3 Sgt.'s right now that we've moved up the line and left spots down. We filled them with patrolmen so it wasn't necessarily that you needed more positions, we were trying to fill the position you had first, correct? There's been a lot of patrolmen that have been coming through here. We could try to get 100 people in here but if we can't get them in it doesn't matter how many positions we have. I don't know how the Town is supposed to allocate those funds for positions and we can't fill them anyway, let's fill what we've got, especially when you've got retirees and some people out for being disabled and things like that. That's one of my things. We could talk about positions all day long, but I think this Board has gone a long way to try to give you everything you've wanted. I've been a staunch supporter of the Police Department so to hear you come out and say we don't give you or that you're hurting; every department is hurting. I found that completely offensive because I go out of my way to try to help the Police Department so to have it thrown back at me was a complete insult. Number 2, I don't know how that translates at Town Meeting at a grant for Whitney Park to what you brought up at the meeting. That it effects your budget inside the Police Department. There's 2 completely different things. You get up and speak at Town Meeting about a lot of things and when you're a precinct member, you mention you're a precinct member but most of the time you don't say that you're a police officer. This Whitney Park thing you stated you were the Police Chief and you talked about your budget and how the money that was for Whitney Park could be directly used for the Police Department when it couldn't. You're a very good orator, you're an influential person in Town, people listen to you when you get up and speak so when you come up and say something like that you tank the project that would have benefited something. We could have talked about details with everybody but you sank it. That was a $500,000 grant coming into Whitney Park that we didn't get because it was shot down because people listen to what you say. Listen to what you say. I was hurt by that.

Mr. Rosenblum: For me it was the fact that the project, Whitney Park, has been at the top of just about everyone's request from people in Town, surveys, open space, things of that nature. That project to renovate and upgrade the area that has a summer program that many families use and it's very affordable for other things too. It's an important thing for those people to upgrade those things. The parking is dangerous because we park on the street. Delipidated equipment. The budget aspect of it was more of coming in and talking about the budget when we're trying to do the article that has to do with Whitney Park. We can talk budget any other time. It caught me off guard that you weren't the only person that spoke on behalf of your department. There was also the School Committee that basically said the same thing. They were concerned about the expenditure because of our budget. I didn't think it was the time for it. Maybe if it was delivered a different way we wouldn't be having this discussion. I respect you immensely. It caught me off guard. I felt it wasn't the right platform to be talking about budgets in that particular article.

Mr. DeBarge: I'm not sure where to go from here. I can't say I wasn't disappointed. I really wanted that Whitney Park thing to work out. We asked Marc to communicate with you about numbers. I know, I worked there. I have some knowledge about how the place works. I know it's a lot different. I'm told that all the time. I do understand that if the patrolmen were so important to you then we could have done something other than the Sgt. or Lt. but you really wanted those positions. I remember the Lt. conversation. I was sick that night and I called in. It was with the civilian dispatch and Lt. and I specifically advocated for the Lt. knowing how important special operations are. The Board voted to give you that Lt. I've been in the contract negotiations for all the departments since I've been a Selectman up until this year. I know what happens in the contract negotiations. I know what each department gets. The Quinn bill you brought up and I appreciate you bringing that up because that was a big nut for us to swallow. That was a big year for you guys. The total payment of 100% was a big nut for us to swallow. My point is not making that the contracts are important. I wouldn't have taken them to the Board if I didn't think they were. Everything you got is comparable to other departments in our area and in our number. Overtime expenditure. I have never felt that this Board, at least since I've been on, that they've not supported any department. We have tried to act with every department's request that we can. You know as well as I do that we are held to our levy limit and a certain number. When you give one department an exorbitant amount of money, your request for 9 officers, and when we did the numbers on that it was 1.1 million dollars. Our 2 ½ that we're adding for next year is 1.2 million dollars. I know you understand every department comes and asks. I guess we're just wondering where the inefficiency is.

