The Meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on Tuesday, October 22, 2019 began at 5:30 p.m. in the Selectmen's Conference Room, Town Hall.

Members Present: Derek DeBarge, Chairman, Carmina Fernandes, Manuel Silva, Antonio Goncalves and William Rosenblum

First Order of Business: The Pledge of Allegiance

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
2020 MAR 12 P 2:
TOWN OF FAIRHAVEN

**Visitations:**

Senior Center Building Committee – Dan Pollata, OPM, Fred Lafayette, Chairman, Richard Moscal, Vice Chairman met with the Board. Mr. Pollata from the Senior Center Building Committee gave the Board a hand out of all the bids as well as the top four bids backup paperwork that they received for the Senior Center project. Forish Construction from Westfield had the lowest most responsible bid and P3 has done 3 previous projects with them over the past 4 years. Forish honors their work and backs up the guarantees. The Senior Center Building Committee made a recommendation to the Building committee today and they voted to ask the Board to award the project to Forish Construction Company The next step would be to sign a notice of award for $6,899,547.00. This notice will need to be signed by the Chairman and then the Senior Center Building Committee will work on getting the bonds and insurance.

Mr. Goncalves asked if Mr. Pollata could refresh on what the two options were. Mr. Pollata stated that alternate one and alternate two were backups for kitchen equipment (alt 1) and landscaping (alt 2) in case there was a funding shortage this could be part of the Friends of the Senior Center fundraising. However, they were not short on funds and it will be seamless and installed at the same time. Mrs. Fernandes confirmed that $6,899,547.00 is the total for the project.

Mr. Rosenblum asked Mr. Pollata if the Friends of the Senior Center fundraising effort is basically for the furnishing. Mr. Pollata said he cannot speak to that, he is hired by the Town to build the building.

Mr. Debarge asked Mr. Pollata what exactly they need from the Board and Mr. Pollata stated that he needs the vote to authorize the Chair to send out a notice of award. The Senior Center Building Committee will then collect the necessary information to go to contract and the contract will go to counsel and get signed by the Chair.

Mrs. Fernandes asked Mr. Pollata when the estimated time of completion for the project would be. Mr. Pollata stated the goal is Thanksgiving 2021 but contractually they will have until December 7th or 8th but they are on target right now.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum to approve and award Forish Construction as stated with the P3 bidding specification that was presented to us today, including alt one and alt two for a total of $6,899,547.00 for the Senior Center construction contract. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

**Tax Classification Hearing:**

Mr. Debarge: Ok next up is our Tax Classification Hearing due to a lack of information we are going to be postponing our Tax Classification Hearing to November 19th.

Ms. Villano: If I might Mr. Chairman, um Joe will be in at 6:00 p.m. for you to do it officially at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Debarge: We have to wait for that, okay. Thank you.

Ms. Villano: Yeah because it is advertised there may be people that show up for that classification.

Mr. Debarge: Show up for that, okay. Well, then we will go to correspondence then.

Moved by Mr. Silva to open the tax classification hearing at 6:00 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Fernandes.

Mr. Debarge: Thank you and with that we will get started. Come on up Joe.

Mr. Alves: I asked the Board to open it like Manny did and continue it until the 19th. We are still trying to get the data together and uploaded so we are behind the ball a little bit. The DPW will be setting their sewer rate today. So, we are trickling along.

Mr. Debarge: How many more do you need?

Mr. Alves: How many?

Mr. Debarge: Who else are you waiting for?

Mr. Alves: My own data is getting uploaded and then it needs to get approved so instead of rushing back here the 5th, with speaking to Ellie, I think the 19th makes more sense.

Mr. Debarge: Gotcha.

Mr. Alves: Same with the Accountant with her numbers as well so it's a little nervy every year so we're there.

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
2020 MAR -4 P 2:42
TOWN OF LUDLOW

Mr. Debarge: Sure.

Mr. Silva: Joe so I think this is like the third time you have done this.

Mr. Alves: Yup.

Mr. Silva: Is there a way you could not do this because classification can be rather important and although the last past few years there hasn't been much, but we did have years that we had the house full, right. So, if we are going to do this there probably man people want to come won't and to reschedule it just doesn't work. So, what I am getting at is can't we just develop a time that works better than trying to do it so early. Quite honestly as soon as I saw the date I really didn't understand how possibly that was going to happen, but my suggestion is that we do it later and have.

Mr. Alves: I agree with you. You know we do have to adhere to some of the two-week posting notices and such so this is a fail-safe for me and Ellie to get everybody on board and hustle along. I usually have to chase people down for data, for meetings so this is kind of a strategy that we do every year. The last couple of years I have been ready personally, but I don't think anyone else has and this year it's kind of reversed a little bit apart from DPW maybe. It is really to hustle everybody along, to have a set date to get these people on board. But I am with you opening and continued is unorthodox, but it seems to be working. I can't yell at people so that is really why I am doing this.

Mr. Goncalves: I think now that you told everybody it is just a scam to get them ready now they're going know and next year their going to be late on purpose.

Mr. Alves: Well, then I will have to start yelling. You know, and I am on everybody after July 1st to hustle along but it seems to drag a little bit you know.

Mrs. Fernandes: Would a letter from this Board maybe help because I agree with Mr. Silva. People, we hear people voicing their frustration with the taxes and you know if we keep just changing dates they may not take the dates as serious.

