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TOWN OF LUDLOW

The Meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on Tuesday, February 18, 2020 began at 6:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Conference Room at Town Hall.

Members Present: Derek DeBarge, Chairman, Carmina Fernandes, Manuel Silva and William Rosenblum
Absent: Antonio Goncalves
First Order of Business: The Pledge of Allegiance

Visitations:

6:00 p.m. – Board of Public Works, Mike Suprenant (Director of DPW) and Alex Simao (Board of Public Works Member) to discuss recycle and trash removal.

Mr. Suprenant stated that the DPW would like the Board of Selectmen to sign off on the contract for dual stream recycling in the Town. The DPW has been working on this project since September of 2019 with the assistance of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and has determined that the dual stream recycling program would be the most beneficial. It would save the Town approximately $95,000 annually and it is a cleaner recyclable program which could yield in more savings in the future. The residents would then have to recycle cans and bottles one week and paper the following week. This has been discussed with Town Counsel and the Town Administrator already and the DEP agreement would need to be signed no later than February 28th. The DPW has $2500.00 in the budget to educated the public on the new recycling requirements and would be done immediately so that the public has a good grasp by the July 1st deadline.

Mr. Silva clarified that one week the recycling bin would be picked up with papers & cardboard only and the following week would be cans and bottles only. The reason the Town is doing this is because the contract for recycling has increased significantly and the Town will now have to pay to have recyclables picked up rather than having a revenue source from this.

Mr. Suprenant also explained that this contract is still going to be a $225,000 increase as of July 1st and cannot be absorbed any other way.

Mr. Debarge confirmed that education will start right away but implementation of dual stream will be July 1st.

Mr. Rosenblum inquired if there is a cost for an extra blue recycling bin?

Mr. Suprenant explained that there are plenty of blue bins available at the DPW and there is no charge for additional ones.

Mr. Debarge also stated that you can use a trash can with a 'recyclable' sticker on it as well. Wanted to know how the Board of Public Works voted for this change?

Mr. Suprenant stated that the Board of Public Works voted in favor of the dual stream recycling 5-0.

Mr. Rosenblum mentioned that the Town should also start discussing the Senate Bill 2481 with the State, which is the bottle bill where liquor and wine bottles would be returned for $.10 each. The Town should also be in contact with the State regarding the House Bill 750 which is in regards to the way items are being packaged for resale.
Mr. Suprenant agreed with Mr. Rosenblum and stated that these bills are before the State legislature and hopefully some of them will get approved and would take some of these items out of the Municipalities waste stream. Currently there is a negative $25 that the Town has to pay in addition to the processing fee for recyclables, to get rid of the glass. There are other things the DPW is looking at, such as reusing the glass, which would be a savings but we would have to do that in conjunctions with other towns.

Mr. Suprenant also explained that the trash contract is being reviewed by the DPW also. The DPW would like to sign a 3-year contract with Community Eco Power who is responsible for disposing of solid waste at Bondie's Island. There are 2 Opt-in's for this particular contract for the 4th and 5th year as well. Town Counsel is looking over the contract now and if the contract is approved the DPW would like to sign that contract no later than March 3rd. The current trash contract is good for 2 more years. The DPW is now recommending that 100% of all trash in Town is put into purple bags to offset the increase of the trash contract, which has increased substantially. A purple bag costs $2.25 and you can fit 2 -14-gallon kitchen bags in one purple bag. The residents will spend an average of $3 - $5 per week. Mr.

Suprenant has spoken to several concerned residents and once he explains why this is happening, the residents have been pretty understanding. The revenue from the purple bags would be approximately $645,600.00 annually from 6800 homes. The bags cost $.30 each to produce, they are sold for $2.25 each with a revenue of $1.95 each for the Town.

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Mr. Silva asked if the revenue from the bags is going to be approximately $650,000 and the contract has increased $300,000 what is the DPW going to do with the excess revenue? Mr. Silva also asked if the cost of the purple bags could be reduced to help the residents?

