The Meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on Tuesday, December 8, 2020 began at 5:30 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:

5:30 p.m. – Continuance of the Tax Classification Hearing

Mr. Alves: Good evening. My name is Joe Alves. I'm the Assistant Assessor. I'm here to present the Executive Summary for our Tax Classification Hearing. We will start at the top. Fiscal 2021 is an Interim Update. The work is complete and has been approved by the Department of Revenue early last week.

The FY21 values are as of 1/1/20 and are based on sales between 1/1/18 and 12/31/19. Our current assessment level is approximately 95%. The DOR allows assessment levels between 90 and 110%.

Values increased as a result of the interim adjustments by approximately 1% to 3%. The total valuation of the Town increased by 2.5%.

The New Growth decreased by approximately -18% from $656,658 last year to $538,861 for Fiscal 2021. The reason was because some of our utilities were down, mainly Eversource. They are a big driver of our growth. This year it was literally split in half, so we did not get much from them. Our residential side is an all-star for us as always. That was the bulk of our growth, residential, new construction.

The Minimum Residential Factor is 87.1039.

The Tax Levy has increased by $2,066,568.01 (4.7%) from $44,249313.72 in Fiscal 2020 to $46,315,881.73 in Fiscal 2021 and is $66,799 (.144%) below the minimum allowable levy of $46,382,681. I think last year we were a little closer, so it is good to see that we were able to bring it back to a better number. The Tax Rate at 100% will be $21.06 compared to last year's $20.62. This is a $0.44 increase. Under the current Classification Rate of 100%, the average Single-Family Tax Bill will increase by $209, about 4.4% from $4,767 last year to $4,976. The average Commercial Tax Bill will increase by $380, about 3.6% from $10,619 to $11,000 this year.

After looking at the numbers, the Board of Assessors shows any attempt to shift more of the Tax Burden from the Residential to the Commercial Industrial Property Classes would result in significant increases to the Commercial Industrial Personal Property Taxes since these classes comprise only 20.60% of the Total Value of the Town. The impact of any further shift is illustrated on the tables on the next page.

If we could go back to the tax rate, I just wanted to touch on this because $ 0.44 is really lower from what we are used to, and I think this is the work that this Board did along with everybody else in Town, so I wanted to mention that this is really good work. I haven't seen this in a really long time. So, whatever was done needs to keep going because $ 0.44 is very manageable I think.

Mr. Goncalves: Mr. Chairman, just so we don't get too far ahead. What was the projected increase a year ago, where we would be right now?

Mr. Alves: We were looking at close to a dollar until this Board and everybody else got on the train of really looking at the budget and trimming whatever we could for the Town as a whole. So, I think that was, it was talked a lot through department head meetings and every office I think it was a team effort across the board especially in this building from what I've seen. It's commendable and it needs to continue to be fair to the taxpayers.

Mr. Goncalves: Thank you.

Mr. Alves: Now if we go down on Table 1 – Total Taxable Valuation by Class and Yearly Comparison. Some numbers we can start, we can start up top, our Residential and Open Space it grew to $1,748,309,956. That is an increase over last year of about 2.7%. The Town as a whole has grown as these numbers indicate. The one number that was down was on the personal property side.

The Tax Levy for Fiscal Year 2021 is $46,315,881.73. Last year, it was $44,249,313.72 a change of $2,066,568.01 from the previous year. That's what we are raising on this tax rate right now. That's about a 4.7% increase from last year.

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The New Growth went down slightly. This year we generated $538,861 compared to last year which was $656,658. It was a decrease of $117,797.00 from the previous year. The tax rate like we spoke before is $21.06 compared to last year $20.62 so a $0.44 increase. If we focus on the Average Single Family Value, it keeps going up with the sales in Town we are at $236,300 this year compared to last year $231,200 so about a $5,000 increase on home values for the average home in Town. The Average Single-Family Tax Bill this year will be around $4,976 compared to last year we were at $4,767. So again, an average of about $209 increase this year for your average home that falls under that number. Our Average Commercial-Industrial Value went up slightly as well to $522,300 from last year's $515,000 about a $7,300 increase per value about 1.4%.

The Average Commercial-Industrial Tax Bill saw similar uptick from the previous year as well so at 3.6% is where we ended up. Does anyone have any questions? The Rate Shift is represented down on the tables below, so you can see if you want to move any tax burden from Residential to Commercial kind of shows you where we would end up.

Mr. Silva: Anyone have any questions on the first part?

Mr. DeBarge: Mr. Chairman, yea, Joe could you go over the New Growth decrease one more time. You were saying it was mostly due to Eversource.

Mr. Alves: Eversource usually sees a healthy growth, maybe of about $15 million. This year it was about $7 million. Columbia Gas also took a big hit last year, so they didn't report much growth either. I think there was reasons for Columbia not to grow like they normally did because of the issues they had out in Boston with the explosion and such. Our main drivers of the growth other than residential are utilities so if Eversource doesn't do any work in the Town and doesn't develop anything, it will stifle that number. But really where we see our biggest growth year in and year out is our residential and I expect that for the next couple of years as well just to keep growing at a good rate.

Mr. DeBarge: But barring those problems with the utilities, do you see the bounce back?

