The Meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on Tuesday, June 30, 2020 began at 5:30 p.m. Remote participation due to COVID-19.

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Members Present: Manuel Silva, Chairman, Antonio Goncalves, William Rosenblum

Absent: Derek DeBarge

First Order of Business: The Pledge of Allegiance

Visitations:

5:45 p.m. – Disha Patel, Mandi Dorval, and Mike Marshall Resident Supporters of Black Lives Matter.

Mr. Silva: Good evening, is Disha Patel on? Can you hear us?

Ms. Patel: I am, hi.

Mr. Silva: Can you hear us well?

Mr. Patel: Yeah, can you hear me okay?

Mr. Silva: Yes. Okay now how about Mandi Dorval, can you hear us?

Ms. Dorval: Yes, I can.

Mr. Silva: And Laura Rooney is on as well.

Ms. Rooney: Yes, I can hear you.

Mr. Silva: Perfect, we are all set. So, to keep this orderly, please try to get our attention if you want to speak and again tell us who is speaking and also, we usually require the resident's address. So, with that, who wants to go ahead and start first.

Ms. Patel: Okay so my name is Disha Patel. Apologies if I cannot address Board members specifically because of the lack of video on my end, I won't always know who is speaking but I wanted to say thank you for having us today. I am a former Ludlow resident; I went through the Ludlow Public School system and I now live in Boston, but I still have family residing here and that is my purpose in being a part of today's meeting.

Mr. Silva: Okay Disha if you could just hold on for one second. I forgot to mention that one of our members, Derek DeBarge wanted to be here but unfortunately, he had surgery and he is not able to sit up to the mike or to be here obviously. And he really did want to be here, so I want the residents and everyone to know that and he wanted everyone to know that okay so go right ahead.

Ms. Patel: Okay well I will let Mandi and Laura introduce themselves before I get into why we wrote a letter to the Board.

Ms. Dorval: So, I am Mandi Dorval, I'm a Ludlow resident, I went through the Ludlow Schools. I went away to college but now I am back living in Ludlow. So, I wanted to do this now that I am back home and seeing what is going around in the world and how Ludlow hasn't made a statement yet.

Mr. Silva: Okay.

Ms. Rooney: My name is Laura Rooney and I am a resident of Ludlow. I'm representing myself here in this meeting, but I have had the experience of organizing in Ludlow, a very successful experience and hoping that some of my insights might help both Mandi and Disha with their concern that they are trying to address.

Mr. Silva: Thank you Laura.

Ms. Patel: I guess I am not sure how, this is our first time, at least mine and Mandi's first time being a part of a Board meeting, so we are not sure if there is a particular procedure in how we discuss the agenda item or if we should speak on it first. How do you prefer we go about this?

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Mr. Silva: You just go ahead and give us your concerns and comments and what it is you are trying to do.

Ms. Patel: Okay so I guess in hopes this isn't repetitive of our letter. The main concern is the lack of engagement that the Ludlow Community has had in anti-racist work with the understanding that we are all on a learning curve right now and we are all trying to do what we can in our everyday lives to address this issue head on. It's no secret that Ludlow is a predominantly white town and we don't have many people of color....but that really doesn't excuse any silence on our part. So, these last few weeks, the letters you have seen, the invitation to the march you received, these were all attempts to start an open dialogue in Ludlow and to really address the fact that racism is a problem here and when black resident's tell us this, we must listen and so our concern, specifically for the Board was 1.) lack of a statement, just denouncing racism and drawing attention to the death of George Floyd at the hands of law enforcement. Maybe this something that has not been regularly done in the past and we just want to say that there is still time to address this though it has been over a month. I mean Belchertown, their Board of Selectmen had put out a statement condemning that murder and also saying black lives matter and we have to be doing the work as a town as a community and address the issues. And we are hoping that our Board of Selectmen will also address the community in a manner that can set the tone that what all community members should be striving to do is be anti-racist. And secondly in our letter we discussed wanting to put up a banner in town that says black lives matter in an attempt to show solidarity for the black community. Obviously more details of those requests can be found in our letter, but we are not sure right now where the Board stands on our requests or if something like this has already been discussed before we wrote a letter and if it hadn't we would like to inquire you know as to why it hadn't been. That' s our purpose really in joining today.