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Chief Valadas: I respect all your comments. My comments on the floor of Town Meeting as a Town Meeting member I addressed the floor as Dan Valadas, precinct 3. I brought up my budget because I said in good faith I couldn't vote for an expenditure of a service of a debt that was over $300,000. I didn't attack the Board by saying that I hadn't received, I mentioned that the Board of Police Commissioners that I've asked for. I didn't say the Board; I said I asked for and couldn't receive because we don't have the money. I felt in good conscious I couldn't vote for it with my single vote. I respect all of your comments. I understand all the budget constraints. I am working diligently to keep my overtime and budget the best we can do. I am very happy to state that this year we are doing very well year to date, especially with $94,000 that's going to come to the Police Department from the State 9-1-1. Between dispatch and PD, I am very hopeful that I do not want to go to Special Town Meeting and ask for anything, in a business where you can't predict the unexpected. The most expensive thing, I was talking to Chief Pease today, out of all the things we do, Festa, block party, the most expensive incurment to the Town are disabilities to replace for a year and a half and then the payout. I looked back. There's nothing that even compares to it. Even if you spend $20,000 on Festa that doesn't come close. I had 2 officers out last year, both Sgt.'s for over 6 months. That's a tremendous cost. I was coming in here to tell you that. Even a homicide, really elaborate investigations, I wouldn't calculate that number. Unfortunately, we've had 3 Sgt.'s retire on disability.

Mr. Gennette: What does the overtime look like?

Chief Valadas: It looks good. Mr. Strange, Ms. Ribeiro and I met and the numbers with the accountant. As of 11/4 I've used 40% of the personnel costs. I should have a little money left over from the special police that could help. I received $100-$200 for the overtime. Just within the salary portion, as of 11/4 it was 42% used. That doesn't touch the 9-1-1 money. Dispatch is 30% used. That's with an overextended account but we're getting this money.

Mr. Gennette: Do you have any open positions that need to be filled?

Chief Valadas: One.

Mr. Gennette: It sounds like you're doing really good. You're on pace.

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Chief Valadas: Yes, thank you very much gentlemen. We have 2 FTO's right now graduating hopefully on December 6th. I've already asked Ms. Ribeiro; we've got our civil service list we're working on.

Mr. Gennette: Pardon me for throwing this at you, then what you were saying at Town Meeting didn't hold weight. You're not in bad shape.

Chief Valadas: Operationally. We're basically running on 3's and 4's.

Mr. Gennette: It sounds opportunistic. We've been trying to do everything we can as far as the Police Department goes. That's what we're bothered by. We have other departments that need. The school climbs so far up our backside for revenue that we just can't give them. We're fighting to do everything we can to help the school out. All these other departments have not been getting the benefits the police department has been getting. They wouldn't sit here and say we're doing ok. That's my perception right now. That's part of the reason I'm struggling with it. I'm glad to have had the opportunity to speak to you about it. I appreciate you coming in to hear me out.

Chief Valadas: I appreciate your comments.

Mr. Goncalves: If we gave you 2 officers that are going to cost us $85,000 a piece with benefits would that come directly off your overtime?

Chief Valadas: It should. If you have 1 per shift. We're running with 4 for 12 hours and 3 for 12 hours, if you gave me 1 per shift that's more people working you could absorb easier. I should be able to at least hold steady and buffer against fatality, 3 car accident, a busy shift with 3 arrests. I should be able to hold. I asked Mr. Strange for $125, $225; I think I started out with $400 and leveled out at $300. That's what will be in front of you very soon. In my FY26 budget I'm simply asking you for 1 patrolman on each shift. We will apply for a grant. Any DOJ grants are only approved once it's been allocated by the municipality. They do not approve it without the positions

being allocated. They'll give funds for police officers. Usually one lump sum. I talked to the West Springfield Police Chief and they received 5 last year. The Department of Justice through the Bureau of Justice will offer grants for patrol. You don't have to do community policing or any kind of special provisions or school resource. These are patrol positions. Usually it's $100, $75, $50 or they could break it down $75, $50, $25. They give you a lump sum, the only thing is the municipality has to allot those positions first and then they backfill. There's no guarantee I can get the grant but we've gotten it before.

Mr. Goncalves: I think our problem is that money comes into the general fund to help us in staying under our capacity year over year with the 2 ½. You've got to put it out when we're done with contracts and mandates and we're in trouble already before we start talking about new positions. That was the reason last year I don't think we had a single maybe one part time into a full time somewhere in Town. But there was no new positions. We just don't have it there. If we can get that money back in from grants and it's going into the general fund but there's no way to say we're able to increase your budget and it doesn't affect the 2 ½ and get us to a place we can't be legally. That has a lot to do with our apprehension of getting too involved with adding people on also. I don't know how we would do it. If there was a guarantee that dollar for dollar if we hire 2 or 3 officers that comes right off the overtime but I don't know how we could do that without an override.