Mr. Alves: Yeah, any help would be welcome. Like I said I just try to get everybody's data ready. Everybody is usually behind a little with data toward the end of the year. The goal is to set a tax rate before Thanksgiving because you get bogged down with the Department of Revenue and ugh.

Mr. Silva: Mr. Chairman, may I? I have asked you before and I am pretty sure that I know that we are not a Chapter 653 community, right?

Mr. Alves: Right.

Mr. Silva: Your growth and what not is January 1st?

Mr. Alves: Right.

Mr. Silva: So, if it is January 1st I mean most of the data should be relatively easier to get. I'm July 1st.

Mr. Alves: Right.

Mr. Silva: Which I have to wait until July 1st to actually put in all this data.

Mr. Alves: Yeah data was in early September, so it is in the hands of the software provider, Mr. Kapinos and we are trying to make sense of it before we upload it. So, it is an interim year not a cert year but either way I don't think we have ever set a tax rate earlier than this meeting here, maybe once November 3rd was the earliest. But, I would like to get it done earlier you know it's just you know. The DPW sewer rate would have to get done much earlier, Enterprise funds, Free Cash I mean it trickles down to a lot of departments not just myself.

Mrs. Fernandes: So, what would be an ideal date I guess?

Mr. Alves: I don't' think there is an ideal date. It's when everybody is ready. It's not just one entity. You know Accountant, Enterprise funds, the schools, Free Cash you know it's a lot of data to get together. You are talking once July is up you get all the data in and try to make sense of it and put it together. You know and gateway with the Accountant and local receipts you look at that as well, so you know I don't think there is a magic date. To me the earlier the better, before Thanksgiving is the goal. As Manny knows, you go past Thanksgiving and then set a tax rate; I will be printing bills December 23rd. So, you know it's not a good spot to be in.

Mr. Silva: Quite honestly, being a January 1st community there should be no reason to not have the information all in at this time, none, quite honestly. But there might be other factors that I don't know about and personally working with this stuff, I don't see any issues at this time why we shouldn't have everybody in, all their stuff in. I mean, I don't know. So, if you can work on it and we can work on it and try to.

Mr. Goncalves: So, what you are saying Mr. Silva is that all the information that we need to bring the table here is based on information that was available to all of these departments on January 1st?

Mr. Silva: No, no, no his information as far as the growth and what not he has up to January 1st, anything beyond so that information can be done a lot earlier. The rest of the information, just as we had certification for Free Cash has to go into the recap. That's just, when did that happen?

Mr. Alves: Friday.

Ms. Villano: Yeah, I think we got the notification Friday.

Mr. Silva: Friday only?

Ms. Villano: She had it in earlier, but she had some questions.

Mr. Silva: Yeah, from what I recall it was in.

Ms. Villano: Like normal there's normal questions back and forth.

All talking over each other

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
2020 MAR -4 P 2:43
TOWN OF LUDLOW

Mr. Goncalves: When would DPW numbers, what does the DPW base their numbers on?

Mr. Alves: They have to set their sewer rate, so they are having their meeting today after tracking them down and pushing them.

Mr. Goncalves: What prohibits them from having their sewer rate data in a month ago?

Mr. Alves: That's a question for them.

Mr. Goncalves: Nothing?

Mr. Alves: I think organizational wise they need to be ahead of the data. I mean they have the data so as long as they're on top of it.

Mr. Goncalves: And their data period ended when?

Mr. Alves: After July 1st they can have the numbers, they can look at it and you go from there so.

Mr. Silva: But what effect is the sewer rate doing? Is that the Enterprise fund?

Mr. Alves: Enterprise fund so without that there is no tax rate unless it is signed off and closed out. Any Enterprise fund operates that way. This one is contingent on the sewer rate. We have been delayed before because of the Free Cash, we have been delayed before because of the sewer rate as well. So, these, you know this is just normal business you know.

Mr. Debarge: Joe have you ever set a date and made that date with every other entity in Town, getting the numbers?

Mr. Alves: No.

Mr. Debarge: So, if you set a date for October 5th and everybody comes in two weeks later or three weeks later then there has to...my point of asking that question is everybody is always going to come in later.

Mr. Alves: Right.

Mr. Debarge: Because they're going to take that date and say well he can wait a couple week because it's always been that way.

Mr. Alves: Right.

Mr. Debarge: So.

Mr. Alves: I rely on communication, I mean I go to every department.

Mr. Debarge: Oh, I am not blaming you at all.

Mr. Alves: Right, no it is just part of the process. I could of...

Mr. Debarge: I blame laziness.

Mr. Alves: Yeah, I could have set an earlier date you know. Let's just think, it would the 19th so let's just say you don't have everything in by then. Then you are looking at another two weeks with holiday's in between and it just, it's been a problem since I have been here, three out of the last eight have been continued. The Department of Revenue has no issues. I mean I ask them the question if there's issues, there's a protocol. As long as they have the minutes from this meeting that it was opened and continued they are okay with it. I don't think that we are the only one. From what I gather there are a lot of communities that set a date and hurry everybody up. A letter from this Board would be great, you know.

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
2020 MAR 12 P 2:50

Mr. Debarge: We would be happy to do that, I am just wondering if there is some kind of penalty that we could impose.

Talking over each other.

Mrs. Fernandes: That's what I am thinking, reduce their budget.

