The Meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on Tuesday, November 10, 2020 began at 6:00 p.m. Remote participation due to COVID-19.

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

First Order of Business: The Pledge of Allegiance

Visitations:

6:10 p.m. – Eversource Pole Location Hearing with Michael Goetchius, Technician by Remote Participation.

Mr. DeBarge: Mr. Chairman, I make a motion to open the Eversource Pole Location Hearing at 6:10 p.m.

Mr. Silva: Sir, which one is that? Do you have it in front of you?

Mr. DeBarge: Yes. It says pole location hearing for 6:10 p.m.

Mr. Silva: Yea, but. . .

Ms. Villano: Number 140.

Mr. Silva: Number 140.

Mr. DeBarge: Ok, I don't have that here.

Mr. Goncalves: Drawing Number 140. Yes, it's on the front page.

Mr. DeBarge: It's what?

Mr. Goncalves: Halfway down.

Mr. DeBarge: Ok, Drawing 140.

Mr. Silva: Ok, thank you. So, do we have a second?

Mr. Rosenblum: Second.

Mr. Silva: We have a motion seconded. Mr. Goncalves?

Mr. Goncalves: Yes.

Mr. Silva: Mr. Rosenblum?

Mr. Rosenblum: Yes.

Mr. Silva: Mr. DeBarge?

Mr. DeBarge: Yes.

Mr. Silva: Mr. Silva, yes. The meeting is open. Sir, good evening and you're on.

Mr. Goetchius: Hello, I'm here on behalf of Eversource to petition. Actually, we have two petitions outstanding for this job. One is to install two new poles on West Street up to Connie Avenue and to support a voltage regulator platform. And, the other petition is for a sub-pole further up on West Street to support the interconnection for the solar site.

Mr. Silva: Ok sir, just for one second can we stay on the first hearing because unfortunately we do have two hearings. We have to close one and open the other and go back to that one so let's not discuss both. That's just a formality.

Mr. Goetchius: Ok.

Mr. Silva: Thank you.

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Mr. Goetchius: So, for the first one is it two poles you are talking about or one?

Mr. Goncalves: Two.

Mr. Goetchius: Then it is for the regulator platform.

Mr. Silva: Right.

Mr. Goncalves: That's replacing two existing poles correct?

Mr. Goetchius: It is replacing two existing poles and installing two new ones. The new ones are going in between the existing poles.

Mr. Silva: Anyone have any issues with that or questions?

Mr. Goncalves: Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Silva: Mr. Goncalves.

Mr. Goncalves: Is this as a result of the solar installation on Nash Hill?

Mr. Goetchius: It's not on Nash Hill. It is on West Street.

Mr. Goncalves: Right.

Mr. Goetchius: Unless Nash Hill wraps around it might be.

Mr. Goncalves: Yea, ok. I was under the impression all of this was happening because of all of the three-phase that is extending up to Nash Hill to service the new solar facility but if you do not know the answer, that is ok. I understand.

Mr. Goetchius: Well, no, I mean it sounds very familiar. We are doing a three-phase extension along West Street. This whole site is 640 West Street.

Mr. Goncalves: I'm not sure if it is that one. I can see it here in the permit. It's on the right side of the street so it could be the same one. I have no further questions Chairman.

Mr. Silva: Thank you. Anyone else?

Mr. DeBarge: No.

Mr. Silva: If there are none, I would entertain a motion.

Mr. Goncalves: I make a motion to approve the Eversource request for the installation of two new poles to support a voltage regulator platform on the Western side, 22' from the centerline of West Street North of the intersection with Connie Avenue.

Mr. Rosenblum: Second.

Mr. Silva: That motion is seconded. Mr. Rosenblum?

Mr. Rosenblum: Yes.

Mr. Silva: Mr. DeBarge?

Mr. DeBarge: Yes.

Mr. Silva: Mr. Goncalves?

Mr. Goncalves: Yes.

Mr. Silva: Mr. Silva? Yes. Motion carries 4-0. And, motion to close the hearing.

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Mr. Goncalves: Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Goncalves.

Mr. Goncalves: I make a motion that we close the public hearing for Eversource.

Mr. Rosenblum: Second.

Mr. Silva: Ah, first hearing.

Mr. Goncalves: For the first hearing. For Drawing number 140.

Mr. Silva: We have a motion. You second Mr. Rosenblum?

Mr. Rosenblum: Yes.

Mr. Silva: Mr. Goncalves?

Mr. Goncalves: Yes.

Mr. Silva: Mr. DeBarge?

Mr. DeBarge: Yes.

Mr. Silva: Mr. Rosenblum?

Mr. Rosenblum: Yes.

Mr. Silva: Mr. Silva? Yes. Motion carries 4-0.

6:15 p.m. – Eversource Pole Location Hearing with Michael Goetchius, Technician by Remote Participation.

Mr. DeBarge: Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Silva: Mr. DeBarge.

Mr. DeBarge: I make a motion that we open the Eversource pole location hearing for Drawing number 141 at 6:15 p.m.

Mr. Rosenblum: Second.