Mr. Silva: Okay, I think maybe we will take one thing at a time rather than discuss both. First you are looking for the support in a statement and then you are looking for the banner to be put up in, is it a couple of places or just the entrance to the Town?

Ms. Patel: Entrance to the Town, over the bridge, usually where I believe we put up Celebrate Ludlow or Exit 7 theater banners, in that spot.

Mr. Silva: Okay. Thank you for that and does anyone else want to speak before the Board members ask questions, comments or anything?

Ms. Dorval: I think Disha covered it all. Just to really emphasize that even though our community is predominantly white that doesn't mean we have an excuse not to show our support and I think with that banner that is really what we are trying to do is show the solidarity and support for the black community members that we do have and making sure that they feel and that they know that they are a part of our community.

Mr. Silva: Thank you. Any comments from our Board members? Yes, no. Mr. Goncalves.

Mr. Goncalves: Yes, thank you. I applaud what you girls are doing and your organization. The idea that we haven't taken a position or spoken about it, it's not a current event that affected this Board or this Town so it's not something that we would be looking at and take a position on like probably anything else that doesn't happen in here in Ludlow because that is not what we are elected to do. Yes, I am personally against racism of any kind and I think that the murder of George Floyd was a horrible tragedy and that's definitely my position. I appreciate where you guys are coming from. With regards to the banner, I am not a fan of that banner or any other banner being at the bridge. Our hands are tied with regards to what we can do there. The by-laws are there and we can't put any type of banner of that affect up there otherwise we would have 50 banners up there and I don't think we can open pandora's box on that because every organization in town that wants to put something there and I don't believe that our by-laws allow for that to begin with and it's not the purpose of putting something at the bridge or anywhere else. So, again I applaud your efforts but that is where I stand.

Mr. Silva: Thank you.

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Ms. Patel: May we respond?

Mr. Silva: Sure, go ahead. You can comment before Mr. Rosenblum speaks.

Ms. Patel: Sorry, I wasn't sure if comments should come at the end of all the Board's comments, if so, I would be happy to wait.

Mr. Silva: No, you could but it's probably better to respond to any comments that might be fresh in your mind.

Ms. Patel: So, in response to Selectmen Goncalves I, there are two things, one your stance that this doesn't directly affect our town, obviously I recognize that we haven't had such an incident you know with Ludlow Police and a resident here, I understand that it is not at the level as to what happened with George Floyd but I will say that this incident and many others have effected every person across the nation and I think that you know I am not black either and I think that part of our identities are limiting us from seeing that this is having an effect on students in this town, on families on this town, I mean we heard that at the march from black community members. This is something that is effecting them and I understand that there are by-laws and understand the argument that you put up one banner and then you know everybody gets a banner and I am just wondering if this isn't a moment where we can figure our something whether it is changing by-laws or working around, like if this isn't a moment where we can find out how to take a stance then I am not really sure what is and the Board of Selectmen has so much you know so much power of course as the executive body in the town to set the tone for how this town will respond and you know if we can't even put up a banner then I am not sure how we are tangibly showing support for black community members. I think that the conversation has to continue beyond by-laws.

Mr. Silva: Okay, thank you. Mr. Rosenblum.

Mr. Rosenblum: Mr. Chairman. No, thank you for speaking with us tonight and I know that you had asked about a statement and I do know that about two weeks ago, we did address it. Each Board member did make a statement and I think that we were all in agreement that obviously there is no place for racism and that George Floyd's untimely death was a tragedy and should have never happened. We all agreed on that, so I just wanted to reiterate that as well. As it comes to the banner, I tend to agree with Mr. Goncalves and the fact that it is in our town by-laws that we are not allowed to put any signage on town property that is not community based or it has to be non-profit. In the same sense any political statements, we are not allowed to put on town property. So, that is kind of where I stand with that in general because in the same sense as a selectman running for the position, the only thing that we could do at Putts Bridge or the entrance to the Pike was stand there with banners, as long as you were attending the banner or the sign. Unfortunately, you can't have a sign that is fixed at that location. I mean that is an option at the same sense, is standing with the banner itself but to affix one is against town by-laws.