Mr. Alves: No, no I don't think, it just comes down to communication and accountability quite honestly.

Mr. Rosenblum: And I think that what you are getting at, Mr. Chairman, is that if we extend the date then it will make it drag out more.

Mr. Debarge: Yeah.

Mr. Rosenblum: And I am thinking that you know what, hold their feet to the fire and make it be the 15th or whatever is just to I mean then if they are late then you are not going out to the middle of November.

Mr. Alves: Right

Mr. Rosenblum: And like Mrs. Fernandes is saying and Mr. Debarge if it takes some help from us then absolutely. I mean people need to be accountable and cannot drag on it.

Mr. Alves: No, absolutely example the DPW I was going to touch with them a month and a half ago and it took weeks for them to post the meeting. I mean, me and Ellie are all over these people and finally did and today is the date they are having their hearing for the sewer.

Ms. Villano: And if I might Mr. Chairman, I believe that there may have been we were assured that it was going to be set at their October 8th meeting. But there seem to have been an advertisement snafu, so they had to, because they have to advertise for two weeks so they had to reschedule theirs to the 22nd. So that kind of, yeah.

Mr. Debarge: Well that's why I asked has there ever been a date that's been met?

Ms. Villano: There has been. If I might, Mr. Chairman, what we have been trying to do is, I mean there have been times when our tax rate was set on December 26th.

Mrs. Fernandes: Oh, I remember.

Ms. Villano: So, we have been trying to....

Mrs. Fernandes: Get ahead of it.

Ms. Villano: Exactly, get ahead of it and try and get in sooner and get it towards the end of October, the beginning of November, and with the change of some department heads we have been able to get it a lot of the work done in advance. This one, I think just you know normally the Assessor has all of his

information in and this seems to be he didn't have his information in, the DPW couldn't get their tax rates set on the times that they had wanted to originally and it brings us to the point where we now have to continue this date. And for, so we are asking the Board to continue this hearing to a date certain and a time and then it's not required but I will be advertising it in the newspaper again, the Register and putting it out everywhere so people will know that it has been continued to the 19th.

Mr. Silva: Mr. Chairman,

Mr. Debarge: Mr. Silva.

Mr. Silva: What notification do people have that this is going to be continued? In other words, let's say that there are several people coming in tonight they don't have any notification that this is going to be continued to a further hearing, right?

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
2020 MAR-4 P 2:43
TOWN OF LUDLOW

Ms. Villano: No, because you haven't taken that vote. I mean, a few people have called, and I have said my understanding is the anticipation is that it is going to be continued.

Mr. Silva: Right

Ms. Villano: I can't tell anyone not to show up, you know it is an open meeting. So, I do provide as much information as I can without really; I can't say the Board voted because you haven't voted yet. You haven't taken that matter up. So, we do give a heads up and say in all likelihood it is going to be continued. I can't get that out to everyone, but, as people reach out or we send to certain departments.

Mr. Silva: Right because I know there are various groups that like to attend, like the Chamber and....

Ms. Villano: Which is one of the individuals that called, and we did say in all likelihood it will be continued.

Mr. Alves: And most of those entities will call and ask for information as well so.

Ms. Villano: Right, right.

Mr. Alves: You know we do talk to a few people during this week and hinted at continued.

Mrs. Fernandes: Does it make sense to do almost like a soft run where one of the Board members meets, you know sets a deadline this date that you recommend, and everybody has to have their numbers in by that date or get some kind of penalization. So that, I agree with Mr. Silva, you know people are scheduling their times to come to this and it just would make sense if we could get it behind the scenes to get all of that information and then schedule a Tax Classification hearing.

Mr. Alves: I have been doing that for three, four months now. Behind the scenes talking to people...

Mrs. Fernandes: But I am talking would it make sense for the Board or two Board members to hold a meeting.

Mr. Alves: Anything would help quite honestly you know. I don't think it's a big deal apart from some concerns that people want to come and at the time other than that. The DOR has never hinted at being you know....

Mr. Silva: It's not about the DOR Joe....it's about our taxpayers and our situation and I work with DOR and I could care what they think. It's about in here, you know.

Mr. Alves: Yeah, it's about accountability, at the end of the day if people that have to do the data have to be accountable.

Mr. Silva: I know the DOR is going to say they are okay with it but.

Mr. Alves: Yeah

Mr. Silva: But is that the right thing to do just because they say it is okay, no.

Mrs. Fernandes: Well and it doesn't look well upon us if we are always rescheduling the tax classification hearing.

Mr. Alves: If you think of a date, how do you pick a perfect date? I mean you got to advertise for at least two weeks you know.

Mr. Silva: You don't have to pick the perfect date but you got to say okay you got this information within the next you know quite honestly today you probably would have a better idea that you are going to have it the 19th or a couple of weeks ago rather than make it you know the 22nd which is. I mean if you didn't have a lot of your pieces why make it the 22nd?

Mr. Alves: But we set this, I think the letter went out the 2nd so I foresee being ready it's just, it's out of my hands. I'm not the only cook here. We sent the letter to the Selectmen it was the 2nd.

Ms. Villano: It was the 1st.

Mr. Alves: Yeah, so we had plenty of time even for advisor to get our stuff in. The work has been done and completed for a while so there is a lag on multiple people this year you know so. I am pretty positive the 19th we will be ready to go so.