Ms. Collins the Town has never really increased their budget for the additional $1.4 million for trash and recycling so any additional monies that come in from the purple bags is still covering the trash. It is not extra money that can be used for something else. Basically, the program would bring in close to enough gross to cover the total cost of trash but then once you take away those bags and other expenses that go with the program then you would be looking at the $645,000 but it is a very conservative number. We are not sure how many bags a resident will use.

Mr. Silva believes that most households will probably use 2 bags per week and the revenue will be more significant than proposed.

Ms. Villano explained that this is only the additional barrel that each resident get, not what residents are already using for purple bags. This is just a guestimate as to what we will get in for revenue. There are already talks about getting the purple bags in bulk for a cheaper cost to the resident.

Mr. Silva explained that he is trying to make sure that this is palatable for the residents because once you have to start paying for trash a lot of times the trash ends up in places it shouldn't. If this is the case the DPW will be cleaning streets and spending more money.

Mr. Suprenant stated that the DPW had discussed the issue that Mr. Silva brought up. He wanted to reiterate that the total cost of trash and recycling is over $1.4 million annually, which is a substantial portion of the DPW's budget.

Mr. Annecchiarico of 82 Allison Lane inquired if the Town were to change to trash removal every other week, would there be a cost savings?
Mr. Suprenant explained that this was discussed, however, the existing contract is to pick up weekly for the next two years and cannot be changed. It can be looked into once the contract has expired.

Mr. Debarge explains that this is a necessary evil right now, to go to the purple bags due to the recycling we now have to pay for and we have to generate the revenue to make up the loss of the revenue from recycling and the cost of trash increasing. This will be the best option for the next two years while the contract is in effect. This is the best option for our Town to generate the money that we need to make up for the rising costs.

Mr. Thompson (resident) questioned why we have to change anything now if the contract is for another two years?

Mr. Simao explained that the contract is for pick up only the problem is for the disposal going out, two different issues.

Mr. Thompson also asked what other alternatives have been looked into for trash removal? He does not feel that the purple bags are a good idea. He feels that the purple bags will not hold up during removal and there will be trash all over the streets.

Mr. Suprenant explained that the Town of Ludlow was part of a 13-community consortium to get prices for trash disposal and this came back anywhere between $80/ton to $95/ton. The DPW also negotiated with Western Recycling in Wilbraham and they came back with a price of $82.50/ton. The DPW negotiated with Casella, which is the one the Town uses currently and they thought they could match Community Eco's pricing but they could not because Community Eco has lots of incentives. For example, $.50/ton is designated to education. We did everything to get the best contract for the Town.

Mr. Silva stated that he believes Mr. Thompson wanted to know other avenues that were looked at, like bigger bins, automated trash pick-up. We looked at several things.

Mr. Debarge explained that one of the ideas of the purple bags, the money that would be generated from the purple bags over the two years that we are under contract we would then buy bins for

everyone in Town. Once the two-year contract is over, we would go fully automated, rather than have a guy jump out of the truck and empty the barrels, everyone would have their barrels on their tree belt and the truck would come over with the arm and dump the barrels. In order to generate that money for the Town to purchase all of these barrels for every household we need to generate the cash and would be the best option for the Town. This would be a savings in Workman's comp insurance because no one would be jumping out of the truck and lifting barrels. It would save time in the truck going through Town. This was the biggest idea for generating this money.

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Mr. Thompson asked if it was looked into to just charge a fee.

Mr. Suprenant explained that in order to charge a fee and be equitable about it, it would have to be based on a per household fee. The efficient way to do that would be to have the barrel so it can be tracked and eventually we will be moving toward that. However, over the next two years we felt this would be the best option while the contract with Waste Management is still in effect.

Mr. Thompson confirms that in the future the Town will be going the same way as Springfield.

Ms. Villano mentioned that the automated system would be 18 months out regardless.

Mr. Simao explained that over the next two years things are going to change, the automated system will be more streamlined, the state grants will probably be increasing for these barrels but for now this is the best option to increase our revenue and help out the elderly. It will probably increase recycling as well so there won't be as many bags used.

Mrs. Fernandes asked if a resident wants to buy a container for the automated system if they could do so but now, I realized that we are not sure who our contract will be with. Is it possible for a resident to just pay for the barrel of trash instead of buying purple bags?