Mr. Silva: Thank you. I kind of tend to agree with my colleagues here absolutely racism is a terrible, terrible think and I believe in black lives matter. If we could stick to that, that black lives do matter and racism is just a horrific thing, whether it is in Ludlow or across the country. The problem I am having with this organization, the march was some of the things that came out of it and to actually hear and unfortunately, I couldn't make it and I wasn't there but to actually hear some of things that were being said by our Ludlow Police Department, just I am sorry but was terrible. I can't condone any of that, I know 90% of our Police Department, I probably voted on at least half of them and a lot of them are my friends and I cannot believe that they are racist at all. To actually try to make the Ludlow Police Department as racist is unethical and I just can't take it and with that I will also like to give you a statement that Mr. DeBarge would like to have stated, he sent me a note, emailed. He said Hi Manny, I just want to say that I am against a political banner being posted on town property. I am also against any anti-police rhetoric, kill a copy and racist cop, chants at the march on June 20th, the resist with fists graffiti spray painted on our Riverwalk 13 times along with completely offensive statements made by Mr. Marshall on the news claiming that there is a secret in Ludlow that the Ludlow Police Department or

Ludlow Police are racists. That claim is ridiculous. The Black Lives Matter banner would be seen as a black lives group, not just the words themselves, we have to consider that and the group our self-confirmed Marxist. If we allow the banner, we must allow all political signs going forward. For this reason and for the unfair labeling of our police department, I do not agree with allowing this banner to be put in our town. That is a statement again by one of our Board members, Mr. Derek DeBarge.

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Ms. Patel: Is if fine if we respond to that statement now.

Mr. Silva: Sure. Go right ahead.

Ms. Patel: Okay, so there are a few things that you said and while we are trying to remember that everyone here is on a learning curve, I would really like to correct a few things that were said. You mentioned that we by marching against human rights violations painted Ludlow Police Department as racist. Let me, respectfully correct you on this, if any of the Board members would have been at the march they would have seen, we protested against Police brutality and systemic racism. We made it clear that even if the cops that you know are kind and just, they do belong to a system that has oppressed black people for centuries and all of these things are facts that we can look up it's not something they we created on our own in a hateful way against LPD. We recognize that there were Ludlow Police cops there and that they were doing their job and we were respectful to them and they were respectful to us. But at the core of the march was a protest against police brutality and while we have you know, from what I know had those instances of police brutality in Ludlow, every town across this country is one incident away from becoming a town where something like this can happen and so our goal was to be in solidarity with the black community and to advocate for change that can help everyone. Our goal was not to paint LPD as racist and we definitely resent that characterization especially from someone respectfully who wasn't at the march. As far as Mr. DeBarge's statement as a white man he is saying that Mr. Marshall said incorrect false things against Ludlow Police Department. I think we all need to recognize that we will never know what Mike Marshall has felt in his life because we are not black, and we are not him. We have stop pretending as if we know how other people are feeling and that is a huge point that came out from the march and that we are trying to tell community members. Just because something hasn't happened to you, doesn't mean that it doesn't exist, and we have to stop thinking that our perspective is the only perspective on things. So, just going forward I hope the Board hears me when I say our goal here is to advocate for change and create a more just system for all because we have taken the time to listen to black community members of Ludlow when they say they haven't felt that way, they haven't felt that it is a just system for all. Our goal is not to paint anyone as racist. I needed to clarify that because it is really important that this march not be ....in the future.

Ms. Dorval: And then to just go on top of that, the point made about the Riverwalk, I personally do not know who painted the graffiti or whatever was written on the walk. I'm not sure how Mr. DeBarge who found out who did it but Disha, myself and Mike Marshall were the ones organizing the event and the graffiti done at the Riverwalk is not correlated to the event at all.

