The Meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 began at 5:30 p.m. in the Selectmen's Conference Room, Town Hall.

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

First Order of Business: The Pledge of Allegiance

Visitations:

David Eisenthal, Financial Advisor; Kim Collins, Town Accountant; Elsa Barros, Town Treasurer to discuss the financial analysis to fund the Track and Fields Replacement Project through a ballot question and for debt exclusion 5:30 p.m.

Mr. DeBarge stated that the Engineer, Mott MacDonald has provided some projected costs and photos for the Track and Field Project to see what type of tax implications the residents will incur from the cost of the project.

Mr. Eisenthal explained that he is basing the financing on $2 million for the Track and Field project over 15 years with $.10-.12 of the tax rate going towards this project. The tax rate is based on $1.2 billion tax base currently. The average household will pay an additional $20-25 per year for this project.

Mr. Goncalves asked if once the pre-2018 debt falls off, around year 4 or 5 if there would be a little bit of surplus there?

Mr. Eisenthal explained that the goal would be to use the rundown on pre-2018 debt to bring in the Senior Center, Chapin Street and now possibly the Track and Field projects to try and keep the impacts at any given time, more manageable. This is what the Board has been trying to do for at least three years now.

Mr. Goncalves asked how the Town would get away with only paying $110,000 for the first two years?

Mr. Eisenthal explained that the $110,000 is only temporary interest and assumes that the Town would issue short term notes for this purpose during the first couple of years. Then the Town would permanently finance this purpose with the final bond issue for Chapin Street, which will happen after the MSBA Board approves project audit, which may be in about four years from now.

Mr. DeBarge asked Mr. Goncalves if he has any idea how accurate the costs are for the Track and Field project?

Mr. Goncalves explained after speaking to the Engineers, it was explained that the numbers are realistic and that the Engineers put enough contingency into the numbers so that if there was a little bit of a miss it would still be within the numbers provided. Mr. Goncalves feels that it will be closer to the $2 million than the $2.2 million and is very comfortable that it will not exceed the quoted numbers.

Mr. Eisenthal explained that the Town can have the Town Meeting Article worded so that the appropriation of the funds and borrowing authorization is contingent on a certain dollar amount being raised by the school and held by the Town before any contract or monies are borrowed. This is very similar to making a borrowing authorization contingent on a debt exclusion but not certain it is allowable in this case with donations. Mr. Eisenthal will speak with Bond Counsel to be sure this is in compliance with Mass General Laws and let the Board know for sure.

Mrs. Fernandes feels that this is not a good time to go ahead with the Track and Field project and understands that it's never a good time but has to think about the residents and the tax increase. There are multiple projects going on all at once and the tax rate keeps going up and up.

Mr. Silva confirmed that over the next 15 years the tax payer is going to pay an additional $5,000 above and beyond for these projects and could potentially be up to $8,000. Mr. Silva is very concerned about the residents and does not think it is going to pass if put on the ballot and feels now is not the right time for this. Mr. Silva would like to just get the track done at this time and it would save a lot of money.

Mr. DeBarge explained that with the current situation of the Town and the budget of all departments being cut by 3-5%, then with the trash issue and having to pay for recyclables, it is going to cost the

Town and residents a lot of money. Mr. DeBarge does believe the Town needs the Track and Field and would like to see it happen but is unsure that the financial burden outweighs the need.

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Mr. Rosenblum believes that the question should be put on the ballot and let the residents decide because the fundraising will never happen unless there is a commitment by the Town. This will give the residents a voice as well.

Mr. DeBarge explained that the Town has stepped up and made a commitment by giving money towards the Track and Field project because that is what was requested originally. Now people are saying that the project is not getting donations because the Town has not stepped up by putting the question on the ballot and he does not agree with that. The Board of Selectmen's job is not to put something on the ballot for people to vote; the Board of Selectmen's job is to determine whether it should go on the ballot because it is feasible financially.

Coach Walsh commented that the $25.00 per year for average household is one less time going out to dinner or not going to Dunkin Donuts every day. He also stated that he feels bad for the kids that are doing sports and cannot utilize the facilities and understands that now is not a good time, but it never is.