Chief Valadas: Understood.

Mr. DeBarge: Chief, thanks for coming in. I appreciate the clarity, so to speak.

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NEW BUSINESS

Board to accept the Community Planning Grant in the amount of $13,000 to support the Ludlow Housing Production Plan Update.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to accept the Community Planning Grant in the amount of $13,000 to support the Ludlow Housing Production Plan Update. **Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Board to accept the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) in the amount of $292,500.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to accept the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) in the amount of $292,500. **Mr. Rosenblum second.**

Mr. Rosenblum: Can we have some background on this?

Mr. Goncalves: We talked about this a long time ago. This is the money that was targeted for certain areas like West Street and down by the mills.

Mr. Strange: This is a regional grant. I think there's 9 communities involved. Ludlow is the lead community. It's going to be more like a consultant. Each participating town has their own scope. For us it's going to be identifying projects. They're going to evaluate all the buildings and see where we could use some help. Town owned properties. At the end of the 2 years there would be an option if the communities that got the grant wanted to stay and pool money for an energy manager. Ultimately the energy stuff falls through the cracks. It's kind of Planning, kind of Building but it usually falls on me to move things forward and I know there's a lot of things we can do to make the buildings more energy efficient and there's plenty of money for it. That's without becoming a green community.

All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.

Board to accept FY25 State 9-1-1 Training Grant.

Motion made by Mr. Gennette to accept FY25 State 9-1-1 Training Grant in the amount of $15,891. **Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Board to discuss and possibly vote to support application for a Municipal Opioid Response Grant.

Mr. Strange: This is a grant that the Health Department wants to submit and they need a letter of support from the Board of Selectmen. I think it's an add-on to the opioid settlement funds that the Town has access to.

Mr. DeBarge: This would get more money?

Mr. Strange: It's a grant. I don't know that it's necessarily coming out of that pool. What does the Board need to do? A formal, recorded budget discussion and/or a commitment letter signed by the department in charge of allocating settlement funds, which is you guys.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to send a letter of support for the application that the Health Department is submitting to the Municipal Opioid Response for an additional grant. **Mr. Rosenblum.**

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Mr. Gennette: There's no request for an amount yet, right? This is just to support. We would see numbers before we voted to approve actual settlement funds to be dispersed.

Mr. Strange: Right. And you're asking if there's a Town match? Yes.

All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.

Board to dissolve the Charter Committee.

Mr. Gennette: I'm going to make one last plea but I think it's going to fall on deaf ears. Currently we're governed by Town Meeting. It is what it is. The last time we were at Town Meeting we put together the hard work the Charter Committee put together and it was $25,000 allocated to it. They didn't like specific things associated with it. There was a lot said but at the end of the day there was certain things they didn't like and they didn't want to push it through to the ballot box. I would hate to waste all of that money and time, there were some skilled people there, without making the adjustments that Town Meeting members wanted to see and sending it back to Town Meeting to see if they would send it to the ballot. I really want the opportunity for the voters to be able to vote on it at the ballot box and I think we're doing a disservice if we don't. I would like to make the simple changes. For a year the Charter Committee was asking for the community to come out and participate and asking for answers. You didn't get them in the time you wanted but you certainly got answers at Town Meeting. I suggest you send it to the ballot box and I'm hoping you guys see it the same way.

Mr. DeBarge: For procedural parts of it, I appreciate your comments and I agree with you, I would love to be able to have a Special Town Meeting and bring it back but that's just not going to happen. The Charter Committee will be dissolved. The only way to bring this back is to go out and get signatures, per the definition of getting a question onto the ballot. A percentage of our registered voters, I think we thought the number was 3,800 signatures. I did this in 2019 and it was 2,200 but there was a boom of registered voters so the number skyrocketed. There are a couple from the Charter Committee that would be willing to go out and solicit signatures but you have to understand how that works. People don't like people coming to their doors anymore and I don't blame them. If you stand out in front of Big Y you're going to get signatures. 3,600-3,800 is a monumental task. You need a fire team or platoon of people going out and doing that.

Mr. Gennette: That supports my argument. We already have an established Charter Committee and charter right here that can go to Town Meeting. Is there a legal reason we can't make changes to that charter? Have the committee make the changes the precinct members wanted and submit it at the next Town Meeting? We don't have to have a Special Town Meeting; we can resubmit it at the next one. If they decide they don't want it to go, it doesn't have to go but that's certainly a lot easier than getting 3,800 signatures. I hate to waste all the work.