Mr. Silva: Okay. Thank you. Again, I just want to say that these are things that unfortunately like I said I wasn't there, but these things are things that have come back to me. They could be hearsay, they could be not true, whatever and I will tell you that I have gotten considerable calls from people that are very upset that that march even happened. I have not received one single call that supported that march, that is in support of this banner going up. Every single one that I received has been anti this banner. Now with that being said, I am listening to people who did attend, and some were kind of a little upset over it but that's just maybe hearsay I don't know.

Ms. Patel: But Mr. Silva we sent you a letter that had over 70 signatures of people who supported putting up a banner in this town.

Mr. Silva: Understood Disha, understood and we fully realize that, but you realize we do have 22,000 citizens so. So, we have to listen to everyone, you know. Anyone else on the Board have anything else to say?

Mr. Goncalves: Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Silva: Mr. Goncalves.

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Mr. Goncalves: And I didn't go through the list, of those people that are on that letter to us how many are Ludlow residents?

Ms. Patel: I have not counted the number. A good amount are Ludlow residents, however, if it is important, we can send another letter with just Ludlow residents names on them because I hear you when you say you need to listen to the community. In my personal opinion, it's the Board's duty to set a tone for the community which is in alignment with all members of the community, including the black community. However, if it would be helpful to the Board in making these decisions, we are willing to supplement our letter or have other people contact the Board with their views on this. I mean our group alone has over 400 members, compared to 22,000 that's different but that's a strong group in this town that believes more needs to be done.

Ms. Rooney: Can I speak for a moment? This is Laura Rooney.

Mr. Silva: Laura, go right ahead.

Ms. Rooney: So, Mandi and Disha I commend you for getting involved in being active and being an activist. I think it's not easy, it's emotional, it's a lot of work and I'm assuming the both of you are volunteering your time, is that correct?

Ms. Patel: Yes.

Ms. Dorval: Yes.

Ms. Rooney: That is, and I think it's a great thing. Having had the experience to organize in Ludlow and organize a group that has had an opportunity to change the perspective, mainly during the opioid crisis. You guys are of an age where opioid crisis might have affected someone in your family or your friends. I know the frustration that happens when people are being impacted negatively and it doesn't seem like there is enough being done about it. I just wondered if you see the correlation to that. Disha?

Ms. Patel: Sorry, so I do have to say like I haven't had as much I guess involvement in the work that you had done prior to this. I have to admit that but at a generalized level, yes I do see the correlation in an issue that maybe doesn't impact everyone but it does really impact the community, disproportionally people of color and black people and it's not being addressed by the white members of the community and I think there is a lot being said that is missing the root of the issue which I can imagine must of happened with your organizing work as well. You had a goal in mind and so much detracts from it when everyone for lack of better terms, takes things offensively or as generalizations and yes so in that sense I see the parallel that this is an issue that needs to be addressed, hasn't been in the detail that it deserves.

Ms. Rooney: And your passionate about it, right? I mean you are passionate; I can hear it in your voice. I can't see you, but I can hear your passion.

Ms. Patel: Of course, yes.

Ms. Rooney: And Mandi you as, well right?

Ms. Dorval: Yes.

Ms. Rooney: I think it's something that you feel passionate about and rightly so and again I think it is a great thing. When we talk about working, I'm just hearing a lot of echo I'm sorry. I don't know if Mandi and Disha you mute your microphones it might help with the feedback. Thank you. So, when there is a lot of passion on these things, there are a couple of things and when we started CARES we had resistance as well because it's hard to talk about things that are hard to talk about. What we tried to do was get our community to work together to help with the problem within Ludlow. To talk to each other, to share our stories, share the thoughts. To look at where we could actually do better. To find out, you know separate facts from fiction. You know, you are confronting some issues that you think weren't