Mr. Silva: Motion is seconded. Mr. Goncalves?

Mr. Goncalves: Yes.

Mr. Silva: Mr. DeBarge?

Mr. DeBarge: Yes.

Mr. Silva: Mr. Rosenblum?

Mr. Rosenblum: Yes.

Mr. Silva: Motion carries 4-0. Sir, this location and pole, could you explain it a little bit.

Mr. Goetchius: This pole is up on West Street opposite of the actual pole site and it is a pole to support a down wire. It is on the opposite side of the street of the existing pole line.

Mr. Silva: Any questions on that?

Mr. Goncalves: No, sir. Mr. Chairman I make a motion that we approve the request from Eversource to locate a line of poles, wires, cables and fixtures including necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures along the West Street corridor according to Drawing 141.

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Mr. Rosenblum: Second.

Mr. Silva: Motion and a second. Mr. DeBarge?

Mr. DeBarge: Yes.

Mr. Silva: Mr. Goncalves?

Mr. Goncalves: Yes.

Mr. Silva: Mr. Rosenblum?

Mr. Rosenblum: Yes.

Mr. Silva: Mr. Silva, yes. Motion carries 4-0.

Mr. DeBarge: Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Silva: Mr. DeBarge.

Mr. DeBarge: I make a motion that we close the Eversource pole location hearing for Drawing 141 at 6:17 p.m.

Mr. Rosenblum: Second.

Mr. Silva: Motion seconded. Mr. Goncalves?

Mr. Goncalves: Yes.

Mr. Silva: Mr. DeBarge?

Mr. DeBarge: Yes.

Mr. Silva: Mr. Rosenblum?

Mr. Rosenblum: Yes.

Mr. Silva: Mr. Silva yes. Motion carries 4-0. Sir, thank you very much.

Mr. Goetchius: Thank you very much.

Mr. Goncalves: Sorry it took so long.

Mr. Goetchius: Have a good night.

Mr. DeBarge: You too.

Mr. Rosenblum: Goodnight.

Mr. Goetchius: Goodbye.

6:20 p.m. – Michael LeFever, Chairman of the Board of Health and Andrea Crete, Health Agent to discuss job descriptions of the Nurses and for a Nursing Coordinator

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Andrea Crete, Health Agent and Carrie Ribeiro, Director of Human Resources discussed Board of Health Nurses and Nursing Coordinator job descriptions with the Board. Michael LeFever, Chairman of the Board of Health was not present.

Ms. Crete presented the Board with updated Public Health Nurse job descriptions for the full and part-time positions to include their current responsibilities such as MAVEN, vaccine management, and home visits.

Moved by Mr. DeBarge, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to approve the job descriptions for the part-time 30 hours a week Public Health Nurse and the full time 37 ½ hours a week Public Health Nurse. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

Ms. Crete presented the Board with a revised Public Health Program Coordinator job description which excludes anything nursing related because those responsibilities are listed within the Public Health Nurse job descriptions. Ms. Crete stated the Public Health Program Coordinator position does not need to be filled by a nurse.

Ms. Crete stated the Public Health Program Coordinator position will focus on Emergency Preparedness and Public Health in the community. Ms. Crete stated the Public Health Program Coordinator will perform such duties as teach skin art courses for body artists, provide CPR and first aid training, handle substance abuse prevention, and apply for grants for other such public health programing based on the needs of the town.

Ms. Crete stated this position will be a non-exempt hourly, 35 hours per week benefited position which was taken from the budgeted Director of Nursing position currently classified at the N2 classification and compensation plan. Ms. Ribeiro stated for the Public Health Program Coordinator position, it can be listed as PH1.

Mr. DeBarge stated he attended the Board of Health meeting along with Ms. Villano, Ms. Ribeiro, and Fire Chief Pease, where they discussed concerns with Emergency Preparedness in regards to this position. Mr. DeBarge stated he endorses this position, the changes made to the job description and one of the minimum qualifications of this position which includes being on call 24 hours in order to respond to public health emergencies.

Moved by Mr. DeBarge, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to accept the Public Health Program Coordinator at an hourly 35 hours a week, benefited position. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum to change the previous Nursing Director position and to now be the Public Health Coordinator with a classification to be hourly, 35 hours a week and graded at PH 1. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

Correspondence:

246. Jean E. Christy, PE, Senior Engineer, Tighe & Bond, Inc. – providing the Board the Quarterly Inspection Report for the Holyoke Street Landfill.

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

247 & 247a. John R. Maher, Director of Governmental Affairs, Charter Communications – notification of channel line-up changes and monthly pricing changes for new customers only.

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

248. Joe Alves, Assistant Assessor – requesting the Board to schedule our Fiscal Year 2021 Tax Rate Classification Hearing for Tuesday, November 24, 2020.

Moved by Mr. Rosenblum, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to schedule our Fiscal Year 2021 Tax Rate Classification Hearing for Tuesday, November 24, 2020 with Joe Alves, Assistant Assessor. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

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249. Gary Bourbeau Ludlow Knights of Columbus Council 3535 – request to post banners from December 12th until December 26th at Putts Bridge and at the Turnpike entrance.