Mr. Goncalves: Should we, Mr. Chairman, should we send a letter to each department that is lacking information and tell them that if they are not able to provide that information prior to November 5th they should plan on attending this meeting and explain why?

Mrs. Fernandes: Yes perfect, I was going to suggest that.

Mr. Goncalves: ..... two weeks ahead of time.

Mr. Alves: Yeah that would be good.

Mrs. Fernandes: That would be good.

Mr. Goncalves: So at least they know we are watching.

Mr. Debarge: I would endorse that, for sure.

Mr. Goncalves: So, either they are going to get it to you prior to two weeks before that 19th or they are coming in to explain why they can't.

Mr. Debarge: Because I feel that any future date that is set they are just going to bypass it.

Mr. Rosenblum: Keep going.

Mr. Debarge: Yup.

Mr. Alves: We have never had that happen, with the second, I don't think we have had double....

Mr. Goncalves: One.....and you are okay.

Mr. Alves: Yeah, you know.

Mr. Debarge: So, right set the first one.

Mr. Alves: Set a date and made sure everyone had enough time, but it didn't happen so. But I don't see any hiccups from the DOR or the tax rate or anything like that.

Mr. Silva: Again, Mr. Chairman if I can.

Mr. Debarge: Sure.

Mr. Silva: This is true, and I got to say the DOR has been very good at setting our tax rate timely and sometimes they kind of over, let some things slide because we are so late so that you get your actual tax rate in time and get your bills in time because not getting your bills out by the 1st can cost you a lot of significant monies. So, when we start pushing this you know back to the 19th, God forbid there is something, then the 19th doesn't happen then you are into December now you got to....

Mr. Alves: My fail safe is that we print the bills in house so that allows me and Fred in a short time of period to do it.

Mr. Silva: Right.

Mr. Alves: But still it is a lot of pressure as you get later on in December.

Mr. Silva: Let's hope your printer doesn't break down and then you can't print.

Mr. Alves: Absolutely,

Talking over each other

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
2020 MAR -4 P 2:43
TOWN OF HOLLOW

Mr. Silva: No, I'm telling you I've seen these things happen.

Mr. Alves: We have a contingency plan with Gary.

Mrs. Fernandes: I think it just makes sense to me to set, you schedule a date with them by which they have to get you the information. Then we set another date where they have to meet with one of the Board of Selectmen at a meeting and that will be the deadline and if they can't perform by that date then we bring them in publicly to tell us why they couldn't perform and then we set, we schedule the public meeting. I think that would be ideal.

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
2020 MAR -4 P 2:43
TOWN OF LUDLOW

Mr. Alves: The earliest I think we have set the tax rate here was I think October 3rd so.

Ms. Villano: I thought it was last year?

Mr. Alves: No two years ago so that's like a dream time.

Mr. Silva: Before you say that, we did not set tax rates October 3rd. We don't set tax rates at classification hearings.

Mr. Alves: Right, right but that was the earliest we have gotten where October 3rd.....

Mr. Silva: The tax rate classification is only set when the Department of Revenue gets all the information and tells us okay, everything is fine that is when you set the tax rate.

Mr. Alves: Right, right, that was the earliest and like I said yeah, I mean entities can hustle up you know. In September, you know that's really early too, but I'm not sure the Accountant would be ready in September with schools and everything so.

Mr. Silva: I am still, I'm still, I would have to search because I don't see how it's not possible but maybe I'm wrong.

Mrs. Fernandes: What dates do you guys in your town there that you...

Mr. Silva: Oh, we were ready a month ago, but we are July 1.

Mrs. Fernandes: Oh, you are July 1, yeah.

Mr. Silva: That is just his end of it, July 1, but the others have they're regular schedules. I just, I don't know. Ok, I am good.

Mrs. Fernandes: I think we should set dates or you know.

Mr. Debarge: I like Mr. Goncalves idea where if they are not in by the 5th then, then they should come in and tell us why.

Mr. Alves: I'll agree with that.

Mr. Debarge: I mean we know, we know, I mean let's be clear it's not every department.

Mr. Alves: Right.

Mrs. Fernandes: And maybe they don't realize that it's serious you know, you know maybe they.

Mr. Alves: I think they know it's serious.

Mrs. Fernandes: Ok.

Mr. Alves: It falls by the wayside or whatnot.

Mr. Debarge: I mean with all the talk, I mean with all the talk about taxes and everything else that goes on in this Town if they don't realize how serious it is then we have a bigger issue.

Mrs. Fernandes: I mean in serious I mean they think that we can just reschedule and reschedule and reschedule is what I mean not serious, the date.

Mr. Debarge: Right, no I know what you mean.

Mrs. Fernandes: Yeah, the date, the date.

Mr. Debarge: No, I got ya, I just think it is a lack of....

Mr. Alves: It get's pretty serious once you have a classification date, you know I think that's a pretty serious date you know to abide by you know. It's consistently being ignored or purposely you know delayed.

Mr. Rosenblum: It's like one of two things, it's like you said, things come up or you are just plain old lazy. That is really what it comes down to. That's the bottom line.

Mr. Alves: Yes.

Mr. Debarge: You can't be chasing after them all the time.

Mr. Rosenblum: No.

Mr. Alves: It happens every year.

Mr. Rosenblum: And I do agree you know with what we are talking about, bringing them in if not ready.

Mr. Alves: Maybe late September and saying hey where is everybody and set a date you know how can we meet it?