Mr. Harrington commented that it is never going to be the right time and the school just wants the opportunity to put the question on the ballot and let the voters decide. Even if the voters decide to let the project go through, there will not be any sports on that track or field for at least another 1 ½ years. Also Mr. Harrington feels that waiting another year will not put the Track and Field Committee in a better position with fundraising. Mr. Harrington also explained that because the trucks will be tearing up the field while they are working back there, piecemealing the project would not be feasible.

Mr. Silva feels that if this question is voted down in March the donations will stop completely.

Mr. Kelliher commented that the Town cannot wait another year or two and agrees with Mr. Rosenblum that big donors are not going to give any money to this project until it is real and has passed on the ballot.

Mr. Silva explained that the Town is going to have to levy to the max for four projects all at once and it is a lot all at once. Mr. Silva has not problem letting the residents vote.
Ms. Collins explained that the comments made about the pre-2018 debt coming off in the next couple of years was going to help alleviate the burden of the debt from the Track and Field project is not going to be feasible because this was already discussed for the Senior Center and Chapin Street projects. In 2019 the Town had an excessive levy of $11,000 which is unheard of in this Town and in 2020 it will be very close but future budgets will be impacted by the debt and these projects.

Mr. Eisenthal suggested that the contingency of the borrowing and appropriations of funds will be on the vote but has to see if that is consistent with the Massachusetts General Laws.

Ms. Collins did question donations coming from outside of Town, like the Patriots who gave $250,000 to another Town.

Mr. Harrington explained that the Track and Field Committee had contacted the Patriots and asked if they would be willing to donate and they offered a helmet and football that could be raffled off. Mr. Harrington also stated that the Patriots are very particular as to who they choose to give money to and another school in Western Mass was awarded the large donation. The Track and Field Committee will continue to reach out to other entities outside the Town.

Mr. Harrington went on to explain that the new school being built right now is the biggest nut and the school waited 12 years to be put on the Massachusetts Building Authority list and 4 years the Town was put on the list which is why it is now the 'perfect storm'. Surrounding Towns like Amherst, Wilbraham and Westfield are also looking for funds to build their track and fields as well. The tax impact is a lot right now with all of the projects but in 5 years it won't be any different. The new schools, senior center, etc. attracts young families to move to Ludlow and/or stay here. Mr. Harrington went on to explain that over the last 2 years the School Department has cut the budget by $800,000 and do not have extra funds.

Ms. Gregoire asked if this project could be on the ballot and let the public vote yes or no and have the Board of Selectmen allow that to happen. Ms. Gregoire also explained that the Senior's and the students still had somewhere to go if the Senior Center project and the new elementary school project

did not get voted in, but the athletes do not have anywhere else to go if the Track and Field are not done.

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Mr. Goncalves explained that it not only has to pass on the ballot but also at Town Meeting in May but believes that it deserves a chance on the ballot as well.

Mr. DeBarge explained that the Town will have to re-task the $75,000.00 that was given to the Track and Field project.

Mr. Rosenblum agreed with Mr. Goncalves and the Track and Field Committee to at least put the question on the ballot and let the public decide.

Mr. Gregoire, Finance Committee, explained that asking the Town Departments to cut back and possibly services being cut back to then go to the voters and ask for more spending towards a Capital Project is problematic and sets a bad precedence. Mr. Gregoire went on to explain that everyone is saying that it's never a good time to ask for money, but this particular project is showing how poorly the Town's Capital Planning has fallen down on behalf of the community and how this project has never been brought to Capital Planning and it's just come up very suddenly. The Senior Center project, the new school project and the Radio Communication projects underwent extensive feasibility studies prior to being brought to Capital Planning. The Track and Field project is setting a precedence that everything deserves to be on the ballot because the Town needs it immediately. The school should have been planning for this all along and had a maintenance program built in for the current track and this would not have happened like this and the Town would not be in this situation now. Mr. Gregoire does not feel that putting this on the ballot is not the right thing to do.

Mrs. Fernandes agreed with Mr. Gregoire and reminds the public that the Board of Selectmen are the gatekeepers as to what goes on at Town Meeting and everything should not be put on the ballot for voters to decide. Mrs. Fernandes feels that next year may be a better time financially and the project may be more vetted. The Track and Field project does not have a lot of excitement to it like the Senior Center project did.

