September 3, 2019

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The Meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on Tuesday, September 3, 2019 began at 6:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Conference Room, Town Hall.

Members Present: Chairman Mr. DeBarge, Mr. Silva and Mr. Goncalves
Members Absent: Mrs. Fernandes and Mr. Rosenblum

First Order of Business: The Pledge of Allegiance

Visitations:

Elaine Hodgman Interview, Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate

Mr. DeBarge: Ms. Hodgman I have your interest letter to fill the vacancy of the one term alternate position. Is there anything you'd like to add or say about your wish to fill that position?

Mrs. Hodgman: It is my way of giving back to the town.

Mr. DeBarge: Any questions?

Mr. Goncalves: What type of background do you have in general?

Mrs. Hodgman: I have a degree in Food and Resource Economics. I am on the Open Space Committee in town. I believe in conserving what we have and using it for the best purposes.

Mr. Goncalves: Thank you.

Mr. Silva: Mr. Chairman.

Mr. DeBarge: Mr. Silva.

Mr. Silva: Elaine, if I may?

Mrs. Hodgman: Sure.

Mr. Silva: Do you like Elaine or Mrs. Hodgman?

Mrs. Hodgman: Elaine is fine.

Mr. Silva: Um yea, have you gotten into the Board of Appeals Office and looked at some of the dealings that they do, what it is that you will be asked to do at all, do you know the specifics?

Mrs. Hodgman: I have spoken to Mr. Jarvis and have gone to a few meetings to get my feet wet on what is required. I have looked through the zoning bylaws online. I have not read 157 pages worth.

Mr. Silva: I hope not.

Mrs. Hodgman: But I understand that it is a good committee and I could learn from them.

Mr. Silva: Also, the Mass. General Laws has an awful lot of laws that you have to abide by, you have to follow, strict rules and regulations. I do not know that you've looked at those. That is probably a little more in depth once you get into the position. But, I'm sure you will be able to look at that and decipher what you can and can't do.

Mrs. Hodgman: I'll give it my best try.

Mr. Silva: You don't, ok.

Mr. Goncalves: Mr. Chairman, this is an alternate position?

Mr. DeBarge: Yes.

Mr. Goncalves: You probably will have a lot of meetings where you are going to be the fifth wheel.

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Mrs. Hodgman: And, I will be able to listen and learn.

Mr. Goncalves: Sure, on the job training.

Mr. Silva: Hopefully, many times it's an alternate position but somebody moves on before you know it and before you know it, you are in the alternate position for two months. Who knows.

Mrs. Hodgman: It's always a surprise.

Mr. Silva: Yes, yes.

Mr. DeBarge: Mrs. Hodgman, I just have one question for you. Was there one specific thing that made you want to jump into this? This is a pretty um. . . what's the word I want to use, ahh. . . difficult one of our Boards, thankless, thankless one of our Boards that puts in a lot of work. Was there something specific that brought you to this kind of a Board?

Mrs. Hodgman: It just sounded interesting to be able to help the Board and use the town property in Ludlow to it's best use and to guide people and to help them to figure out what would be the best for that property.

Mr. DeBarge: All set. Any questions at all?

Mr. Jarvis: No, just to continue with the Board's concerns and that is we deal a lot with Mass. General Law 40A mostly § 6 and the Town of Ludlow Zoning Bylaws. As a member, even an alternate member, when an application comes forward, it requires some research so you have a good idea how everything applies and when the applicant comes before the Board if you have any problems with the research part of any application.

Mrs. Hodgman: I've done enough research papers in my high school years and college years that it's, I know what to do for it. I will be guided by where to look for you...for the information for you guys and go from there. That's the best I can do. I have lots of time on my hand. I do not work anymore and I need to fill my time with something productive.

Mr. Jarvis: And as was stated, again you are an add-on. You'd only be voting in a case of a permanent member who was not available for that particular hearing.

Mrs. Hodgman: Right.

Mr. Jarvis: But you still should attend all of the meetings because should somebody, should an application be continued and at least if you were at a previous meeting you could step forward and fill in. If you are not present, then you cannot fill in.