Mr. Rosenblum: Yeah, because to Mrs. Fernandes point if we say can you be ready in two weeks. Yes, we can all be ready in two weeks then you can put your two weeks' notice out so then basically it's a month out, whatever the dates are.

Mr. Alves: Just kind of what we did this year.

Mr. Rosenblum: Right.

Mr. Alves: It still didn't pan out.

Mr. Rosenblum: And on that first part if someone said on that first date well we're not sure maybe that's when you bring in someone from the Board to go ahead and say again put their feet to the fire and say you know this needs to be done because if affects everybody.

Mr. Debarge: Mr. Silva do you have something?

Mr. Silva: No, I'm all set I just I know we still have time I just don't like postponing this hearing. I mean it is kind of, to me it's a strange way to do things, postponing a hearing for classification I mean, I don't know. Maybe it's me.

Mr. Alves: No, it's not you, it's happen more times then we like and so the letter I sent out was the 2nd, of this month so we are talking 3-4 weeks before I talked to everybody, make sure everybody is on board for that. Everybody said yes, yes and now we are here today.

Mr. Silva: The reason I don't like it like I said I have had some really contentious meetings. This was previous when the economy went bad and everybody was really struggling. If we had a contentious meeting today, let's say we had 20 people in here, we would have unhappy people, very unhappy people, you know, so.

Mr. Debarge: Yup, I don't disagree with you at all.

Mr. Silva: That's all.

Mr. Goncalves: Feel better?

Mr. Silva: Moving on.

Mr. Goncalves: So, should we make a motion to we contact all department heads with the understanding that if they're not going to have their numbers into Mr. Alves by the 5th we would like them to come in?

Ms. Villano: You can make any motion you want. Sorry talking about the time or making the motion to continue. So, I was going to, you threw me.

Mr. Silva: Yeah, we opened it so.

Mr. Alves: Yeah, we opened it and need a motion to continue.

Ms. Villano: To the 19th at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Debarge: Yes, let's take care of that first.

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
2020 MAR -4 P 2:43
TOWN OF LUDLOW

Moved by Mr. Silva, seconded by Mrs. Fernandes to continue the Tax Classification Hearing until November 19, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum to contact all department heads as identified by Mr. Alves who have not submitted all their information prior to November 5th to appear before the Board on November 5, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

Mrs. Fernandes: Should we have this every year, set a date every year?

Mr. Alves: I think we should at least in September, start to follow it earlier you know; I think I did this year as well but if you guys get involved it may have more weight.

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
2020 MAR -4 P 2:43
TOWN OF LUDLOW

Mr. Silva: Certainly, I think we should have a target date of October 1st or something.

Mrs. Fernandes: Every year, that's what I mean.

Mr. Silva: And the gateway portal I mean....

Mrs. Fernandes: October 1st or the closest meeting to October 1st that we can meet.

Mr. Silva: You think that is reasonable?

Ms. Villano: Well I was talking with the secretary....

Mr. Alves: I feel like our history, it's not reasonable, the first.

Ms. Villano: So, we reached out, we did all the due diligence we can. There were reasons why; I gave you one, the DPW didn't advertise correctly and they couldn't set their sewer rate until tonight. They assured both Joe and I that on October 8th they would be setting their sewer rate. So that would have helped. The Accountant has all of her information in so.

Mr. Alves: The Clerk as well.

Ms. Villano: The Clerk as well so it really boils down to, I can't....

Mr. Alves: Yeah, we have seen a few cases where from Free Cash not being certified until January to...

Ms. Villano: Right, right

Mrs. Fernandes: But again I think if we set a date by which they have to have that information in; granted there could be one slip of advertising, but if we set almost like a soft meeting with it, could be one of the Board of Selectmen, so it doesn't have to be a public meeting just so all the numbers are in except the minor ones that maybe we didn't advertise or whatever just so we are not rescheduling classification, tax classification dates. I think if you give a set date by which they have to present to at least one of the Board members and it could be October 1st, it could be October 15th whatever it is or the closest date to October 1st or October 15th and every year meet that deadline and if they don't then they would have to come in and explain to us why they couldn't meet that deadline.

Mr. Rosenblum: We can put that Board member in on the reorganization.....

Mr. Goncalves: Why don't, just maybe have Ellie put a tickler up for the first week of September next year to bring this conversation up,

Mr. Alves: That would help.

Mr. Goncalves: then decide which days make sense and what the goal is and what you're aiming at.

Mr. Debarge: I'm sure Joe will remember that.

Mr. Alves: Absolutely.

Ms. Villano: No, we can put it on our calendar. So, before we end this discussion, Mr. Chairman may I point out the 7:00 p.m. time frame is not good, you are booked solid.

Mr. Debarge: That's right we have interviews.

Ms. Villano: So, you have a 6:00, 6:30, 7:15, 7:40, 8:00 and an 8:20 on the 5th.

Mr. Debarge: Because we have meetings on the 5th and 6th.

Ms. Villano: Right, right. So, I had originally had the building commissioner scheduled for the 5th at 6:00 to just give an update to the Board on some of things going on, the new rules and regulations. There is a lot of changes in this new building code and it actually.

Mr. Debarge: That would be good.