Coach Walsh explained that everyone he has spoke to is for the project and the kids need it. Coach Walsh feels that the public should have the opportunity to vote for it.

Mr. Kelliher feels that the Track and Field project cannot be vetted anymore because it cannot be put in another site or anything. Feels that this year will be just as good as any other and needs to be done. The vote should be put on the ballot.

Mr. DeBarge questioned which baseball diamond will be chosen for the Track and Field project?

Mr. Harrington explained that the Track and Field Committee will choose which baseball field will be put into the project. The vetting process includes the environmental impact, which is why the Engineering firm took samples with the boring holes. The Track and Field Committee had discussed with the Board of Selectmen about doing just the track in order to save money but doing everything makes more sense.

Mr. Eisenthal explained that the Board will have to make the decision whether the question be put to vote on the March ballot, then he will advise if the borrowing authorization can be contingent on the dollar amount of donations.

Ms. Barros agrees with Mr. Gregoire and Mrs. Fernandes, the Board has a responsibility to the tax payer and does not believe it should be put on the ballot. If the vote passes, the Town budget will be affected in some way.

Mr. Goncalves reiterated that at the first meeting that was held brought approximately 100 people out and to date only 5 people donate for less than $200.00 total. It is very discouraging. If these people do not get charged over this, the Town is wasting their time putting it on the ballot.

Mrs. Fernandes agreed with Mr. Goncalves and does not feel that there is any passion with this project.

Ms. Villano explained that the people will be voting to take on the debt through debt exclusion, it's not just about wanting the track and field. It is the totality of the project and it will have to be funded and appropriated at Town Meeting after the vote in March.

Ms. Collins stated that she tried to google Ludlow Track and Field in order to donate and nothing comes up. Ms. Collins also asked if there was something on the school's website.

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Mr. Goncalves explained that the website is Ludlowtrackandfield.org and on the school's website there is a dropdown menu that you can access the donation site as well. Mr. Goncalves also explained that when there isn't a lot of activity it will not be at the forefront.

Class II Hearing -Center Auto Sales-6:15 p.m.

Mr. Silva: Mr. Torretti reached out to me and disclosed that he is going to be transferring the license, that is the reason why he has not conformed to some of the issues that he has. In the next month or so he will be transferring, and he will be coming to the Board for approval from us.

Mr. Goncalves: So, do we need to do anything?

Ms. Villano: No, I don't think so. I would table it, there's no reason for, if Mr. Torretti showed up he would simply say I'm in the process of transferring it over.

Mr. Silva: He would have said the same thing.

Mr. Goncalves: Do we need to officially do anything or just table for a month from now?

Ms. Villano: No, because I think he is in the process, isn't he Mr. Silva?

Mr. Silva: Yes, he is going to the Planning Board shortly, something that's required.

Ms. Villano: If you wanted to, you could make a motion to table this hearing until, 3 months unless if there's been no further action taken in the transfer.

Mr. Silva: Yes.

Mr. Goncalves: Should we wait for Derek?

Mrs. Fernandes: No.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum to table the discussion on Center Auto Sales until our first meeting in May pending an outcome of the transfer or advice from the petitioner or Planning. Vote 4-0 all in favor.

Class II Hearing – Lupa's Leasing Inc. – 6:45 p.m.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Silva to open the hearing at 6:48 p.m. for a Class II for Lupa's Leasing Inc. Vote 4-0 all in favor.

Mrs. Fernandes: Is that you sir?

Mr. Lupa: Yes.

Mrs. Fernandes: You are going to step up and tell us your name.

