The Meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on Tuesday, May 5, 2020 began at 5:30 p.m. Remote participation. The meeting was held during the COVID-19 crisis.

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2020 JUL 15 P 4:09
TOWN OF LUDLOW

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

Visitations:

5:30 – Carrie Ribeiro, Human Resources – discuss the furlough of certain departments, staff and programs.

Mr. DeBarge explained that the Board will start with discussing the furlough of Library employees.

Ms. Chris Davis, Library Trustee stated that the Library non-essential employees could be furloughed and then once there is a better understanding of when the library could open back up, July from the Children's Room could be the first one to come back to work.

Ms. Ribeiro agreed with Ms. Davis and trusts that the trustees would have the best knowledge of the programs and the decisions they make.

Ms. Davis wants to ensure that once the library is able to open that the employees will be physically there and not working from home.

Ms. Ribeiro agrees with Ms. Davis in regards to the employees being physically in the building versus work from home.

Mr. DeBarge confirmed that the furlough would be for all library staff except for Pat McGowan, the Director.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Silva approve to furlough the staff of the Hubbard Memorial Library with the exception of the Director, Pat McGowan through the month of May 2020 unless otherwise advised by the Governor or state mandates that that mandate be extended. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

Ms. Ribeiro explained that in light of the schools being closed for the remainder of the year, in the best interest of the Town it is best to furlough the school crossing guards as well.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Silva to approve the furlough of all school crossing guards as well as the before and after school counselors for Whitney Park until such time as school reconvenes for the 2020/2021 calendar year. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

6:00 – Public Hearing- Verizon Pole Location – Fuller Street Hearing

Moved by Mr. Rosenblum, seconded by Mr. Silva to open the public hearing with Verizon at 6:00 p.m. Vote 3-0. All in favor.

Mr. DeBarge: Okay sir go ahead with your information please.

Mr. Steve Kloberg: I assume you have the petitions in front of you?

Mr. DeBarge: Yes.

Mr. Kloberg: Do you need me to read the entire petition.

Mr. DeBarge: No, you can paraphrase if you would like.

Mr. Kloberg: Okay, I will just do the brief thing. Verizon is looking to place one jointly owned pole on Fuller Street labeled telephone poll number 39 ½ and electric poll 35 on the westerly side of Fuller Street that is approximately six hundred seventy-eight feet southerly from the centerline of Bridle Path Circle. The reason is to place one jointly owned pole on Fuller Street to accommodate a Town of Ludlow building project and to provide support for the distribution of intelligence and telecommunications and the transmission of high and low voltage electric current.

Mr. DeBarge: Okay, Mrs. Villano do we have any correspondence from any abutters?

Ms. Villano: No.

Mr. DeBarge: Hearing that we do not, gentleman on the Select Board since I can't see any of you, if you look to your hearing packet for the motion all we need is the motion to approve Verizon to place and then you can begin with the jointly owned pole and then the rest of that paragraph, which is what that gentlemen just kind of read unless there is any comments of course or questions.

Mr. Goncalves: Mr. Chairman.

Mr. DeBarge: Mr. Goncalves.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Silva that the Board of Selectmen approve the petition for Verizon New England Inc and NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy jointly owned pole number T. 39 ½ /E. 35 on the westerly side of Fuller Street at a point approximately six hundred seventy-eight feet southerly from the centerline of Bridle Path Circle for the purpose of accommodating the Town of Ludlow Harris Brook Elementary School building project. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum to close the public hearing for the Fuller Street pole for Verizon Eversource Energy at 6:07 p.m. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

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6:10 p.m. – Public Hearing - Verizon Pole Location – Center Street

Moved by Mr. Rosenblum, seconded by Mr. Silva to open the public hearing with Verizon at 6:10 p.m. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

Mr. DeBarge: Okay, let's see, do you want to just paraphrase this one as well sir?

Mr. Kloberg: Sure, Steve Kloberg with Pipe Telecom representing Verizon. This is to place a pole on Center Street, jointly owned pole between Verizon and Eversource. Pole number or Verizon number 276 ½ and Eversource number 44M on the northwesterly side of Center Street at a point approximately three hundred eighteen feet northeasterly from the centerline of Harding Avenue. It is to place a jointly owned pole on Center Street to accommodate a request for new service and to provide support for the distribution of intelligence and telecommunications and the transmission of high and low voltage electric current.

Mr. DeBarge: Thank you for that. Gentlemen.

Mr. Goncalves: Mr. Chairman.

Mr. DeBarge: Mr. Goncalves.