Ms. Villano: So, just based on the fact that there are some items that you no longer have to have a permit for, which kicks in the ability not to capture certain items, so I did have him scheduled for 6:00 p.m., I can always take him and kick him back to the 19th after the tax classification hearing, maybe like a 6:30 p.m. to have him in and then have Mr. Goncalves change his motion to have those individuals in for 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Debarge: Yeah, why don't we do that because.

Ms. Villano: But then again if they are all in compliance by the 5th then they don't have to be here.

Mrs. Fernandes: Then we have a little time.

Mr. Debarge: Which would be great then we could bring him back on the 5th.

Mr. Goncalves: At 6:00?

Mr. Debarge: We can bring Justin back, right?

Ms. Villano: Yeah, that's fine.

Mr. Debarge: Or not?

Ms. Villano: Well once you advertise and post you are.

Mr. Debarge: Well then let's do that first thing and then we will just keep Justin on the 19th.

Mr. Goncalves made a motion to amend the previous motion to have those Department heads that will be referred in that letter at 6:00 p.m. rather than 7 p.m., seconded by Mr. Rosenblum. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

Ms. Villano: Yes, thank you.

Mr. Debarge: Ok thank you Joe.

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
2020 MAR -4 P 2:43
TOWN OF LUDLOW

Visitations:

Ludlow Cares – Laura Rooney introduced Kristen Bunton, Health Care Coordinator, Dianna Roy, Secretary and Chief Madera and explained that this was the 8th year for Red Ribbon week which they would like declared for the week of October 23-31, 2019. Laura spoke about the ribbons that some of the local youth put up around the town as well as the Walk to Remember that was held on Sunday at the Boys & Girls Club. Laura said it was a very moving experience that could not have happened without the Boys & Girls Club staff and the community.

Dianna explained that this is the most prominent prevention program in the country that started due to a DEA agent being killed in the line of duty. Ludlow Cares wanted to magnify the DEA agents' passion to get rid of drug abuse and not diminish it. Dianna also explained that Ludlow Cares educates from East Street all the way up to the high school with all kinds of programs, such as writing inspirational messages on bookmarks for the high school seniors, signing the pledge not to do drugs, to having speakers come to the high school with social and emotional focus.

Kristin is the liaison for the Ludlow Public Schools and Ludlow Cares and most of her work is behind the scenes, helping children, especially with traumatic experiences, have positive attitudes and make good choices.

Chief Madera spoke about the DEA Agent, Enrique Camerota, who lost his life in the line of duty and how his family chose to start this program to educate kids about what he sacrificed. Chief Madera mentioned that the drug take-back program was started because of this as well and has been going strong for 9 years. DARE is making a comeback this year after being absent for 10 years.

Laura spoke about how Ludlow Cares has made the Town of Ludlow a tighter community and has helped kids live their best life.

Moved by Mrs. Fernandes, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum to declare Red Ribbon Week October 23-31, 2019. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

Chairman Shameklis from the Safety Committee came in to discuss the following with the Board:

Chairman Shameklis received a letter from a new resident on Arch Street with a complaint of not having a light in front of her home (Light pole #45). Chairman Shameklis after reviewing this and taking pictures of the area found that, due to the fact that you can no longer turn left onto Center Street from West Ave and more traffic is being funneled down Arch Street, which is a fairly narrow street, it may be a good idea to put another light there. Chairman Shameklis explained that street lights are usually spaced out, every other one, but on Arch Street there are two poles in between the lights. Chairman Debarge recommended Chairman Shameklis, along with the Safety Committee, explore moving the light to the middle of the street instead of purchasing a new light to avoid added expenditure of a new light.

Chairman Shameklis received an email from Ms. Villano about a light on Cislak Drive being continuously damaged and whether or not the light should be removed, repaired or monitored by the Police. Chairman Shameklis did not know anything about this particular light being vandalized in the past, but he is aware of other vandalism and drug activity in that area. Chief Madera did confirm that it has been a problem for 2-3 years now and he believes someone does not like the light there and is shooting it out with a BB gun or some other type of projectile. Chief Madera recommended a camera otherwise it will be damaged again, however we need to respect the residents' privacy and let them know that it is there. The camera would not stay up permanently, it would eventually come down. Chief Madera also recommended that Eversource put a guard up on the light to protect it as well.

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF SELECTMEN'S OFFICE
2019 OCT -1 P 2:48
TOWN OF LUDLOW

Mr. Jon Diotalevi, resident at 181 Cislak Drive, has been emailing Eversource back and forth questioning this light constantly being damaged. It is very dark on this street and there are a lot of neighbors that walk there and would like something done. Mr. Diotalevi also offered to pay for the guard himself.

Another resident from Cislak Drive also stated that he almost hit two kids with his car because the street is so dark. He also believes it is someone in the neighborhood that is damaging the light because they don't like it.

Mr. Goncalves spoke about how every sub-division in town is now required to have a homeowner's association that pays for street lights. The developer does not pay for those lights and they are $17 or $18/month each which includes the electricity and they are provided by the electric company and the homeowners association pays for it. Ms. Villano explained that this is new because for many years there were streets in Town that were not allowed to have lights on them. Once a street is excepted the Town takes over the lights.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mrs. Fernandes to have the street light fixed, install a shield, place a speed checker device on the street, petition Eversource to perform a light study for Cislak Drive in its entirety. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

Chairman Shameklis stated that he received a few emails from residents that live near the intersection of Hunter Road and Clover Road looking for a stop sign to be put up there. After reviewing the LPD's crash data for the past 5 years, there was only one accident. Photos documented that there is a clear line of sight at this intersection. Chairman Shameklis also had an officer stationed at this intersection between 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. and he made approximately 20-25 stops and everyone he stopped lived in that neighborhood. Chairman Shameklis recommended sending a letter to the residents to use care and caution at these intersecting streets instead of a stop sign.