Mr. Lupa: Hello ever body. Mr. DeBarge and Board, I am happy to see you. I was a little alarmed to see the letter but if I could go back on our history, we have had our dealers license for quite a while now. We have a unique niche, I buy and sell utility vehicles to plumbers and electricians; the kind of vehicles the you typically do not see on a used car lot. I am registered at South Auto Auction and I do manage to find some box trucks and some vehicles there and ... Brothers Auction and we also have construction equipment that I sell so everything from small compactors to mid-size excavators. We have a dealer's plate which were inspected since 2003 every 3 or 4 years by the State Police. They come and inspect the facilities and all that time, we do minor repairs, we have never had a complaint from our neighbors. I think in 2019 we have bought and sold 5 vehicles, right now the only small car, I have a Camry convertible. All the vehicles are in the garage right now because of winter and I'm excited to be here because I'm hoping to lift a stifling little restriction we have with no signs and no flagging. No signs meaning there is no Lupa Leasing sign, there is no door sign, there is no hour sign. I also was handicapped this year because I use Adobe Catalyst for websites. I manage, not only for Lupa Leasing but for .... Construction, it was Environmental Technologies and Lupa Leasing and for Lupa Zoo and when

they did an end of life we, of course with the zoo being a public attraction we moved that to ... so I need to set up the other websites. So right now, ... Construction, Lupa Leasing and Environmental Technologies, we decided this year being that I'm past 50 years old, that was a de-leading and mold. We actually closed that business this year, had a little too much on my plate. So, I'm here to answer any questions. Now, the question was office location not found. The State Police seem to find us to inspect us for the dealer plate and it says no posted hours well like I said we have a restriction of no signs. On the receipt of this letter we did contact Monica at Westfield Sign Shop so we can have a sign put on our door, our glass door and the no vehicles for sale on property, well this time of year I do have everything inside but because we have not signs, we have no flags, we usually list our vehicles on Rock and Dirt and another publication because we do cater to small contractors and such, not really to someone looking for a small car or SUV. That's our little niche, we felt. So that being said how would you like to precede? I am willing to do anything that the Board would like to do.

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Mr. Silva: So, you are at 545 West Street, correct?

Mr. Lupa: Yes.

Mr. Silva: Is that a garage or is that a non-conforming lot?

Mr. Lupa: It's a garage, yes.

Mr. Silva: Now is there any issue with you putting a sign up? You were saying that something about...

Mr. Lupa: It's right on our license it says no signs, no flags, no lighting. It's really odd. Here is my license.

Mr. Silva: I have it right here too.

Ms. Villano: If I may Mr. Chairman, they are talking about signs on the street, the no signs, you know the flags you can put on the street, extra signage, no lights flashing on stuff. That's what the license means. You need to have a sign and you need to have your hours of operation I would say at a minimum. So if you have a sign in the window or a sign on the garage door, I can have the Building Commissioner come back and check and then you need to have an hours of operation sign.

Mr. Lupa: Absolutely. When I was in receipt of this letter I was actually running a ½ marathon for our troops in Florida when I got this. She emailed me, and we had that, and we are going to put that right on our glass door, at the office.

Mr. Silva: Hours of operation.

Mr. Lupa: And hours of operation, which is as it states 9 on the weekends and actually our hours are from 9 to 3, which we are allowed from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Mr. Silva: Okay now the other question is kind of for both, for you and Ellie. The no cars on the premises, are they required to have cars on the premises for our license under our bylaws? I'm not sure that is a requirement.

Ms. Villano: Yeah well how do you, if I drove onto his property to buy a car how would I know that he sells cars?

Mr. Silva: Well he has a for sale sign, but he may be out of stock for the time being or whatever. If you are dealing with one car at a time it's probably difficult to,

Ms. Villano: So, his license originally, if I might expound, his license originally was for the construction related equipment, for many, many years that's what the license was. In 2003, I believe they came back to ask for second hand vehicles so that they could sell cars. So, I think the license is 10 construction related and then 10 motor vehicles and yes, the motor vehicles should be up for viewing. Now I can understand because it's winter and you only have one and it is in the garage but I'm sure if you spoke with the Building Commissioner it is more of the signage and the hours of operation and this is all stated in the by-laws and what you should be doing and how you should be doing it and the Building Commissioner goes out annually, well they really are trying to go out annually and take a good look at the conformity of all of the permits that are out there. So, again you are not the first, you are not the only and most of the issues have been signs and hours of operation and I think those seem to be the two biggest issues.

Mr. Lupa: Besides a small, well it says no signs so besides a door sign why would the public, and I'm kind of restricted, why would a door sign unless you come up to the door driving down the road so you know would not know it is there so what would we have to do to lift this sign restriction so we could have a small sign so you could see if from the road?