factual. I think that you know the town leaders have some concerns and they may or may not be factual but the importance to sit down and have the discussion in Ludlow, which I think people would very much want to have and to address the problem for the Ludlow community. This is not a one size fits all solution. Just like dealing with the opioid crisis wasn't going to be a one size fits all. We did what we did in Ludlow because it fit with Ludlow and we made a lot of progress to the point that you know we were looked at as an example for other communities because we could have a conversation that many people didn't want to have. Whether that centered around opioids, then it moved to alcoholism and other things that put our youth at risk, our community at risk and the health and safety of our residents at risk. Now we are talking about racial injustice, which I am outraged by what happened to George Floyd. I think that every single person in town that I have spoke with is as outraged as you and think that it's a horrible event, however, I do think that we do have really good police in town so that the issue between what happened and how it's you know it's a police brutality and that it is in our town now and I am not saying that there isn't racial injustice in our town and I am not saying that these things never happen. I am not saying that at all. If it happened, we need to stop them from happening. In order to do that and for us to share our stories, share our experiences and to correct that, we need to build partnerships in the town in order to do that. I think that sitting down and talking with the Police and talking with the School Department, I invite you to work with CARES, we will address almost any issue. We started with the opioid crisis, but we have tackled other tough topics like sexual abuse and child abuse and other things that we know happen in the world and the country. I mean there is plenty of child abuse that goes on and people should be outraged but not today is there a conversation across the country about that and there certainly should be. So, what I will say is that I think that we want to have the conversation in Ludlow. We don't want to blame anyone organization for it or target anyone for it but we want to have it to make Ludlow a better place to live because I have African American friends, I don't know what the proper term is, black friends in Ludlow and I love them and I would not want them to feel as though this is not a good place to live. So, I think that we can work together on this and figure out what is the right solution for Ludlow and that would be a great thing.

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Mr. Silva: Thanks Laura and good statement and I agree. Disha and Mandi I am sure you have heard from the Board that we are all in this frame of mind that black lives matter and yes, we, none of us condone racism at all. So, to say that we haven't made a statement, I don't agree with that because we, like Mr. Rosenblum said last week or two weeks ago we all made the statement not agreeing at all that black lives don't matter or that everyone's life really doesn't matter. Whether it be black lives, white lives, no police officer should do the things that we have seen to anyone, it's just inhumane to be doing such things. We all agree with that and that is virtually our statement and unless the Board members that are here disagree with that which I doubt.

Mr. Rosenblum: Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Silva: Mr. Rosenblum.

Mr. Rosenblum: I just want to go back to what Ms. Rooney was talking about. She makes a great point in the fact that I'm glad that you are both here Ms. Patel and Ms. Dorval, it's a conversation that we started, and I think there is a great opportunity as Ms. Rooney was saying to maybe do something special in town by talking to CARES and talking to other organizations in town. I think we could set a standard with the passion that you have and again none of us, all of us are against racism. I mean, it's you know society can't hide from it. We do need to take it on. It's just unfortunately with the sign I don't agree with it based on Town guidelines.

Mr. Silva: Thank you.

Ms. Rooney: Something else about the sign. The sign, I have lived here for a long time, in Ludlow and the sign traditionally that area is traditionally for and even for CARES, it's been event based. So, like you know if it's for the theater group for a particular play or if it's for CARES, it's for Red Ribbon Week. You know a week where we try to do anti-drug messaging. So, the sign goes up and comes down. So, that other people can put their signs up as well to advertise their events. So, you know while I think that you know messaging, I know how important it is because certainly it's been important to CARES. So, where it might not be exactly what you are looking for, maybe we can get together and figure out how to get that messaging in a place that it can have you know a more standard permanent if you will presence because I don't think that your message is one that you want, you know racial equality if you will minus

any kind of political movement that might be behind it. But the racial equality piece I think you are going to want that up for some time.

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Mr. Silva: Ladies, anything further that you would like to add?

Ms. Dorval: I agree that we would definitely want something up longer than just like you said if it's just those signs are just for events. We wouldn't want something that just goes up for a couple of days and then comes back down and I agree that this something that we need to continue discussing and have an open dialogue about. Working with Ludlow CARES could be something that we could do. We did have a meeting with Chief of Police today and we have been in contact with School Committee and trying to change things in the school curriculum. So, we are doing other steps as well.