Mr. Debarge received emails from the residents as well and spoke to some of them and believes there should be a stop sign there and would like to know how much one would cost.

Board agreed to go with Safety Committee's recommendation, a stop sign is not needed.

Chairman Shameklis received a letter from a landlord on Old West Street stating that his tenants were living in fear due to an incident that occurred about a month ago and would now like street lights put up. The Safety Committee did look into this, looking back 5 years and there has only been 3 criminal incidents on that street, 2 of which were property damage and then the

one incident from last month. It is a dark street with about ½ dozen homes, however the Safety Committee is not recommending street lights.

Board agreed to go with the Safety Committee's recommendation, no street lights will be installed.

Chairman Shameklis discussed the ground shrubs in front of the Police Station nearest to Brookhaven Drive. Looking at photos of this area, it is a safety hazard for officers as well as residents. Chairman Shameklis is recommending pulling out the shrubs and re-landscaping with gravel and possibly low- lying plants.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Silva to remove the shrubs and replace with gravel. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
2020 MAR 4 P 3:
TOWN OF LUDLOW

**Correspondence**:

240. John R. Maher, Director of Government Affairs, Charter Communications – informing the Board of changes in the channel line-up and programming information.

Mr. Goncalves asked if these were channels that are not a big deal and would like to discuss. Mr. Debarge also stated he would like to discuss this issue further as he received a text from a resident that the bill went up $8.00. ESPN Classics will no longer be available, the Disney Family Movies will cease on channel 227 and they are adding Worcester News.

Ms. Villano stated that Charter Communications did notify the Board about a month ago that they would be doing an increase. It was supposed to be $7.00.

Mr. Rosenblum stated he did not get an increase on his bill.

Mr. Debarge will contact John Maher regarding fee increase, ESPN Classic & Disney Family Movies no longer being available on the channel lineup.

Moved by Mr. Rosenblum, seconded by Mrs. Fernandes to file. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

241. Columbia Gas – Guide for Western Massachusetts Public Officials (September 2019)

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mrs. Fernandes to file. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

242. John Tierney, Transmission Line Project Manager, Eversource Energy – informing the Board they will be replacing 75 existing wood transmission structures on the 3419 Line in the towns of Ludlow, Wilbraham, and Hampden.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mrs. Fernandes to file. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

243. Orlando Braz, Ludlow resident – requesting the Board to consider adding lighting to enhance safety and security on the dead-end street of Old West Street, Ludlow.

Moved by Mr. Rosenblum, seconded by Mrs. Fernandes to table until discussion can be had with the Safety Committee. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

243a. Brian Shameklis, Safety Committee Chairman – informing the Board that at the Safety Committee meeting on October 10, 2019, they voted unanimously that street lights are not warranted on Old West Street at this time since it is not considered to be a high crime area.

Moved by Mr. Rosenblum, seconded by Mrs. Fernandes to table until discussion can be had with the Safety Committee. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

244. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities Notice of Filing, Public Hearing and Procedural Conference – notifying the Board of the Petition of Bay State Gas Company, d/b/a Columbia Gas of Massachusetts, for approval of its 2016-2018 Energy Efficiency Three-Year Term Report.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Silva to file. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

245. Eric Segundo, Director of Veterans' Services Town of Ludlow – requesting the Board to grant permission to hold the Veterans' Day Ceremony on Monday, November 11, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. at

the Ludlow High School Auditorium, 500 Chapin Street, Ludlow. All Board members are invited to attend. If any member would like to speak, please let him know. He also requests approval to hang ceremony information banners and yard signs to provide new location change.

Moved by Mrs. Fernandes, seconded by Mr. Silva to grant Eric Segundo, Director of Veterans' Services request to hold the Veterans' Day Ceremony on Monday, November 11, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. at the Ludlow High School Auditorium and to hang ceremony information, banners and yard signs. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

246. Martin Suuberg, MassDEP – notifying the Board that the MassDEP awarded the Town of Ludlow Recycling Dividends Program funds under the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program. For the town to receive the funds in the amount of $8,800.00, the Recycling Dividends Program contract must be signed and returned no later than January 15, 2020 or the funds will be forfeited.

Ms. Villano advised the Board that the Town is scored on how well we do with recycling and that is how we received these funds. This is the highest refund the Town has received. Mrs. Fernandes would like Ms. Villano to find out what the maximum refund the Town can receive from this.

Moved by Mr. Silva, seconded by Mrs. Fernandes to file. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

247. Louis Gilli, Environmental Engineer, Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC) – notifying the Board MMWEC will be performing routine inspections on its' natural gas pipeline right of way during October, November and December.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mrs. Fernandes to file. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
2020 MAR -4 P 12:43
TOWN OF LUDLOW

248. Aimee M. Henderson, Manager, Communications and Community Relations Columbia Gas – notifying the Board Columbia Gas will be scaling back non-emergency work in Massachusetts and will only perform emergency work on its gas distribution system throughout its service territories.