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Ms. Villano: I think you should meet with the Building Commissioner to find out what the restrictions are on how many square, what the footage is from the entrance. There are a lot of places you may be able to put a bigger sign.

Mr. Lupa: Sure, but could we have this erased from this no signs because I think the Building Commissioner is going to send me back here.

Ms. Villano: I think we probably have to modify it, the types of signs.

Mr. Lupa: You see my dilemma?

Ms. Villano: Some people when they want to, you can drive by some of the second hand and they have got signs, they got flags, they got neon lights, the got flashing lights,

Mr. Lupa: Yeah, because we do have a respectful, non-lit up sign for us for ... Construction and for when we are renting the property in the back to Public Water Works now it's just ....Construction. It would be nice to have one for Lupa Leasing sign there, especially since my son is going to take over managing Lupa Leasing.

Ms. Villano: Yeah, okay.

Mr. Lupa: Right now, when I leave you good people and I go to see the Building Commissioner and I know the by-laws for a sign but he's going to kick back and send me back here and say you got to get this off, this no signs.

Mr. Silva: Well I don't think we can have both, I think you are going to be able to work with the Building Commissioner, he can tell you exactly what you need to do and understand that this is not us, some of these are by-laws and some of these are factual laws by motor vehicle,

Mr. Lupa: It might be my misunderstanding too, that's why for years we have been really respectful and under the radar and never made any issue for many years.

Mr. Silva: But it's your understanding and you are going to comply with what needs to be done and you are going to be all set within a month I would say, probably?

Mr. Lupa: Oh, Monica will deliver the sign, if it's not ready already and her husband will put it on the door.

Ms. Villano: So, if I might Mr. Chairman, Mr. Silva, so he will be able to comply very easily by putting the sign on the outside of the building and putting the office hours. But I think that, should he be allowed to put a sign on the property, towards the edge, I think you are going to have to give him some more time because he is not going to be able to,

Mr. Goncalves: Is that something we can take care of with a motion tonight so that we don't have to have him come back?

Ms. Villano: Absolutely.

Mr. Lupa: Oh, thank you.

Ms. Villano: Absolutely and give him maybe 60 days or,

Talking over each other.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Silva to lift the corrective action on Lupa Leasing and that we approve to release the license and given the fact that he is going to put the signs in place, the no vehicles on the property is understandable because he has them inside and the ability to get a sign

approved by the Building Department and that we modify his permit to reflect a sign on the property without having to come back. Vote 5-0 all in favor.
Mr. Silva: Just, I'm sorry I seconded that really quick, just to make a point. I don't think the motion should only specifically speak to his concern, as far as a sign, I think we should not pass any bylaws that we have on our books. So, I don't know that it does when you say that could have a sign, that's,

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Mr. Goncalves: Well I don't think we have bylaws on the books because a lot of these people have signs.

Mr. Silva: Yes, that's why I'm saying, I don't want to,

Mr. Goncalves: He's running on a special permit in agricultural moderate overlay district or on the old special permits, he is allowed a sign as a matter of right on the business. It can not exceed a certain size,

Mr. Lupa: There is a spec for that which you know our construction sign,

Mr. Goncalves: And then if you are going to take that other business and you are going to be out of it maybe you could just apply to have your Lupa Leasing replace the sign that you no longer have in business there.

Mr. Lupa: Okay.

Mr. Goncalves: And then you will already be in conformity as far as the amount of signs and the square footage.

Mr. Lupa: I can check with Justin to make sure that it is within....that would be great.

Mr. Silva: Okay, all set then. Just understanding.

Mr. DeBarge: Are we good now?

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Silva to close the hearing at 7:00 p.m. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

Jay Martins, Recreation Commission and Carrier Riberio, Director of Human Resources regarding staff salary increases – 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Martins explained that he would like to give a $.75 per hour increase to all recreation staff to coincide with the January 1, 2020 Federal minimum wage increase to $12.75 per hour. Currently the Camp Counselors earn $12.75 per hour, the Camp Directors currently earn $14.00 per hour, the Lifeguards at the pool are currently earning $13.00 per hour, the Head Guard at the pool earns $15.00 per hour, the Assistant Pool Manger earns $18.00 per hour, the Lifeguard at the pond earns $14.00 per hour and the Head guard at the pond earns $16.00 per hour. The staff at the pond earns more due to the certifications that they need to obtain, which are over $300.00.