Mr. Simao did not think that was going to be feasible because it would be difficult to track. Also stated that residents could also get a dumpster with a private company instead of buying purple bags.

Mr. Thompson stated that as a taxpayer that everyone produces trash and convenience is important. Also commented that in the past when the trash was picked up every other week, it was unlimited, you could put out several barrels. As a taxpayer, we prefer convenience and would like to know what it is going to cost and hopes the DPW tries to keep that in mind when negotiating.

Mr. Annecharcico mentioned that the bags cost $.30 and it's almost a 700% increase on the bags, if that is something you can consider. Whether it is $250 per year in taxes or bags it is still a trash tax increase.

Mr. Rosenblum commented that if you use one bag per week, that is $117 annually, two bags would be $234 and three would be $351 annually. The bags are 33 gallons and comfortably holds 30 gallons.

Mr. Simao stated that we are doing what is best for the Town. Landfills are closing down; recyclables may not come back. I prefer that taxes not increase because they will never come down again and the bags, we could probably get rid of in the future.

Mr. Debarge stated that it was also talked about to stop trash pick up entirely and have everyone go to the transfer station but it is an inconvenience.

Mr. Simao stated that some surrounding towns do not have trash pick up and they have to hire a private company.

Mr. Debarge does not want that for the Town and would prefer to come up with a better solution.

Ms. Collins stated that a lot of the residents are complaining that they are buying bags to put into another bag and wanted to know if it was possible to get the purple bags in a smaller size so that residents only have to buy one type of trash bag.

Mr. Suprenant stated that they can look into that.

Mr. Rosenblum believes a flat tax would help the senior that takes 2 or weeks to fill the bag and agrees that a smaller bag may help as well.

Ms. Collins wanted to remind residents that the Town did not want to charge a fee without providing barrels, etc. During the transition the Town is going to look into getting a grant to pay for the automated barrels and hopefully in the future get rid of the purple bags or just use them for overflow.

Mr. Suprenant stated that once the Town goes to a barrel system then the residents have to be allowed to opt out of it and get a private hauler. He does not feel a lot of people will do this because it is about ½ the cost for the Town to pick up the trash versus a private hauler.

Mrs. Fernandes asked if the Town will pick up the recyclables for at least the next two years?

Mr. Suprenant confirmed that the recyclables will be picked up by the Town for the next two years and the foreseeable future.

Correspondence

59. Board to appoint the following election officers as recommended by either Town Clerk or the Committee Chairman of the Democrat or Republican Party:

- Carol Sheehan, Unenrolled
- Teri Myette, Independent
- Karen Vlohiotis, Republican
- Donna Andre, Independent;
- Jeri Humphries, Democrat

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Moved by Mr. Silva, seconded by Mrs. Fernandes to appoint the following people to the Democrat or Republican party, Carol Sheehan, Unenrolled, Teri Myette, Independent, Karen Vlohiotis, Republican, Donna Andre, Independent and Jeri Humphries, Democrat. Vote 3-0. All in favor.

60. John Root- requesting the Board approval to reserve a room at the Town Hall on a weekday evening in the Spring for a free public presentation entitled, "Attracting Birds, Butterflies, Bees and Other Beneficials" endorsed by the Ludlow Conservation Commission and funded by a grant from the Ludlow Cultural Council; and approval to offer perennials for edible landscaping to attract birds and pollinators.

Moved by Mr. Silva, seconded by Mrs. Fernandes to approve the request to hold a "Attracting Birds, Butterflies, Bees and Other Beneficials" at Town Hall. Vote 3-0. All in favor.

61. Celebrate Ludlow Donations – Baltazar Contractors, Inc. $500.00 and Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company $1,000.00 – Grand Total: $1,500.00.

Moved by Mr. Silva, seconded by Mrs. Fernandes to approve the donations received from Baltazar Contractors for $500.00 and Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company for $1,000.00 to the Celebrate Ludlow Committee. Vote 3-0. All in favor.