Mrs. Hodgman: Correct.

Mr. Jarvis: I'm all set.

Mr. DeBarge: Ok.

Mr. Goncalves: I'm good. No, thank you for stepping forward. It looks like we probably do not have anyone else either. Not that you wouldn't be my choice anyway but, um it's good we are starting to lose interest in general across the board even at the ballot boxes let alone for volunteers. Thank you.

Mrs. Hodgman: You're welcome.

Mr. Goncalves: Mr. Chairman I make a motion that we appoint Mrs. Hodgman as the alternate member. Seconded by Mr. Silva. Vote 3-0 motion carries unanimously.

Brian Shameklis, Safety Committee Chairman and Penny Lebel, Assistant Chair

Mr. Shameklis came to discuss with the Board the schematic in regard to the flashing crosswalk sign for the East Street and Chestnut Street crosswalk. The Safety Committee's proposal is to move the crosswalk presently located on East Street near the Memorial Park which crosses the street in front of

Walgreens Plaza approximately 30 feet eastward to line up with Chestnut Street. Mr. Shameklis stated some of the reasons for this proposal is for safety, convenience and to increase pedestrian usage of the crosswalk. The enhanced beacon with flashing lights is a part of the same crosswalk plan being used for the Center Street project in front of Haviland Pond.

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Mr. Silva asked Mr. Shameklis if moving the crosswalk will affect traffic which currently gets backed up on East Street between the hours of 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Mr. Shameklis stated there is a timing issue with the traffic light turning onto the Putts bridge and the DPW is addressing the issue.

Mr. Goncalves moved and seconded by Mr. Silva to approve the Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon Detail to be located at East Street and Chestnut Street in front of Walgreens. Vote 3-0 motion carries.

Mr. Shameklis also came to discuss with the Board information regarding a proposal to lower speed limits in town from 30 m.p.h. to 25 m.p.h. unless otherwise posted. Mr. Shameklis presented a positive study from Boston showing the effects of lowering the speed limit from 30 m.p.h. to 25 m.p.h. Mr. Shameklis stated the study in Boston showed the 85th percentile, the national standard average, of traffic stayed the same at 30 m.p.h. The study shows the percentage of people traveling 35 mph or more dropped by 29.3%; people exceeding 30 mph or more fell 8.5%; and people exceeding 25 m.p.h. fell 2.9%.

Mr. Shameklis presented data from Forensic Dynamics Inc. illustrating breaking distance for miles per hour on dry, wet and snow-covered asphalt. For example, the data shows at 25 m.p.h. on dry asphalt takes approximately 30 feet to break as opposed to approximately 60 feet when traveling 35 m.p.h. which is a significant increase. Mr. Shameklis stated vehicles travelling more than 35 m.p.h. would be the ones targeted.

Mr. Shameklis presented flashing speed sign reports from Blanchard Avenue, Pleasant View, Swan Avenue and Kendall Street. The data shows over a 20-day period, roughly 17,000 vehicles traveled down Blanchard Avenue; the 85th percentile speed was 31 m.p.h. and the average was 26 m.p.h. Mr. Shameklis stated the vehicles travelling more than 35 m.p.h. would be targeted. Pleasant View had 4,000 vehicles; the 85th percentile speed was 29 m.p.h. and the average was 23 m.p.h. Swan Avenue had 17,500 vehicles; the 85th percentile speed was 30 m.p.h. and the average was 25 m.p.h. Kendall Street had 3,700 vehicles; the 85th percentile speed was 29 m.p.h. and the average was 22 m.p.h.

Lastly, Mr. Shameklis presented a published newspaper article opposing the need to lower speed limits in Wakefield, MA. Wakefield Police force voiced concerns about how to enforce lowering speed limits.

