The Meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on Tuesday, September 15, 2020 began at 6:00 p.m. Remote participation due to COVID-19.

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

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First Order of Business: The Pledge of Allegiance

Correspondence:

211. Requests to be appointed as a Democratic poll worker. Democratic Town Committee Chairman recommends the appointment of the following:
- Sarah E. Musiak, Kaitlyn Sosnowski, and Monica Mazur.

Moved by Mr. Rosenblum, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to appoint Sarah E. Musiak, Kaitlyn Sosnowski and Monica Mazur as Democratic Town Committee poll workers as recommended by the Town Committee Chairman. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

212. Rev. Jon and Rev. Margaret Scott – second follow-up request to the Board to approve holding a Portuguese cultural event in October.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. DeBarge to allow the Faith Community Chapel, Church of Nazarene to have the event as described to us on October 17th & 18th from 2-5 p.m. with the understanding that whatever protocols the Board of Health calls for with respects to masks, distancing of tables, chairs, etc. be adhered to. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

213. Taylor Neveu, Girl Scout Troop 11139 – requesting the Board's approval to organize a cleanup and restoration of the Ludlow Riverwalk for her Girl Scouts Gold Award.

Moved by Mr. Rosenblum, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to approve the Girl Scout Troop 11139 organize a cleanup and restoration of the Ludlow Riverwalk or another area in Town for the Girl Scouts Gold Award. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

214. Michael G. Suprenant, P.E., Director of Public Works – requesting the list of surplus Town property except for Item 15, the Bobcat Backhoe Attachment which was transferred to the Golf Course, to be declared as surplus by the Board and further requesting that they be allowed to dispose of them.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. DeBarge approve the disposal of the property as per the meeting the DPW had for the items mentioned on the list given to us, declared as surplus. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

215. Columbia Gas of Massachusetts – informing the Board various options provided to business customers faced with financial hardship to pay their energy costs.

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

216. Board Reorganization – Safety Committee and Recreation Committee.

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

217. Michael O'Dowd, Director of Major Projects, MassDOT – notifying the Board that MassDOT personnel and/or equipment will require necessary access along the project corridor on the property of the Piney Lane Over Brook Bridge – Bridge No. L-16-026 pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 6C, Section 3(24) commencing on September 28, 2020 and is expected to be completed within 4 years.

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

218. Report of Conditions at Ludlow Center Cemetery.

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

219. Isabel Rivera – informing the Board the "no tractor trailer" signs she previously requested have not been installed at the intersection of Center Street and Swan Avenue. Ms. Rivera would like an update on the status since a tractor trailer recently destroyed her mailbox.

Moved by Mr. DeBarge, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum to reinstall "no tractor trailer" signs at the intersection of Center Street and Harding Street and Swan Avenue and Chapin Street. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

220. Megan Coll, Economic Development Administration – notification that the plans, and specifications for the Ludlow Mills Riverside Drive Infrastructure Project has been reviewed and are approved.

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

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Unfinished Business:

Board discussed Turnpike Package Store.

Mr. Silva explained that the ABCC questioned Ms. Villano regarding the license for Turnpike Package and stated that it has been a long time and the Board of Selectmen cannot just let it sit.

Mr. Goncalves stated that he spoke with Mr. Patel today who is committed to purchasing the license and he is currently negotiating two different locations on Center Street to which the license will be used. Mr. Goncalves suggested sending a letter to get clarification from Turnpike Package Store and any potential closing date.

Moved by Mr. Rosenblum, seconded by Mr. DeBarge to approve and sign the "Junk Collector's License" for Max's Whatnot Shop. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. DeBarge, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to approve and sign ten copies of the warrant for the October 5, 2020 Special Town Meeting. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. DeBarge, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to reappoint Tammy and Anne Turcotte as both volunteers and temporary paid Animal Control Officers until a permanent Animal Control Officer is appointed, effective June 30, 2020. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

New Business:

Board discussed the Chapin Pond/Haviland Beach and the concerns of the residents as to the growth of weeds and plants along the shore.

Mr. Rosenblum explained that he spoke with Janice Santos who is on the Pond Committee and she explained that there is a lot of growth in the water because of the weeds and stated that the State used to address this in the past as the pond is owned by the State. He also spoke with someone else that lives on the pond and they voiced concern about the fencing on the island affecting turtles and other wildlife. However, the fencing was originally put up to prevent the geese from getting on the island.

Ms. Villano explained that she spoke with the State and the DEP is in charge. Conservation will take the matter back up because the residents are very concerned. Some of these issues may have happened due to the drought as well as fertilizers. The Town will advertise for volunteers to be on the committee and to figure out the scope of the committee.

Mr. Goncalves spoke with a few residents who have lived on the pond for many, many years and they have never seen it this bad before.

Mr. Silva encouraged more residents to get on the pond committee as there are only two members currently and has been rather stagnant.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum to approve and sign the agreement between the Town and Kearsarge Ludlow LLC a developer of the solar field for payment in lieu of taxes per the provided schedule. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. Rosenblum, seconded by Mr. DeBarge to have a Board of Selectmen member that would act and sit through the negotiations on future solar negotiations. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. Rosenblum, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to nominate Mr. Silva to be that representative going forward. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

Board perused Executive Session Minutes of July 14, 2020.

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Closing Comments:

Mr. Goncalves wanted to reiterate that the Social Security scams are still out there and for residents to be aware. Mentioned that Ludlow lost a great person, Mr. Fernando Pina who served 32 years on the Police Department, Special Police. He will be missed by all.

Mr. Rosenblum reminded residents that children are going back to school beginning today and to have patients with your children, their teachers and yourself. We will get through this.

Mr. DeBarge sends out condolences to the family of Fernando. Mr. DeBarge had known him for 20 years and he was a great guy. He was always smiling and very giving to all. He will be missed and was one of the best guys he had ever met. Mr. DeBarge also wanted to mention that the Board needs to discuss Halloween and what the Town of Ludlow is planning on doing.

Mr. Silva stated that the State is currently discussing Halloween as well and the Town will need to wait for their direction. Mr. Silva also sends his condolences to Mr. Pina's family as well. Mr. Pina worked for Mr. Silva. Reminds residents to stay vigilant regarding the pandemic. Mr. Silva also spoke about the State giving communities an extra $1 million, which can possibly be used to help business owners.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. DeBarge to adjourn this meeting at 6:53 p.m., not return to open session, and to enter Executive Session for the purposes of discussing strategy and negotiations for Police Dispatch union contract. 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.