62. Ryan M. Pease, Fire Chief – informing the Board of the following donations to Ludlow Ambulance Service - $25.00 by Anthony Torres, also in addition to the subscription donation and additional - $10.00 by Roger and Elaine Bernier; $100.00 by Verna Charron; $100.00 by Mr. and Mrs. Antonio G. DaSilva; $10.00 by Allan Clowes; $20.00 by Luis DaSilva and Anabela Smith; $40.00 by Dianna Douches; $60.00 by Mary Gagliardi; $10.00 by Alfred Halama; $60.00 by Karen Kamuda; $10.00 by Mr. and Mrs. Dennis LaPlante; and $10.00 By Roland Savoie.

Moved by Mrs. Fernandes, seconded by Mr. Silva to accept the donations as listed above. Vote 3-0. All in favor.

63. Board to approve to charge off medical expenses and lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for an injury sustained by a Firefighter as a result of an incident that occurred on February 1, 2020.

Moved by Mr. Silva, seconded by Mrs. Fernandes to approve to charge off medical expenses and lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for an injury sustained by a Firefighter as a result of an incident that occurred on February 1, 2020. Vote 3-0. All in favor.

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63a. 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 February 5, 2020.

Moved by Mr. Silva, seconded by Mrs. Fernandes to approve the request to charge of 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 February 5, 2020. Vote 3-0. All in favor.

64. Joan Lupa, President Lupa Zoo – invitation to their 17th Annual Winter Fundraiser on Saturday, March 14, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at the Polish American Citizens Club, Ludlow.

Moved by Mr. Silva, seconded by Mrs. Fernandes to file. Vote 3-0. All in favor.

65. Geoffrey C. Beckwith, Executive Director & CEO, Massachusetts Municipal Association-informing the Board of the MMA's Annual Spring Legislative Breakfast series on February 28, March 6, and March 13.

Moved by Mr. Silva, seconded by Mrs. Fernandes to file. Vote 3-0. All in favor.

66. Ryan Linton, Superintendent, WMGC- requesting the Board for their support in changing the job title and description of the Equipment Mechanic to Equipment Mechanic/Operator at Westover Municipal Golf Course (WMGC).

Moved by Mr. Silva, seconded by Mrs. Fernandes to approve the request by the Superintendent of the Westover Golf Commission, Ryan Linton for the Equipment Mechanic to Equipment Mechanic/Operator and amend the classification plan. Vote 3-0. All in favor.

67. American Cancer Society, Inc. – Application for License to conduct a One Day Game Commonly called Beano to be held on March 22, 2020 at 355 East Street, Ludlow.

Moved by Mrs. Fernandes, seconded by Mr. Silva to approve the application for a License to conduct a One Day Game Commonly called Beano to be held on March 22, 2020 at 355 East Street in Ludlow as requested by American Cancer Society, Inc. Vote 3-0. All in favor.

68. Brian P. Kelley, Senior Associate General Counsel – First Amendment to the Project Funding Agreement for Harris Brook Elementary School.

Moved by Mrs. Fernandes, seconded by Mr. Silva to file. Vote 3-0. All in favor.

69. Joan Lupa – Notice of Intent to Convert Use of Land Currently Under: Chapter 61A-Agriculture and Horticultural Land & Chapter 61 – Forest Management Plan.

Moved by Mrs. Fernandes, seconded by Mr. Silva to file. Vote 3-0. All in favor.

70. St. Elizabeth Parrish – requesting a Beer and Wine One Day Permit Application for a "Dinner Dance" to be held on April 25, 2020 from 5:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Pastoral Center, 201 Hubbard Street. Board to waive the fee if approved.

Moved by Mrs. Fernandes, seconded by Mr. Silva to approve St. Elizabeth Parrish' request for a Beer and Wine One Day Permit Application for a "Dinner Dance" to be held on April 25, 2020 from 5:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Pastoral Center, 201 Hubbard Street and waive the fee. Vote 3-0. All in favor.

71. Todd and Jeanne Bousquet – Petition for a Zone Change for a portion of the property from Agricultural to Industrial A located at 347 Miller Street.

Moved by Mr. Silva, seconded by Mrs. Fernandes to send the Zone Change of a portion of property from Agricultural to Industrial to the Planning Board for property at 347 Miller Street. Vote 3-0. All in favor.