Mr. DeBarge praised Mr. Shameklis with the research presented and stated it also supports his belief as to why the speed limit should not be dropped to 25 m.p.h. Mr. DeBarge stated the flashing speed signs do an incredible job assisting drivers to respect the speed limit. Mr. DeBarge stated the data indicates regarding Blanchard Avenue, approximately 3,000 vehicles violated the speed limit. Mr. DeBarge asked how many miles over the speed limit was considered a violation? Mr. Shameklis stated approximately 10 m.p.h. over the speed limit was considered a violation.

Mr. Silva asked how many surrounding communities have lowered their speed limit from 30 m.p.h. to 25 m.p.h. Mr. Shameklis stated Chicopee and Springfield have both lowered their speed limit. Mr. Shameklis stated he would like to see similar posting of city-wide 25 m.p.h. in residential or commercial areas unless otherwise posted on the borders of entrance for the Town of Ludlow. Mr. Goncalves stated he supports the ideas of decreasing the speed limit by 20% and increasing the stop time by 40% which is huge for 5 m.p.h. Mr. Goncalves stated many small crashes and injuries could be avoided.

Mr. DeBarge stated he does not believe the posting of the signs will have an impact on the way people drive. Mr. Shameklis stated the other option would be to post signs street by street on an as needed basis if we do not post a town-wide speed limit.

Lowering the speed limit from 30 m.p.h. to 25 m.p.h. was submitted to the Board as an Article for Town meeting and the Board voted not to submit it to Town Meeting. Mr. Shameklis stated the Safety Committee voted unanimously in support of lowering the speed limit. Mrs. Villano stated waiting until May will give the Board an opportunity to discuss further, and to perform educational outreach to residents before Town Meeting. Mr. Silva stated it would be nice to poll more adjoining communities to see if they have implemented the same. The Board will need to wait until May of 2020 to put it on the warrant.

Correspondence:

208. Bruce Broyles, Member, Catholic parishes of Chicopee & Ludlow 9/11 Memorial Mass Committee – informing the Board of the 13th annual deanery-wide 9/11 Memorial Mass, will be celebrated on Wednesday, September 11th at 7:00 p.m. at St. Anne Church, 30 College Street, in the Fairview section of Chicopee.

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Moved by Mr. Silva seconded by Mr. Goncalves to file. Vote 3-0 all in favor.

209. Stuart H. Isham, Sr. – request to be appointed as an independent poll worker. The Town Clerk recommends appointment.

Moved by Mr. Silva seconded by Mr. Goncalves to appoint Stuart H. Isham, Sr. as an independent poll worker. Vote 3-0 all in favor.

210. Housing Appeals Committee, DHCD – Notice of Site Visit and Hearing scheduled for October 29, 2019, Ludlow Town Hall, and October 30, 2019, October 31, 2019, and November 1, 2019 in Boston – Way Finders, Inc. vs. Ludlow Zoning Board of Appeals.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves seconded by Mr. Silva to file. Vote 3-0 all in favor.

211. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission Amended Notice of Hearing for Turnpike Package Store, Inc. d/b/a Turnpike Package Store scheduled for Thursday, October 29, 2019 at 11:30 a.m. - continued from 7/30/19.

Moved by Mr. Silva seconded by Mr. Goncalves to file. Vote 3-0 all in favor.

212. Board to approve a request to charge off medical expenses and lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for medical condition sustained to a Police Officer as a result of an incident that occurred on July 1, 2019.

Moved by Mr. Silva seconded by Mr. Goncalves to approve a request to charge off medical expenses and lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for medical condition sustained to a Police Officer as a result of an incident that occurred on July 1, 2019. Vote 3-0 all in favor.

213. Shawn Ryan Howe, American Legion Post 52 Commander – seeking approval from the Board to hold a parade in August of 2021 in celebration of their 100 years in existence and seeking approval to form a formal parade committee. Post 52 would like the Board's input on a parade route as well as have a Selectman on the parade committee.

Chairman DeBarge advised Mrs. Villano to schedule a visitation for Mr. Howe to appear before the Board at a future date to discuss in further detail.

Unfinished Business:

Board to review the applicants for the Track and Field Replacement Committee. How does the Board wish to proceed?