Ms. Patel: And as to the Board, sorry can you hear me okay?

Mr. Silva: Yes.

Ms. Patel: As Mandi said we hear you that we need to be working with all groups in our community. So, like she said we are actively and we met with Chief Valadas and we are talking to the school committee, however, the purpose of today's call was really to see what the Board can do as an entity for us? We have given you two ideas, a written, I acknowledge you made a statement at your previous meeting, but I had heard from all Board members today that they are denouncing racism and that black lives do matter. So, we are asking for a written statement to the Town on your Town Facebook page, on your Board of Selectmen Facebook page because that sets a tone. If you are saying it in your meeting, then I don't think there should be a problem in writing it and saying it to the community as a whole. Secondly, the banner and the statement were our two ideas how the Board of Selectmen could help bring this movement forward, this message forward. The school committee has other ideas, the Police Department has other ideas. We will work with both of them when the time comes and of course we would like to work with CARES as well and Mrs. Rooney we will be in touch with you as well. But I just don't want this meeting to end with the idea that we are not looking for more from the Board because we are looking for more as the elected representatives of this community. And so, we ask that you would be willing to memorialize your statement in writing and make it public for all and obviously to reconsider the banner issue because we don't feel that it's a political statement but that's something for you decide and that's all I have for today.

Mr. Silva: Thank you. Okay, as the matter brought before us, do we want to take up the banner request?

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum to not allow the banner at the bridge or any other Town owned property in Town as a matter of by-law violation and not within our jurisdiction at this point. Vote 3-0. All in favor.

Mr. Silva: So, ladies unfortunately the banner at this time not something that the Board condones, as I am sure you are hearing. It is unfortunate that we have to stick by our rules and regulations and having just civic and organizations within the community and it is I believe we allow two weeks max that we have allowed on it. If you can find another avenue, actually personal or private property is probably the one idea that can happen.

Mr. Goncalves: It depends.

Mr. Silva: It depends, yes.

Mr. Goncalves: Because usually anything politically oriented is for election purposes only.

Mr. Silva: Well, small signs.

Mr. Goncalves: Small signs, yes.

Mr. Silva: Okay, so with that and as far as the political statement, we will take it, I think unless the Board members here want to do something else, I think we will take that in advisement and try to see if there is something that we can't, or we can do with that.

Mr. Goncalves: Yeah, and Mr. Chairman.

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Mr. Silva: Mr. Goncalves.

Mr. Goncalves: For the young ladies thank you again for your passion and there's a lot of generalizations of what could or could not be happening here in our Town. I would really like to be advised of anything or any events that happens that you feel are going on, I really would. You know our duty is to make sure that Ludlow is the greatest place in the world to live and I'm not excited to hear that any of our officers have done anything or would do anything or anybody else and please an open line of communication on anything from the standpoint of racism or anybody's rights are violated to that extent; I would love to know about it please.

Mr. Rosenblum: Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Silva: Mr. Rosenblum.

Mr. Rosenblum: I would echo the same statement as he was just saying in the fact that we would want to know these things and we are accessible; you can reach out to us. So, please do and again I do applaud you for doing what your doing, it takes a lot of courage.

Mr. Silva: Absolutely.

Mr. Rosenblum: You know what you are championing is great and racism has no place in our society. So, thank you for coming to us today.

Mr. Goncalves: Laura, thank you very much.

Mr. Rosenblum: Ms. Rooney, thank you.

Mr. Silva: Thank you.

Ms. Patel: Thank you for having us. We appreciate the opportunity.

Ms. Dorval: Thank you.

Mr. Silva: You are very welcome. I'm sure we will hear from you again.

Ms. Patel: We will keep the dialogue open. Thank you so much. Good night.

Ms. Rooney: It was a pleasure talking with you guys. Take care.

Correspondence:

148. Vanished Valley, Inc. – Petition for Amendment – Alteration of Premises. Board to schedule a public hearing.

Moved by Mr. Rosenblum, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to schedule a public hearing with Vanished Valley for their petition amendment to alter premises for July 21st. Vote 3-0. All in favor.