Unfinished Business:

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Moved by Mrs. Fernandes, seconded by Mr. Silva for the Board to not exercise our right of first refusal to purchase Lot 36A owned by Joan Lupa. Vote 3-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. Silva, seconded by Mrs. Fernandes for the Board to approve and sign 3 copies of the contract between the Department of Environmental Protection, the Contractor and the Town of Ludlow, Massachusetts. Vote 3-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mrs. Fernandes, seconded by Mr. Silva to accept the recommendation as presented by Ms. Villano to maintain the current Health and Dental Insurance. Vote 3-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. Silva, seconded by Mrs. Fernandes to appoint the following to the Radio Communications Advisory Committee, from the Police; Lt. Daniel Valadas, Lt. Michael Brennan, Officer Danial Soares, from Fire; Chief Ryan Pease, Deputy Chief Jeff Lavoie, from the School Department; Todd Gazda, Superintendent, Michael Assaf, Director of Technology (Alternate), from the DPW; Mike Suprenant, Director, Ken Batista, Operations Manager (Alternate), from the Senior Center; Jodi Zepke, Director, from the Citizen/Police; Pablo P. Madera. Vote 3-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mrs. Fernandes, seconded by Mr. Silva to approve and sign the application for License to Conduct a One Day Game Commonly called Beano to be held on March 22, 2020 at 355 East Street, Ludlow. Vote 3-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mrs. Fernandes, seconded by Mr. Silva to approve and sign the St. Elizabeth Parish Beer and Wine One Day Permit for a "Dinner Dance" to be held on April 25, 2020 from 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Pastoral Center, 201 Hubbard Street. Vote 3-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mrs. Fernandes, seconded by Mr. Silva to approve and the Chairman sign the First Amendment to the Project Funding Agreement for Harris Brook Elementary School. Vote 3-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. Silva, seconded by Mrs. Fernandes to approve and sign Selectmen Meeting Minutes of September 17, 2019 where all members were present. Vote 3-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. Silva, seconded by Mrs. Fernandes to approve and sign Selectmen Meeting Minutes of October 1, 2019 where all members were present. Vote 3-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. Silva, seconded by Mrs. Fernandes to approve and sign Executive Session Meeting Minutes of January 21, 2020 where all members were present. Vote 3-0. All in favor.

New Business:

Moved by Mr. Silva, seconded by Mrs. Fernandes to approve warrant articles as discussed for insertion into the May 11, 2020 Annual Town Meeting. Vote 3-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. Silva, seconded by Mrs. Fernandes to open the Special Town Meeting to be held within the Annual Town Meeting. Vote 3-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. Silva, seconded by Mrs. Fernandes to ratify Chairman's signature of Consent of Employer to Lump Sum Settlement. Vote 3-0. All in favor.

Board perused Selectmen Meeting Minutes of October 22, 2019.

Board perused Executive Session Meeting Minutes of February 4, 2020.

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.

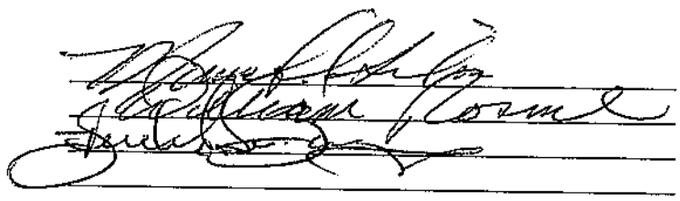
Closing Comments:

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Mrs. Fernandes wanted to reiterate with the Track and Field, she does not feel she has been given all of the information and wishes the Selectmen would spend more time getting some additional research and information. She has done a little research online on her own and the lifespan of any track and field is about 20 years and the issues with them is always maintenance. She believes the Board needs more time to understand the options, especially for the cost of it over the next 40 years to the Town. She would like to be more informed.

Mr. Debarge wishes everyone a good night.;

Moved by Mrs. Fernandes, seconded by Mr. Silva to adjourn this meeting at 7:45 p.m., not return to open session. Vote 3-0 all in favor.



Ludlow Board of Selectmen

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