Mr. Goncalves: And this is for new service for a particular business or...

Mr. Kloberg: Yes, apparently well I was at the sight yesterday, it is across the street from the gas station. They demolished the old building that was there so this is getting set on their property to serve their building or their future building. Their building plans.

Mr. DeBarge: Yes, Mr. Goncalves, it is my understanding this is for the Colvest Group for the K of C.

Mr. Goncalves: Okay, so it's probably going to go somewhere between the entrances that exist now to that parking area.

Mr. DeBarge: Yes, that's my understanding.

Mr. Goncalves: Okay good deal. If there's no more questions, I will make a motion Mr. Chairman.

Mr. DeBarge: Any other questions from the Board?

Mr. Silva: No.

Mr. DeBarge: Go ahead Mr. Goncalves.

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Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Silva for the Board to approve the petition of Verizon New England, Inc. and NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy for a jointly owned pole number T 276 ½, Eversource 44M on the northwesterly side of Center Street at a point approximately three hundred eighteen feet northeasterly from the centerline of Harding Avenue. Vote 4-0. All in favor. Moved by Mr. Rosenblum, seconded by Mr. Silva to close the public hearing with Verizon at 6:14 p.m. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

Mr. DeBarge: Okay Steve thank you for your time.

Mr. Kloberg: Alright, thank you.

6: 30 p.m. -Public Hearing with Turnpike Package

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum to continue the Turnpike Package public hearing to the first meeting in June due to the pandemic. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

Correspondence:

104. Stanley Corcoran, Executive Vice President MIIA – Participation credits, dividends and mid-year adjustments.

Moved by Mr. Silva, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum to file. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

105. Milla Paumo, PPAL, Parent/Professional Advocacy League – requesting that the Board vote to participate and proclaim the week of May 3rd – May 9th as Children's Mental Health Week.

Moved by Mr. Silva, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum for the Board to proclaim May 3rd – May 9th as Children's Mental Health Week. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

106. Louis Gilli, Ma Municipal Wholesale Electric Company – Yearly Operational Plan.

Moved by Mr. Silva, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum to file. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

107. Louis Gilli, MMWEC – quarterly inspection of its natural gas pipeline.

Moved by Mr. Silva, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum to file. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

108. Brian Quinn, Director Engineering and Generation Assets – reminder of the Public Awareness Program.

Moved by Mr. Rosenblum, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to file. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

Unfinished Business:

Board discussed the COVID-19 crisis and updates. Mr. DeBarge explained that there are approximately 75 positive cases in Town currently and 4 deaths. Governor's stay at home order was extended to May 18th and a face covering will be mandatory beginning May 6th. There is a $300.00 fine if a person or business does not comply with this. Reminded residents that there will be construction on Center Street for the next two weeks. Also, please be careful in front of Starbucks on Center Street with the ramped-up traffic there. Cislak Drive officially has "no parking" and "no loitering" signs but still has numerous cars there. Mr. Goncalves sends out his sympathies to the families that have lost loved ones to the COVID-19 and gave a shout out to the nurse at the Board of Health for all of her hard work during this pandemic.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Silva for the Board to affirm that the Special Town Meeting will be held within the Annual Town Meeting which was postponed to June 22, 2020. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

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Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Silva for the Board to close the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

New Business:

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum to allow the Cares Coalition to place a banner at the Putts Bridge to honor the graduating LHS Seniors. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

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

Closing Comments:

Mr. Silva congratulated the LHS Seniors and asked that everyone stay patient and safe.

Mr. Rosenblum congratulated the LHS Seniors as well and it is unfortunate that the festivities can not take place but how great it is to see all the signs around town, including the one on the tennis court at the high school. Please stay safe and remember to wear your mask. Masks can be purchased at Uncle Bobs and try to support your local businesses.

Mr. Goncalves gave a shout out to Cheryl the Town nurse and everyone in the Board of Health. Reminds people to continue to listen to the officials about social distancing and we will get through this. Happy birthday to Mr. Carvalho, a past selectmen and a very important person in my life. Also mentioned that Chapin East is selling masks.

Mr. DeBarge understands that tensions are getting higher and higher as time goes on and we want to see businesses start to open and get back to business as usual but we must be patient. Please adhere to the Governor's protocols and make it easier for the first responders. Please wear your mask for the safety of others. Masks are available at CVS and will be available at Cumberland Farms soon. As of right now we do not have enough of an agenda to have a meeting next week but if that changes, we can have one.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Silva to adjourn this meeting at 6:33 p.m., not return to open session. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

Ludlow Board of Selectmen

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