Ms. Villano stated banners cannot be posted at the Turnpike entrance because it is still under construction.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum to approve posting the banner to be posted from December 12th until December 26th at the Putts Bridge location only. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

250. Eversource – request to install and replace poles on West Street - Board to schedule a public hearing.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum to schedule a public hearing at the request of Eversource to install and replace poles on West Street. Vote 3-0-1 abstention.

Unfinished Business:

Board signed the Used Car Dealer's License - Class II for M.D.S. Auto Sales.

Board to approve and sign Selectmen Meeting Minutes of June 22, 2020.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. DeBarge to approve and sign Selectmen Meeting Minutes of June 22, 2020. Members present were Chairman Silva, Mr. Goncalves, Mr. Rosenblum and Mr. DeBarge. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

Board to approve and sign Selectmen Meeting Minutes of August 25, 2020.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. DeBarge to approve and sign Selectmen Meeting Minutes of August 25, 2020. Members present were Chairman Silva, Mr. Goncalves, Mr. Rosenblum and Mr. DeBarge. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

New Business:

Board discussed the following Governor's COVID-19 Orders effective November 6, 2020:

No. 53 – Order Requiring Early Closing for Certain Businesses and Activities, Limiting Hours for Alcohol and Adult Use Cannabis Sales, and Modifying Chapter 138 License Renewal Requirements;

No. 54 – Revised Order Further Regulating Gatherings in the Commonwealth;

No. 55 – Revised Order Requiring Face Coverings in Public Places; and

No. 56 – Order Revising Provisions for Phase III Re-openings in Municipalities with Reduced Incidence of COVID-19 Infection.

Ms. Villano stated she is awaiting further clarification of the Governor's orders from legal counsel regarding the new standard being imposed on residents, businesses, and municipalities. Ms. Villano stated it is her understanding the Board of Health is responsible for all of the directives.

Mr. Silva stated he was concerned about the 10:00 p.m. stay at home advisory and asked how this will be enforced by police. Ms. Villano stated she would confirm with the Board of Health and legal counsel for an explanation.

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Ms. Villano stated the ABCC will be hosting a webinar on December 17 for all the municipalities of their expectations and recent changes due to Governor's COVID-19 Order Number 56 when businesses renew their liquor licenses.

Board discussed the notification of Free Cash Approval. Ms. Villano stated the total amount of the General Fund is $1,993,943.00.

Board perused Selectmen Meeting Minutes of August 4, 2020.

Board perused Selectmen Meeting Minutes of August 10, 2020.

Board perused Selectmen Meeting Minutes of September 15, 2020.

Board perused Selectmen Meeting Minutes of October 5, 2020.

Board perused Executive Session Minutes of September 15, 2020.

Board perused Executive Session Minutes of September 29, 2020.

Board perused Executive Session Minutes of October 13, 2020.

Closing Comments:

Mr. Goncalves advised nothing has changed since March and this disease is every bit as serious as it was before. Mr. Goncalves asked residents to be careful, keep distant, wear masks and look after your neighbor. Mr. Goncalves also thanked Mr. DeBarge and all veterans that serve and have served our country.

Mr. DeBarge stated he attended the veteran's free meatloaf dinner at the Elks Club. Mr. DeBarge also stated each dinner included a box of Girl Scout cookies. Mr. DeBarge stated Eric Segundo, Veterans' Agent, Ludlow Elks, and PV Financial organized to serve by drive-up approximately 168 veterans. Mr. DeBarge thanked all who made this a great and well attended event. Mr. DeBarge gave special thanks to the Elks for hosting and to PV Financial who supplied reusable bags for food so staff were able to deliver meals to those veterans who could not drive. Mr. DeBarge stated Cumberland Farms provided coupons for free coffee to the veterans. Mr. DeBarge also stated 22 News covered the event. Mr. DeBarge stated he also represented there as a member of the Ludlow American Legion Post 52 and Mr. Segundo also represented as a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, a Sergeant Joshua Desforges Post 3236. Mr. DeBarge stated since the veteran's celebration could not be held outside tomorrow, he recorded a message to all veterans at the LCTV studio to be aired on Veterans Day. Mr. DeBarge thanked all veterans for their service. Mr. DeBarge wished a 245th Happy Birthday today to all his brothers and sisters in the Marine Corp. Mr. DeBarge also mentioned the red and gold lights outside Town Hall is for the Marine Corp. birthday and tomorrow the lights will be green for Veteran's Day.

Mr. Rosenblum stated thanked Mr. DeBarge, all veterans and Eric Segundo for their service. Mr. Rosenblum also stated he thought Halloween went well.

Mr. Silva thanked Mr. DeBarge and all veterans for their service. Mr. Silva encouraged residents to keep things civil in regard to the Presidential election results. Mr. Silva advised to please abide by the Governor's orders and do what you can to stay within the guidelines.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. DeBarge to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 p.m. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

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Ludlow Board of Selectmen

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