Mr. DeBarge: Maybe I should have led with this. The Charter Committee voted unanimously to dissolve. Your passion is respectable. I don't think anyone on the Charter Committee would like anything less. A conversation with the Collins Center was that's not a normal process.

Mr. Rosenblum: Bringing it back with the changes, very easily amendments could have been made on the floor, which nobody did. Before we walked in the room the decision was made. We sat there and listened for over 40 minutes of the people that were opposed to it. We only had 1

extension of 10 minutes. We kept running people up there to knock this down. The tough part is you're going to Town Meeting and Town Meeting spoke. You go to Town Meeting and ask you to fire themselves is what it comes down to. None of them wanted to do that. We could change those couple points in there. If you made an amendment it would be the elected vs appointed and the person on the School Committee. If someone said we're going to make those changes and resubmit it back it's going to be no. You see the comments in the Register. One of the precinct members says the committee was hand-picked behind closed doors, which is the farthest thing from the truth. We had 13 people apply for those positions. They all sat here in front of a camera live like we are right now and interviewed for those positions. We ended up basically taking everybody except for 1 or 2. It wasn't like people were hand-picked. This charter had no chance because people still like Town Meeting, which is fine, they even want to go to open Town Meeting. The tough thing is, we just saw it here with the Chief, what we saw is the perfect reason why it's not working right. We have people that work in this Town that are precinct members that are making decisions based on their department, based on people voting on a budget. If someone said I want to discuss the School Department budget, you've got teachers out there, they're going to vote for their budget. DPW. Things like that. I don't have any ill feelings towards the voter, it's the process. You're asking those people to fire themselves and they didn't want that. Unfortunately, it wasn't what was best for the Town it was best for a group of people.

Mr. Gennette: Thank you for that clarity. I was unaware of the Charter Committee voting to dissolve. I really do think that on behalf of the precinct members that this really should have gone to the ballot box. That's my only concern about this entire thing. It's not whether the charter actually passes it's whether the community had the opportunity to vote. I think precinct members made personal votes that took votes away from the community. That's part of my concern. I think it was a real disservice to the Ludlow residents.

Mr. Goncalves: In the past few days I've watched the annual and special town meetings and last year's and there's no question that people have committed their time in coming to Town Meeting. They do enjoy it. I think they really believe that's the way this Town should be run and they're doing the right thing by their neighbors or districts. I don't think any change to what was proposed was going to change anybody's mind. Maybe a handful but not anything that resembles the number we would need to be hopeful that not immediately in the future we need some kind of a change. I hope the legislature changes somehow. This Town will never vote to remand Town Meeting. People enjoy it too much.

Mr. Rosenblum: Even despite the fact that the 32 communities that have Representative Town Meeting or most of them are starting to look to move away from it. New England is the only part of the country that has Town Meeting.

Mr. Goncalves: I do agree there might be an issue with Town employees holding positions where they have that ability to vote.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to dissolve the Charter Committee effective immediately.

Mr. Silva: Not before we again thank them for all their work. I can't believe the number of meetings and hours these people put into this thing. As you all know, I wasn't for the change. I was for it going to the ballot box but not for the change. I'm one of those people that likes the way we do it but I do like some kind of changes so employees cannot have a vote. What I really want to do is thank the Charter Committee for all their work.

Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.

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Board to discuss reconvening the Bylaw Committee.

Mr. DeBarge: This is where we are now. If you want to make specific changes that are geared towards certain direction, you do it in the bylaws. I was part of the attempt to start a Bylaw Committee. We had members from pertinent departments, Police, Fire, DPW, Finance, Building, everybody that would have something to do this. The problem was we couldn't convene on a day or time that was amiable to everybody so it never really kicked off. It's an arduous task, there's no doubt about that. I would say this Town sorely needs a Bylaw Committee but the commitment to it is going to be pretty big.

Mr. Rosenblum: Even in the new charter there was going to be, one of the first things that would have been done was there was going to be a Bylaw Committee that would have been convening for at least probably a year to look at the bylaws. Any amendments, additions, subtractions or keep the same. It wouldn't be an easy process.

Mr. DeBarge: Marc, what do you think? If the Board wanted to at least explore the idea we'd have to put a letter out.