149a & b. John R. Maher, Director of Government Affairs, Charter Communications – letters of notification of channel line-up changes.

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

150. Luisa Costa – requesting to be appointed as a Democratic poll worker. Democratic Town Committee Chairman recommends appointment.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum to appoint Luis Costa as a Democratic Poll Worker. Vote 3-0. All in favor.

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151. Board to approve a request 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 June 14, 2020.

Moved by Mr. Rosenblum, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to approve a request 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 June 14, 2020. Vote 3-0. All in favor.

151a. 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 June 14, 2020.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum to approve a request 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 June 14, 2020. Vote 3-0. All in favor.

152. Sean Cronin, Senior Deputy Commission, Division of Local Services MA Department of Revenue informing the Board of FY2021 Cherry Sheets and Monthly Local Aid Distributions.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum to file. Vote 3-0. All in favor.

153. Marie Jane Handy, Director of Accounts, Division of Local Services MA Department of Revenue informing the Board their request to deficit spend up to $276,116 for the Town's emergency response to COVID-19 has been approved.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum to file. Vote 3-0. All in favor.

154. Board of Public Works requesting the support for the House of Representative to move forward with finalizing the $300 million Chapter 90 bond bill.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum for the Board to send a letter of support to representative Petrolati regarding the Chapter 90 Bond Bill. Vote 3-0. All in favor.

155. Board Reorganization – Ludlow Senior Center Building Committee and Finance Committee.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum to file. Vote 3-0. All in favor.

156. Sean McBride, Chairman Westover Municipal Golf Course – seeking guidance from the Board on obtaining IT support on equipment not owned by the Town – equipment belongs to contracted vendor.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum to contact our IT Department and the pro at Westover and clarify exactly what is needed and who the equipment belongs to beforehand. Vote 3-0. All in favor.

157. Sean McBride, Westover Golf Course – notification of the Commission's vote to reduce rental fees for the concession rent and Driving Range rental fees due to the Governor's shutdown of golf courses since March 17, 2020 – contracted vendor.

Moved by Mr. Rosenblum, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to bring in the Chair of the Golf Commission on July 14th to discuss reduction of installments from the golf professional and his concessions and driving range. Vote 3-0. All in favor.

158. Tammy and Anne Turcotte, Animal Control Officer – informing the Board they are resigning from their current volunteer positions for Ludlow Animal Control effective June 30, 2020.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum to accept Tammy and Anne Turcotte's resignation with regrets and thank them for their time. Vote 3-0. All in favor.

159. Ludlow Planning Board – informing the Board of a public hearing for the Riverside Drive Definitive Subdivision scheduled for Thursday, July 9, 2020 at 4:40 p.m. in the Selectmen's Conference Room, 3rd floor, Town Hall.

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Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum to file. Vote 3-0. All in favor.

160. Joe Mitchell, Eversource Community Relations & Economic Development Specialist – informing the Board of their post-COVID-19 strategies to ensure reliable service to customers as phased re-openings continue in the region.

Moved by Mr. Rosenblum, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to file. Vote 3-0. All in favor.

161. Douglas J. Stefancik, MPA, Town Planner – requesting the Board to allow the Planning Board to have meetings at proposed off-site or outside locations set up for social distancing to hold their meetings, public hearings, and so that the public can attend.

Unfinished Business:

COVID—19 Update: There are 126 confirmed cases in Ludlow and have been in Ludlow since the beginning of the pandemic and there has been 6 deaths in Ludlow. For the past few weeks, Ludlow has had no new cases reported.