Mr. DeBarge asked if the recreation department was requesting increases for January 2021, 2022 & 2023 as well and also if there was a department head at the previous Board of Selectmen meeting?

Mr. Martins stated that he did not have a department head at that meeting and that he was looking for increases for 2021, 2022 & 2023 to coincide with the Federal minimum wage increase.

Mr. DeBarge stated that he is not recommending a raise for anyone for this year due to the fact that it was requested at the last meeting that each department head cut their budget by 3-5% in 2021. We may have to revisit this in the future.

Ms. Riberio feels that it will be very difficult to recruit good candidates for these positions if we don't pay them more money and does not feel that it is going to be a major increase for the Town.

Ms. Gates explained that the Recreation Department employees 8 lifeguards at the pool and 2 head guards, 5 lifguards at the pond and 2 head guards, 1 assistant pool manager and 2 seasonal camp directors and 1 for after-school. The camp directors work 7 weeks, the lifeguards work approximately 12 weeks and the lifeguards for the pond work approximately 14 weeks.

Mr. Silva asked if the fees for the entrance to the pool were going to be increased to offset the costs for the increase in salary.

Ms. Gates stated that the fees have not been increased at all.

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Ms. Villano explained that for the $.75 per hour increase for 40 hours per person x 20 people it is a $4,200.00 increase.

Mr. DeBarge asked if the camp fees will be going up?

Mr. Martins stated that the fees will be going up.

Mr. Goncalves asked if we have a problem getting people for these positions?

Ms. Gates explained that the pond is the only place that the Recreation Department has difficulty staffing due to the difficulty getting the waterfront certification because 90% of the places have the lifeguard on duty. The pond itself is a problem because it doesn't attract a lot of people because there isn't any parking and there isn't a way to get to the pond. The pond does not get enough people to offset the costs.

Mr. Goncalves asked if the other positions, besides the pond were easy to get staff for?

Mr. Martins stated that it is still easy to get staff but not as easy as 20 years ago.

Mr. Silva asked if there was any way to add parking for the pond in order to utilize the pond more?

Mr. Goncalves stated that Ideal Lane has 10 parking spots for the pond, but it is also overflow for the condos as well.

Ms. Villano explained that the classification plan and compensation plan are under the jurisdiction of the Board of Selectmen but explains that the Board should be cautious in approving these increases carte blanche over the next 5-6 years. Ms. Villano believes that a grid should be made up to allow the Board of Selectmen to approve.

Mr. Silva agreed with Ms. Villano and stated that he would only approve an increase for the current year and they will have to look at any further increases in the future.

Mr. Rosenblum asked if the Recreation Department could give the Board of Selectmen a breakdown of the new fees in comparison to what is being paid out for staff?

Ms. Gates explained that the camp was not created to make money so no matter how much that fees are raised it will never cover the costs of the increased salary. The camp and the pond are not made to make a profit.

Moved by Mr. Silva, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to approve the raises for the fiscal year 2021. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

Correspondence:

14. Charles D. Baker, Governor, Mass DoT – informing the Board that the Chapter 90 apportionment for FY20 for the Town of Ludlow is $766,298.

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

15. Board to vote to abate Invoice #289 for $30.00 for International Produce as it is closed.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mrs. Fernandes to abate invoice #289 for $30.00 for International Produce as it is no longer open for business. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

16. Board to vote to abate Invoice #290 for $50.00 for Joey Bats Café as it does not require a 2020 entertainment license.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum to approve to abate invoice #290 for $50.00 for Joey Bats Café as it does not require a 2020 entertainment license. Vote 4-0-1 abstention.

17. John R. Maher, Director of Government Affairs, Charter Communications – informing the Board of launching new channel line-up and programming information.