Mr. Strange: Here's my thought, take it or leave it. I feel like last time it was a lot of Town employees on the Bylaw Committee. I feel like we need Town Meeting members on the committee because they're the ones that are going to have to approve it. I would suggest reaching out to, I think we have their contact information, inviting them to apply to be part of the Bylaw Committee. See what kind of response we get. I also think we should reach out to the Finance Committee, School Committee, probably not Planning Board because these aren't zoning bylaws. I do think it's critical to have representation from Town Meeting members on the committee.

Mr. Rosenblum: To that point, what we heard at Town Meeting was election. Appointments or interviews is going to go back to the point of exactly what they said about the Charter Committee. This is an appointed group and you're picking your people. I'm just playing devil's advocate.

Mr. DeBarge: You have to get people on a board somehow.

Mr. Rosenblum: I agree. I'm just telling you what the thing is going to be. That's what's going to come up. Does that hurt adopting bylaws at a future Town Meeting?

Mr. DeBarge: You could select in a lottery. You could even do it publicly if you needed to.

Mr. Strange: Solicit applications from the public and Town Meeting members, put them all into a lottery.

Mr. DeBarge: Put them all into a lottery and have someone pull them.

Mr. Silva: It doesn't hurt to investigate it and see what kind of interest we get. Put something on the local television. It doesn't mean you have to do it. Later on, you could say if there's no interest.

Mr. Strange: Would you suggest just town residents?

Mr. DeBarge: I think your idea of the precinct members is a great idea. I would do residents and we encourage precinct members.

Mr. Silva: The Selectmen are looking for precinct members as well as residents to apply.

Mr. Rosenblum: With the expectation that it is going to be a long process.

Mr. Gennette: I would volunteer to chair that committee.

Mr. DeBarge: We discussed reconvening the Bylaw Committee. Marc, you have your marching orders and we can move on.

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Board to appoint Bill Rosenblum to the Mobile Home Rent Control Board.

Mr. Goncalves: Mr. Szlosek resigned and we may have a problem with one of the other members. We're involved in some litigation right now and we need to have a meeting rather quickly and I don't believe with Mr. Szlosek being gone I can get a quorum together. I'm the chair of that board. This would be temporary until we can get somebody in the community that would be interested. From an emergency standpoint, it's imperative we get somebody on right away for the purpose of getting that executive meeting together regarding litigation.

Mr. DeBarge: Why does it have to be one of us?

Mr. Goncalves: I've spoken to 100 people and nobody wants to.

Motion made by Mr. Gennette to appoint Bill Rosenblum to the Mobile Home Rent Control Board. **Mr. Silva second.**

Mr. Silva: Mr. Goncalves did check to make sure it was formal and 2 members of the Selectmen can be on that board, which for me I don't think that should be but if it can happen it can happen.

Motion passed 3-0-2.

CLOSING COMMENTS

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Mr. DeBarge: I'm going to start this because there's something I want to bring up. I'm going to talk to somebody specifically about this. I'm talking to the coward that called this office because of an election. This coward calls the office and goes into the nastiest most vulgar diatribe, screaming to our 2 administrative assistants. We've all heard it. I can't tell you how disgusted I am that someone who thinks they're anonymous thinks they can call because they don't like the way something worked out and take it out on somebody else that had nothing to do with it. Nothing to do with your psychosis. Nothing to do with any of the triggering issues, the Trump derangement syndrome that you have. But to call up and do that, you're a coward. You can direct that towards us. You don't need to direct it towards 2 females that don't need to answer our voice mails and hear that kind of vulgar language from you. You are not a man. You should come to us with that and not them. It's going to be kind of weird that I did that and then go into the Pancake Breakfast but I'm going to do it anyway. The 250th and Rotary Club would be very upset with me if I didn't tell you about the Pancake Breakfast and Christmas Tree lighting on December 1st. I hope you gentlemen will discuss that too. That was awful.