Moved by Mr. Rosenblum, seconded by Mr. Goncalves that the vacant position on the Board of Selectmen should be filled under the regular March election of 2021 and at that time it will be for a 3-year term and not hold a special election. Vote 3-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum to notify the DPW representatives to come into the Board of Selectmen's July 14th meeting to discuss the various possibilities of what they are intending to propose for trash removal and recycling, etc. The Town Accountant will also be invited. Vote 3-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum to approve the Alter of Premises for the El Cid subject to Mr. Ferreira and Justin, Town of Ludlow Building Commissioner, agreeing on a plan for the front of the building and his being ADA compliant. Vote 3-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. Rosenblum, seconded by Mr. Goncalves for the Board to approve and sign the Selectmen Meeting Minutes of April 7, 2020. Derek DeBarge, Antonio Goncalves, William Rosenblum and Manuel Silva were present. Carmina Fernandes was absent. Vote 3-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. Rosenblum, seconded by Mr. Goncalves for the Board to approve and sign the Selectmen Meeting Minutes of April 14, 2020. Derek DeBarge, Antonio Goncalves, William Rosenblum and Manuel Silva were present. Carmina Fernandes was absent. Vote 3-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. Rosenblum, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to approve the "Vacation Pay Out" policy as stated in the Human Resources memorandum. Vote 3-0. All in favor.

New Business:

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum to approve Classification plan as submitted. Vote 3-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum to peruse the list of liaison positions and table until next meeting. Vote 3-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum to approve and the Chairman sign the Attachments 1 and 2 for Governmental Unit Premium Account Agreement for health insurance. Vote 3-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum to bring all Managers and salaried employees back to work full time unless, for a valid reason, they are able to work from home with the oversight and permission from the Town Administrator and the 50% occupancy ruling is maintained. Vote 3-0. All in favor.

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Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum that all of the support staff and balance of employees that are not salaried employees or Managers be available to work no less than 50% as required by their Managers by using staggered or split shifts, as well as 50% of the occupancy. Vote 3-0. All in favor.

Mr. Goncalves seconded by Mr. Rosenblum to award the Radio Communications Upgrade Project to Marcus Communications/Tait as per section .23 as voted by the committee for a total of $4,441,255.60 upon successful negotiation best and final offer from the selected vendor. Vote 3-0. All in favor.

Board perused Selectman Meeting Minutes of February 18, 2020.

Board perused Selectman Meeting Minutes of March 3, 2020.

Board perused Selectman Meeting Minutes of April 28, 2020.

Board perused Selectman Meeting Minutes of May 5, 2020.

Board perused Selectman Meeting Minutes of May 12, 2020.

Board perused the State Street/Ludlow Mills District – District Improvement Financing Program Report to see if there are any changes. This will also be sent to Town Counsel for any suggestions.

Miscellaneous:

Board to discuss Town bylaws, c1, sec 24. Immediately after the dissolution of any Annual or Special Town Meeting the Town Clerk shall release to the press a list of those Town Meeting members absent from said Town Meeting, identifying them by name and precinct. Should the Board consider that a statement be made – that due the COVID-19 pandemic we are not going to consider anyone absent from the ATM and STM. If anyone was absent it is presumed that they stayed home due to COVID-19.

Moved by Mr. Rosenblum, seconded by Mr. Goncalves due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Town will not publish a list of who was absent from Annual Town Meeting and Special Town Meeting due to the COVID-19 due to staying home. Vote 3-0. All in favor.

Closing Comments:

Mr. Rosenblum thanked Ms. Patel, Ms. Dorval and Ms. Rooney for speaking during the meeting today and reiterated that not allowing the sign is just staying true to our bylaws. He was grateful for the dialect and hopefully Ludlow will lead the way to do something special and begin the framework of ending racism.

Mr. Goncalves thanked Cheryl at the Board of Health for the face mask drive, it was very successful. The cooperation in our Town has kept the numbers of COVID down. Continue to look out for each other.

Mr. Silva agreed with Mr. Rosenblum regarding Ms. Dorval and Ms. Patel and also wanted to thank them for their passion and conversation. He also agreed with Mr. Goncalves regarding the Board of Health and would like to thank them for helping to keep the numbers down in Ludlow and doing a great job. Wished that Derek DeBarge recovers quickly from his surgery.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum to adjourn this meeting at 7:44 p.m., not return to open session, and to enter Executive Session. Vote 3-0. All in favor.

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