The Meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. Remote participation due to COVID-19.

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

First Order of Business: The Pledge of Allegiance

Visitations:

No visitations scheduled.

Correspondence:

229. Springfield Water and Sewer Commission – HAA5 Water Quality Violation and Public Notification of Drinking Water Halo acetic Acid 5 MCL Violation.

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

230. John R. Maher, Charter Communications – notification that effective on or after October 31, 2020, customer bill statement dates and payment due dates will be changing.

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

230a. John R. Maher, Charter Communications – notification that effective on or after October 26, 2020, Spectrum's Reactivation Fee will change from $1.99 to $4.99.

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

231. Cheryl A. Coakley Rivera, Register of Deeds – reminder for recording fees and designated charge accounts.

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

232. Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission Advisory Regarding Gatherings for Licensees Selling Alcohol for On-Premises Consumption.

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

233. Mary Pichetti, Director of Capital Planning, Massachusetts School Building Authority – notifying the Board of their review for MSBA funding eligibility determinations of Construction Change Orders 9-11 for the Harris Brook Elementary School (formerly the Chapin Street Elementary School).

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

234. Brian Shameklis, Safety Committee Chairman – re-recommending to the Board of Selectmen that "No Tractor Trailers" signs to be installed at the intersections of Center Street and Harding Avenue, Chapin Street and Loopley Street, and Chapin Street and Swan Avenue.

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

235. Jason Martowski, Chairman, and Penny Lebel, Vice Chair – advising the Board of pond issues.

Moved by Mr. DeBarge, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum to inquire with Chairman Mr. Martowski and Vice Chair, Ms. Lebel to inquire with Solitude Lake Management as to cost and how in depth the analysis is. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

236. Kathy Green and Margaret Szlosek – request to be appointed as an unenrolled poll worker. Town Clerk recommends appointment.

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Moved by Mr. DeBarge, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum to appoint Kathy Green and Margaret Szlosek as unenrolled poll workers. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

236a. Robert Radowski and Mary Jerz – request to be appointed as a Democratic poll worker. Democratic Town Committee Chairman recommends appointment.

Moved by Mr. Rosenblum, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to appoint Robert Radowski and Mary Jerz as Democratic poll workers as recommended by the Town Committee Chairman. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

236b. James Adamopoulos – request to be appointed as an unenrolled poll worker. Town Clerk recommends approval.

Moved by Mr. Rosenblum, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to appoint James Adamopoulos as an unenrolled poll worker as recommended by the Town Clerk. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

237. Eric Sequndo, Director, Veterans' Services – seeking direction from the Board with planning an upcoming Veterans Day ceremony.

Moved by Mr. DeBarge, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum the Board will advise the Veteran's Ceremony be outside but will defer to our Veteran's Service Officer to make the final decision. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

238. Joshua Bruckner, Forest Pest outreach Coordinator, MA Dept of Agricultural Resources – notification of a confirmed sighting of the invasive insect known as Spotted Lanternfly in town and informing the town that survey activities will be taking place. Further, they request that the town reach out to residents to inform them about the Spotted Lanternfly.

Moved by Mr. Rosenblum, seconded by Mr. DeBarge forward this information to the people of the Town of Ludlow and to inform them of survey activities that will be taking place and to also put this information where ever possible as well as the links to the facts sheet. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

Unfinished Business:

Board to discuss the Selectmen's schedule for the next three months. Changing the dates to the following:

October 13th
October 27th
November 10th
November 24th
December 8th
December 22nd

Moved by Mr. Rosenblum, seconded by Mr. DeBarge to approve the Selectmen's schedule for the next three months. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

Board to discuss the MGM One Year look back study and make any comments. Comments must be returned to Civic economics no later than October 20th. (Please see comments from Police and Fire Department).

Mr. DeBarge had no further comments.

Mr. Silva stated that the Fire and Police Departments did not have any issues and/or impact.

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Ms. Villano stated that information was also sent to the DPW and has not received any response.

Moved by Mr. DeBarge, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum to appoint Lt. Michael Brennan and Officer Steven Ricardi to the Insurance Advisory Committee. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. DeBarge to approve and sign the Selectmen Meeting Minutes of May 27, 2020 where all members were present. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. DeBarge to approve and sign the Selectmen Meeting Minutes of June 2, 2020 where all members were present. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. DeBarge to approve and sign the Selectmen Meeting Minutes of June 9, 2020 where all members were present. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

New Business:

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum to approve and sign all ten (10) copies of the Call of Election to be held on November 3, 2020. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

Board to discuss the old Senior Center Building and Ludlow Housing Authority concerning closing the building.

Ms. Villano explained that the new Senior Center is getting closer to opening. The Town has a 99-year lease with the Ludlow Housing Authority for the old Senior Center. The Ludlow Housing Director would like to meet and discuss what steps need to be taken. This building is owned by the State and the State will need to be informed that the Senior Center will be vacating that building. The boiler system is housed in the Senior Center that feeds the two buildings, the Admin Building and the Early Childhood and arrangements will need to be made if they're going to take over the heating.

Mr. Silva stated that a meeting with the Ludlow Housing Authority should be put together soon.