The Board discussed the appointment of the five applicants to the Track and Field Replacement Committee and having either the Town Accountant or the Athletic Director serve as a non-voting member.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves and seconded by Mr. Silva to appoint the five (5) applicants, Brian Walsh, Joe Jorge, Tony Salvador, Thomas Fournier, and Patricia Gregoire to the Ludlow High School Track and Field Replacement Committee. Vote 3-0 all in favor unanimously.

Board to approve and sign ten copies of the October 7, 2019 Special Town Meeting Warrant.

Moved by Mr. Silva and seconded by Mr. Goncalves to approve and sign ten copies of the October 7, 2019 Special Town Meeting Warrant. Vote 3-0 all in favor.

Board to peruse Selectmen Executive Session Meeting Minutes of July 16, 2019 and August 13, 2019.

The Board perused the Selectmen Executive Session Meeting Minutes of July 16, 2019 and August 13, 2019.

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New Business:

Board to award the contract for the Riverside Drive Design, Engineering, and Construction Management Services to Wright-Pierce and further vote to execute said contract pending approval/concurrence of Town Counsel and the EDA.

Mr. Silva moved and seconded by Mr. Goncalves to award the contract for Riverside Drive Design, Engineering, and Construction Management Services to Wright-Pierce and to further vote to execute said contract pending approval/concurrence of Town Counsel and the EDA. Vote 3-0 all in favor.

Board to review and approve the amended Street Acceptance Policy.

Mrs. Villano stated the Street Acceptance Policy reflects new rules the developer, Planning Board, and Board of Selectmen need to adhere to regarding the deed and title search. Mr. Silva moved and seconded by Mr. Goncalves to review and approve the amended Street Acceptance Policy. Vote 3-0 all in favor.

Board to approve and Chairman to sign the Contract between GZA and the Town for Civil Engineering Analysis and Expert Testimony for the Way Finders Appeal.

Mr. Goncalves moved and seconded by Mr. Silva to approve and the Chairman to sign the Contract between GZA and the Town for Civil Engineering Analysis and Expert Testimony for the Way Finders Appeal. Vote 3-0 all in favor.

Chairman approved and signed all bills, warrants and abatements. A record of all warrants is in the Selectmen's office for perusal until provided to the Town Accountant's office.

Signed.

Board to enter Executive Session for the purposes of discussing negotiations with the Police Officers, Police Supervisors, and Nurses Union.
*To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting, may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigation position of the public body and the Chair so declares.

Upcoming events are as follows:

September 11: 10:00 a.m. Ludlow Fire and Police 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony at the Public Safety Complex at Center and Chapin Streets

Closing Comments:

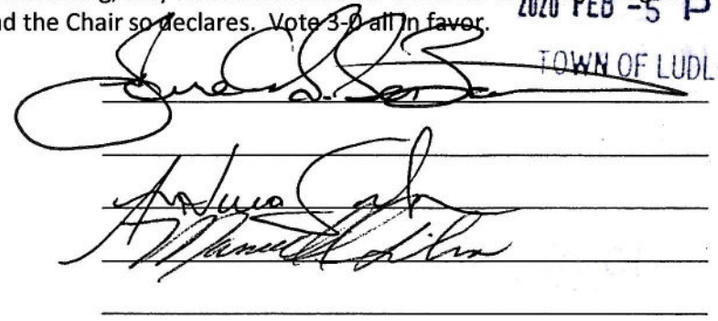
Mr. Silva thanked residents for supporting FESTA and making it successful.

Mr. Goncalves reminded residents school is back in session and to slow down for kids and buses.

Mr. DeBarge stated he had a great time at FESTA.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves and seconded by Mr. Silva to adjourn this meeting at 7:00 p.m., not come back to this meeting, and to enter into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing negotiations with the Police Officers, Police Supervisors, and Nurses Union. To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation that if in an open meeting, may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigation position of the public body and the Chair so declares. Vote 3-0 all in favor.

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Ludlow Board of Selectmen

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