Moved by Mrs. Fernandes, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to file. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

249. Howard S. Rosenstein, SVP, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, Cumberland Farms – notifying the Board of a change regarding the ownership of Cumberland Farms, Inc. that will become effective October 22, 2019.

Mrs. Fernandes asked if Cumberland Farms still has plans to renovate the site on Center Street. Ms. Villano stated there are no plans that have been submitted. Cumberland Farms will still own the site and run it. This change is just about the stock.

Moved by Mrs. Fernandes, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to file. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

250. Department of Revenue – Certification of Free Cash as of July 1, 2019.

Mr. Goncalves recapped the Free Cash stating the following:

| | |
|---|---|
| $1,529,078 General Fund | $21,240 Enterprise -Westover |
| $740,792 Sewer | $39,483 Landfill |

These funds can be used for stabilization funds, capital projects and possible tax rate reduction.

Moved by Mrs. Fernandes, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to file. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

251. Alexandra N. Riddle, LSP, Senior Project Manager, ATC Group Services LLC (ATC) – informing the Board ATC submitted a Permanent Solution without Conditions Statement on behalf of Cumberland Farms, Inc., 101-105 West Street, Ludlow, MA to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) on October 8, 2019.

Moved by Mrs. Fernandes, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to file. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

**Unfinished Business**:

The Board reviewed a copy of the Economic Development Administration Quarterly Progress Report. Ms. Villano asked the Board if they prefer this report put on the agenda quarterly or emailed more frequently. The Board requested it be put on the agenda quarterly.

Moved by Mr. Rosenblum, seconded by Mrs. Fernandes to schedule the applicant for an interview for the Council on Aging position before the Board. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

Moved by Mr. Silva, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum that the Board approve and sign the Inter-Municipal Agreement between the City of Chicopee and the Town of Ludlow for the joint use of portions of the Ludlow sewerage system. Vote 5-0 all in favor. Mrs. Villano will get a better copy of the Agreement for the Board to sign at the next meeting.

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
LUDLOW
2019 MAR -4 P 2:45

Moved by Mrs. Fernandes, seconded by Mr. Silva for the Board to ratify the signatures of the easement between the Town and Springfield Water and Sewer for water to the Harris Brook School as authorized by the vote at the October 7, 2019 Special Town Meeting. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mrs. Fernandes to approve the request to carry over one more additional week of vacation for the Town Administrator. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

Ms. Villano explained that due to some stalling in negotiations with Charter/Spectrum and after emailing several times to them for a draft of the agreement to be sent to the Board and not getting anywhere, our attorney has advised that the Board of Selectmen send a letter to Charter/Spectrum requesting that they send a draft to us so that we can get back on track with the negotiations. The contract expires in September of 2020. The Board discussed that Charter/Spectrum is probably not going to want to invest the money in wiring.

Mr. Goncalves spoke about driving through Chicopee and seeing signs that said "dump Charter" and wasn't sure if they were going through negotiations as well. Mr. Debarge suggested calling Mayor Koss to discuss further. The Board also discussed Charter/Spectrum owning the infrastructure and wondering if there is a loophole somewhere that the Town could get this service elsewhere; possibly getting cable companies into the Town for a meeting to ask if they would be willing to rent Charter's infrastructure or lay their own fiberoptic cables.

Moved by Mr. Silva, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum to send a letter to John Maher to schedule a meeting as soon as possible with our committee to continue to discuss negotiations. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

The Board tabled the IBPO, Local 374 Police Patrolman's contract as it is not ready for signature.

Moved by Mr. Silva, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum to approve the Selectmen Meeting Minutes of June 18, 2019 where Mr. Debarge, Mr. Goncalves and Mr. Rosenblum were present. Vote 3-0 all in favor.

Moved by Mr. Silva, seconded by Mrs. Fernandes to approve and sign the Selectmen Executive Session Meeting Minutes of August 6, 2019 where all members were present. Vote 4-0 all in favor.

**New Business:**

Moved by Mr. Silva, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum to approve and sign the Town Meeting Minutes of October 7, 2019 where all members were present. Vote 4-0 all in favor.

Board perused the Selectmen Meeting Minutes of July 2, 2019 and July 16, 2019.

Board perused the Executive Session Meeting Minutes of September 3, 2019 and September 17, 2019.

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.

**Closing Comments**:

Mr. Rosenblum attended the Michael J. Dias foundation dinner and was very touched and commend them for their work.

Mrs. Fernandes stated she attended the Michael J. Dias foundation dinner also and she was very moved to see 10-13 young men there that went through the program and it brought her to tears. She is very proud of the Town for embracing this program.

Mr. Silva stated he attended both events but was surprised that he did not see more Ludlow residents at the Walk to Remember but he is very impressed of how much awareness these events bring.

Mr. Goncalves stated he loves the red ribbon's presence in Town and Town Hall looks great. Encourages high school students to apply for LUSO scholarship as they will be donating $90K to Ludlow High School graduates this year.

Chairman Debarge stated he attended the Michael J. Dias foundation dinner and Walk to Remember at Ludlow Boys & Girls Club; member of CARES since inception; commends staff of each program.

Moved by Mrs. Fernandes, seconded by Mr. Silva to adjourn this meeting at 8:01 p.m., not return to open session, and to enter Executive Session for the purposes of discussing Nurses Union and Non-Union contract negotiations. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

Ludlow Board of Selectmen

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

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
2020 MAR -4 P 2:43
TOWN OF LUDLOW