Ms. Villano explained that this building cannot be sold because it is not owned by the Town, it is only a lease. The lease was signed in 1984 and it is a 99-year lease, but it has no monetary value to it. A meeting with the Ludlow Housing Authority will be scheduled.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. DeBarge to sign the copies of the agreement between the Ludlow Fire Department and Marcotte Ford for the purchase of the vehicle described here. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

The Board has received four letters of interest from residents to serve on the Pond Management Committee. Does the Board wish to schedule interviews?

The Board tabled this discussion until the next meeting.

Board to review and comment on the draft pilot program for Huxley Solar, LLC.

Mr. Goncalves commented that this will be approximately $1.2-1.3 million in payments over the next 20 years, $61,000 annually. This one is 20 equal installments as compared to the other one, which was front loaded. Mr. Goncalves would like to know if the Assessor's office already agreed with this? Mr. Goncalves also commented that he prefers the front loaded because we can't predict how much money

will be worth in the future and with everything going on right now it would be nice for the Town to have some additional money up front.

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Mr. DeBarge thought that this draft was better than the front loaded one.

Mr. Silva explained that he likes the same payment every year because it makes it much easier for the Accountant and the Assessors, etc. Agawam just signed for $15,000 per megawatt with a 1.5 escalator per year. There have been much higher contracts that he has seen. Even though we don't know the value of money in the future, taxes will move up and if you are declining then the tax payers will be responsible. $11,000 to $15,000 is average.

Ms. Villano stated that Mr. Silva will be involved with the negotiations.

Mr. Goncalves stated that the Town will have to manage the money better. There is a deal in Halifax, MA for $11,800.

Board perused Selectmen Meeting Minutes of June 16, 2020.

Board perused Selectmen Meeting Minutes of July 14, 2020.

Board perused Selectmen Meeting Minutes of July 21, 2020.

Board perused Executive Session Minutes of August 25, 2020.

Board perused Executive Session Minutes of September 1, 2020.

Miscellaneous

Mr. Silva read a resignation letter from Cheryl Messer, nurse from the Board of Health. Ms. Messer is resigning as of October 20, 2020.

Mr. Silva stated that Ms. Messer will be missed, and she did a great job during COVID and wishes her well.

Mr. Goncalves commented that Ms. Messer will be missed and spoke about how she was the face of the Board of Health and she was part of the frontline with the Police and Fire Department. Mr. Goncalves wishes her well.

Mr. Rosenblum thanked Ms. Messer for her time as well and also stated that she did a great job and wished her well in her endeavors.

Mr. DeBarge also thanked Ms. Messer for her service and stated that she will be missed, and the Town will feel a loss from this. Wishes her the best in the future.

Closing Comments:

Mr. DeBarge advised Veterans that on November 10th there will be a free Veterans meatloaf dinner at the Ludlow Lodge of the Elks at 69 Chapin Street, Ludlow from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. and is being sponsored by PV Financial. Mr. DeBarge stated on November 11th at 11 a.m. there will be a Veteran's ceremony at the Gazebo. Everyone who endured damage from the storm on Wednesday, our thoughts go out to you. He knew of several residents who have had trees fall on their house, their cars and have had to go through a lot to clear their lots. The DPW workers were out cleaning up some of the streets in Town. Island Pond Cemetery has a lot of damage, trees down and stones damaged.

Mr. Goncalves stated along the same lines as Mr. DeBarge around 5 o'clock he lost power and heard a loud explosion, so he took a ride and could not believe how many trees were down. Mr. Goncalves gave kudos to the DPW for all their hard work. Mr. Goncalves reminded residents that the scams are getting

more and more creative. Police reports were filed today because of homes that Mr. Goncalves knows that are on Facebook for rent, complete with emails, pictures and stated the scammers are going in and requesting a small amount of money to hold the home and then tells the person a potential date to meet to pick up the keys. Mr. Goncalves stated there has been a rash of automotive break-ins in Ludlow as well. Mr. Goncalves advised residents to lock their doors at night because unlocked cars are being ransacked. Mr. Goncalves also asked if any residents have cameras and see something, to please report it to the police.

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Mr. Rosenblum echoed Mr. Goncalves to always lock your vehicles and take any valuables inside. Mr. Rosenblum reminded residents if you are a little fearful of Halloween and the pandemic, please keep your light off. If you feel comfortable with it, then leave your light on or maybe put a table at the end of your driveway with individual bags or be creative with a PVC pipe shooting from the steps. Mr. Rosenblum advised all to adhere to the guidelines from the CDC and the State. Mr. Rosenblum stated we like to leave it up to the residents whether they participate or not and said it should not be up to the Selectmen to cancel Halloween.

Mr. Silva also echoes Mr. Rosenblum's comments about Halloween. He understands even though he received some calls from residents that wanted it shut down, the Selectmen should not shut down something that some people don't want to participate in and others do. Mr. Silva stated hopefully people will take the suggestions from the Governor and the CDC and take the necessary precautions. Mr. Silva stated as the weather gets colder, more people will be staying inside but the State has seen an uptick in COVID cases recently.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. DeBarge to enter into Executive Session and not to return to this meeting at 7:12 p.m. and then adjourn from there for the purposes of discussing strategy and negotiations for L.A.T.O.S.S. union contracts. 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.