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

18. Ludlow Elks Lodge – Annual Beano report for 2019.

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

19. Kim Collins, Town Accountant – informing all Departments of the new IRS mileage rate of $.575/mile and meal reimbursement rate of $56.00/day effective January 1, 2020.

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

20. Jim Lovejoy, Select Board Member, Mount Washington President, Massachusetts Selectmen's Association – inviting the Board to attend the MMA's Annual Business Meeting on Saturday, January 25, 2020.

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

21. Board to approve a 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 January 3, 2020.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mrs. Fernandes 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 January 3, 2020. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

22. Brian Shameklis, Safety Committee Chairman-recommending to the Board that "No Commercial Vehicles Except for Local Deliveries" signs be installed at the intersections of Chapin Street and Loopley Street and Chapin Street and Swan Avenue.

Mr. DeBarge would like to speak to Sergeant Shameklis regarding the sign for "No Commercial Vehicles" because that could mean a wide range of vehicles. Mr. DeBarge would suggest a sign the says "No Tractor Trailers" instead of just commercial vehicles.

Moved by Mr. Silva, seconded by Mrs. Fernandes to contact Sergeant Shameklis of the Safety Committee to approve the signage but change the verbiage to "All Tractor Trailers". Vote 5-0 all in favor.

23. Sarah la Cour, Senior Project Manager, Westmass Area Development Corporation – informing the Board of a forest cutting plan and timber harvest that will take place on the 50+ acres of woodland owned by Westmass at the Ludlow Mills.

Mr. DeBarge did explain that the primary objective of this harvest is to capture the economic value of the standing timber and does not involve the clearing the land of any current proposed development. The land will remain a forested woodland while Westmass markets the property for future development as identified in the Ludlow Mills comprehensive plan and approved by the Town in 2012. This will take place from First Avenue to the Ludlow Country Club.

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

24. Ludlow Police Department – requesting the annual appointment of Nelson Rodrigues as a Special Police Officer within the Ludlow Police Department effective January 1, 2020.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mrs. Fernandes to appoint Nelson Rodrigues as a Special Police Office with Ludlow Police Department effective January 1, 2020. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

25. Andrea Crete, Board of Health Agent – informing the Board of goals created for 2020 and accomplishments of the Board of Health in 2019.

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Ms. Villano questioned Tim Fontaine being designated as a Special Municipal Employee which the Board of Health cannot do without going through the Board of Selectmen. Ms. Villano will speak with Andrea Crete to have that designation changed.

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

26. Ryan M. Pease, Fire Chief, Emergency Management Director – requesting the Board to approve the request to carry over four (4) additional days of vacation from calendar year 2019 to calendar year 2020, in addition to the four (4) carry over days already allowed for a Firefighter due to a clerical error.

Moved by Mrs. Fernandes, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum to approve Chief Pease request to carry over four (4) additional days of vacation from calendar year 2019 to calendar year 2020 in addition to the four (4) carry over days already allowed for a firefighter due to clerical error. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

27. Board to vote to abate Invoice #232 for Rodrigues Inc./dba Europa Café Michael Rodrigues due to the transfer of an all alcohol license, common victualler and entertainment licenses to Vanished Valley Brewing.

Moved by Mr. Silva, seconded by Mrs. Fernandes to abate invoice #232 for Rodrigues Inc. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

28. Board to vote to abate Invoice #285 for Two Roses Tea & Cupcake Co. for a 2020 common victualler license due to it being closed.

Moved by Mr. Rosenblum, seconded by Mrs. Fernandes to abate invoice #285 for Two Roses Tea & Cupcake Co. due to it being closed. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

29. John Dryjowicz, Friends of St. Elizabeth – informing the Board that on the second Tuesday of each month, St. Elizabeth sponsors a Spaghetti Dinner in the parish hall from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and requesting approval to display a banner at the Putts Bridge a week before the dinner each month.