Mr. Rosenblum: Yesterday we were at the Veteran's Day festivities at the high school and the Veteran of the Year, Mr. Koss. I couldn't think of someone more deserving. It was a great day. It was great to see all the kids that did the voice of democracy and we got to listen to the 2 first place winners from the middle school and high school. Looking at those kids, there's some very bright kids. They're always listening and watching. They see us. They see how we talk. They see how we act. As adults we need to set good examples. It was great to see all those kids. Some of them I recognized. It's a good group of kids. Congratulations to all the winners from the Legioneer of the Year to VFW winners. It was a good ceremony. It was great to be there. It was great to honor our veterans yesterday. To the point of the voicemail that was left, if you can think of a word that's the absolute worst word, that's what was said. I'm saying that because that's how bad it was. To listen to it and I can't believe someone put that string of words together. It's disgusting. Don't think we don't know, don't think you're anonymous either. There's no reason why we can't sit down and have a discussion. If people are stubborn enough to not come in and say what about this, we're here to listen. Covid screwed this country and whole world up. People are mean-hearted and that's not who I am. People have changed my mind. I changed Derek's mind once. I'm open, why can't other people be? Maybe that's just me. I hope people can do better. If you have questions, comments or concerns you can always come in this room. You can reach out to us. We're normal people. We do this because we want to do it and we want this Town to be better.

Mr. Goncalves: Yesterday was great. Besides Mr. Koss and everybody else that got the awards, the kids with the great essays. I thought it was neat. I don't think for any town function I've ever seen that many people in the auditorium. It was amazing to see the place so full like that. Boys' soccer tomorrow night, round of 8, St. John's Shrewsbury. They took out the number 1 seed a couple nights ago, which was great. They're on the move and hopefully keep it rocking. Tomorrow night at 6:00 for those of you that can take a ride out there. If not, most of the games have been televised live on YouTube, the other schools all have live feed.

Mr. Rosenblum: NFHS.

Mr. Goncalves: The actual schools have YouTube channels. We lost in the semi finals last year. We're the Western Mass champs for the last 3 years. Regarding the phone call, I'm still blown away that person made that call and it wasn't anything we could do or help with. I don't know if he was just being mean to a select group of people and to take the shot at one of the two ladies that work in the Selectmen's office. I'm not sure if it was intended at one, both or whatever. I'm sure we would take up a collection and get him some help if he needs it. I don't get how anybody can say those type of things with good conscious and be classified as a normal human being. Besides that, we'll see you again next week.

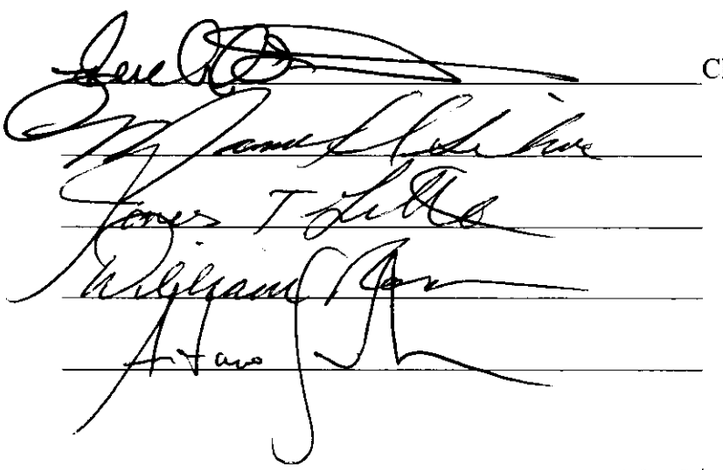
Mr. Silva: My sentiments are the same. To go behind the phone, obviously he wouldn't come in front of anybody and do that. To pick on some ethnicity I don't understand it. Hopefully it is some kind of criminal thing that can be acted upon. I have no words for stupidity.

Mr. Gennette: For myself and everybody on this board we all practice being gentlemen and to hear something like that in the context it was to the group that it was is highly offensive and completely uncalled for. I'm an independent. I vote any way I choose and whether my candidate wins or loses it's a democracy. The people voted the way they voted, we will have a new President and I will support the new President of the United States regardless. You've got to get over yourself. To go out of your way and to make those kinds of rude comments because it didn't happen the way you wanted it to happen is completely unjustifiable and not the characteristics of a gentleman. I loved the Veteran's event yesterday. The only thing yesterday lacked was Manny Silva.

Mr. DeBarge: To Bill Koss & Linda, this was an important event for me because it was you as the Veteran of the Year. One of the best guys on the planet. I said it at the event and I'll keep saying it. It was a great pleasure to be involved in that, especially as the Chair and being able to say something about him. He's one of the best you'll ever meet. Well-deserved Billy and congratulations.

Mr. Silva: I've known Bill for a long time and I was sad that I couldn't be there but congratulations. You deserve it. Well deserved.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to adjourn at 7:18 p.m. **Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**



Chairperson

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