Moved by Mr. Silva, seconded by Mrs. Fernandes to approve the banner to be displayed for the St. Elizabeth's Spaghetti Dinner each month at the Putts Bridge with the caveat that they remove it according to the BOS policy. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

30. Director, U.S. Census Bureau – requesting Chairman DeBarge to review the Census Bureau's boundary data to ensure the Census Bureau has the correct legal boundary, name and status for his government and to return the completed Boundary Validation Program from March 1, 2020.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Silva to send the request to the Town Clerk to complete the Census Bureau's boundary data form. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

31. Paul M. Santos – Petition for a zone change from Residential to Commercial located at 326 Sewall Street.

Moved by Mr. Silva, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to submit the proposal from Paul Santos of 326 Sewall Street to the Planning Board and also put the article on the Town Meeting as well. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

32. Shawn Giroux, Arborist, Transmission Vegetation Management – informing the Board that Eversource Energy will be performing vegetation work at the Ludlow Substation located at 993 Center Street.

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

33. Pablo P. Madera, Chief of Police – informing the Board that he has appointed Lt. Michael Brennan as Acting Chief until otherwise directed by the Board of Selectmen.

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

34. Brian Lynch, Project Coordinator, Massachusetts School Building Authority – submitting to the Board for review a revised Total Project Budget spreadsheet for the Project Funding Agreement Bid Amendment for the Chapin Street Elementary School Project.

Ms. Villano explained that she sent the revised Total Project Budget spreadsheet to OPM for his further review. If there are any issues Ms. Villano will bring them back to the Board of Selectmen and will notify the MSBA before the 31st.

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

35. Board to vote a Change of Hours request for Andre & Andre Inc. dba Four Seasons Wine & Liquor. They wish to extend their Sunday opening hours.

Moved by Mr. Rosenblum, seconded by Mrs. Fernandes to approve the request of Andre & Andre, Inc. dba Four Seasons Wine & Liquor to extend their Sunday hours from 12 p.m. to 10 a.m. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

Unfinished Business:

Board reviewed a copy of the Economic Development Administration Quarterly Progress Report.

Moved by Mr. Rosenblum, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to draft an article to bring to Town Meeting in order to bring before the voters for the elimination of plastic bags. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

Board discussed having a public hearing for Robert's Auto Body due to a change of address and send notice to all abutters.

Board signed the Class II Dealer's License for Discount Motor Sales, Inc., Scott C. Shaw as a result of a public hearing previously held on January 7, 2020. Mr. Silva did not sign.

Moved by Mr. Silva, seconded by Mrs. Fernandes to approve and sign the Entertainment License and Common Victualler's License for Vanished Valley Brewing. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

Moved by Mr. Silva, seconded by Mrs. Fernandes to approve and sign Selectmen Meeting Minutes of August 20, 2019. Mr. DeBarge, Mrs. Fernandes, Mr. Rosenblum, Mr. Silva were present, and Mr. Goncalves was absent. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

New Business:

Moved by Mr. Silva, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum to approve the Super Bowl closing for liquor establishments hours from 1 a.m. to 2 a.m. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mrs. Fernandes to approve and sign ten copies of call in the election for the March 3, 2020 Presidential Primary. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

Board perused Executive Session Meeting Minutes of December 17, 2019.

Board perused Executive Session Meeting Minutes of January 7, 2020 (2nd Session).

Board perused Selectmen Meeting Minutes of September 3, 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:

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Mr. Goncalves attended the First Responders dinner at the Gremio Lusitano and wanted to thank Erik Segundo and the Town for putting on such a nice event. There was about 25-275 people in attendance and he's hoping next year will be even bigger and better.

Mr. Rosenblum wished Chief Madera a Happy Retirement and made it a point to get over to the Police Station for Chief Madera's last call on Friday. Wishes Chief Madera's family all the best and looks forward to the next Chief.

Mrs. Fernandes also thanks Chief Madera on his Retirement and his dedication to this Town.

Mr. Silva encourages all parents of athletes and residents that can afford to, donate to the Track and Field project instead of raising our taxes again.

Mr. DeBarge agreed the First Responders Dinner was a great event and thanked Tony from the Villa Rose for the great food. Godspeed to Chief Madera and what a great man he is. Echoed Mr. Silva's request for residents to donate for the Track and Field Project to take the burden off the tax payers.

Moved by Mr. Silva, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to adjourn this meeting at 8:01 p.m., not return to open session, and to enter Executive Session for the purposes of discussing a pending litigation and possible resolution of a lien. 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.