Mr. Alves: Not so much on the utilities, but on the residential side is stronger than ever. Sales are positive and construction as you see is still everywhere. It all adds up, maybe not as much as some people think but it all adds up at the end of the day. Same with Center Street, with what is happening down there with development, that's all a part of the growth. You might not see that immediately, it may take a year for that growth to come in, but I think next year we will be in a similar spot like this year, healthy growth. For a Town like this I think Manny noted this years ago that it's a really good growth for the type of Town we are.

Mr. DeBarge: Thank you.

Mr. Silva: Anybody else have any questions on anything that you might want to ask?

Mr. Goncalves: Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Silva: Mr. Goncalves.

Mr. Goncalves: I'm not sure if that was just mentioned but I think along the lines of the increase for the split and shifting any of that over, I don't think it is the best time in the world to be thinking about anything like that. Our businesses are already hurting and struggling the way it is. I think status quo would be in order.

Mr. Alves: I agree. Any other year it's argumentative but this year especially, businesses are being hit, not that homeowners are not being hit as hard as the businesses, but it can put people out of business this year. You ask that question last year, that answer may have been different.

Mr. Goncalves: Yea, they are on the tipping point.

Mr. Alves: But that's up to you guys to decide.

Mr. Goncalves: I personally would not be in favor of that.

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Mr. DeBarge: I keep waiting and waiting and waiting when to, when the right time is to pull that trigger on 5% or somewhere around that to try to tip the scales to help our single families. But again, this just doesn't seem like that right time. I think we are getting there.

Mr. Alves: Again, you do not have to do a huge shift. You can do increments.

Mr. DeBarge: Right.

Mr. Alves: I'm sure the businesses could afford a little increase if the time was right. I just think right now, it's a bit to ask.
Mr. DeBarge: I agree.

Mr. Silva: There are a couple of things I want to say. I want to commend a couple of people, Kim Collins our Accountant as well as Mr. Eric Gregoire, our Chair of the Finance Committee for their hard work, Ellie of course, the sub-budget committee when we went over the numbers and it was looking very, very drastic and expensive for taxpayers. Also, the departments worked very hard. I believe we went to a zero expenditure on increases Ellie is that right?

Ms. Villano: Yes.

Mr. Silva: So, that's something that is commendable.

Ms. Villano: Actually, we did some cuts in some areas.

Mr. Silva: In some areas cuts as well, yes of course. So, I commend the departments for buckling down. That's all I pretty much have. I pretty much understand this. I've been doing this all the time. I don't have many questions as far as it goes. Does anyone else have any questions on this at all?

Mr. Rosenblum: Mr. Chairman, I just want to reiterate what my colleagues have said. I think that this is a. . .there has been some good work that has been done here especially what has been going on these last nine months or so, and the way that small businesses have been affected at this point or businesses in general, that personally for anything with a rate shift just doesn't make sense at this time. You'd be looking at some of the numbers we have here if you go 5% I mean the average household is going to save $60, $65 to $70 on their tax bill while business is being hit another $550, you go another 5% the businesses are getting hit another $1,100 and some of these businesses right now probably couldn't take that as much as we want to do what we can to help the homeowner too. I think that we have done a decent job looking at the numbers to only go up $0.44. And again, we took a large spike over the last couple of years between in the past using free cash to free up that tax rate but also at the same time as with the new school and the new Senior Center so things should, I know a lot of people are upset with where the tax rate has gone over the last couple of years but we all knew it was coming unfortunately but no, I think this is a great job right now.

Mr. Silva: Yea, I agree with what we have managed to do with the bonds we've gone out to do with the school and new Senior Center and to only have an increase of $0.44 is a very, very good number although most taxpayers will say that any increase is not good. Nobody likes to have their taxes increased but we did go out to vote. The Town Meeting voted for these bonds so when we passed these votes we have to pay for them so $0.44 is a very good slight increase.

Mr. DeBarge: Mr. Chairman, I do have a final comment when we were done with all the questions before. I don't know if Mr. Gregoire has a comment but, I remember going into this, going into speaking about FY21 as Chairman and how bleak everything looked in the beginning having department head meeting after department head meeting, talking about the possibility of very large cuts and to just kind of touch on what you had talked about, I cannot speak more highly of our Town Administrator, our Town Accountant, the Finance Committee and especially the department heads with watching the frustration for lack of a better word, the stress on all of their faces knowing that, if your budget was over a million, you may get cut this much, if your budget was under a million you may get cut this much and how it just looked so bad in the beginning and then as we were moving forward into the year as we were dealing with COVID and not knowing anything week by week, month by month and then still dealing with the budget how the cuts were making things look just a little bit better and now here we are with the past couple of years the tax rate being $1.00 being added to it, around $1.00 being added to it, now here we are with the cuts being absorbed as they were and still being able to function as well

as we are functioning as a Town with the services that we still have, the increase being what it is now being $0.44 and what it equates to per household, I think this is something that our residents need to understand it could have been much higher. So, my big pats on the back to everybody, Joe to everybody that works this out and again to Ellie, and to Kim and all our department heads. This was a...I hate to use the word but I'm at a loss for words when it comes to this. This was a big win for us for FY21 and especially not knowing where we are headed for 2022 and 2023 if we can kind of keep this pattern going, should we need to keep this pattern going with our department heads, at least we know that we are able to keep the status quo so to speak. Well done everyone. Well done. That's all I have.

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Mr. Silva: Thank you. Just one more thing we should keep in the back of our minds is that this is a troubling year and we will not know as we go on, until we go on where these numbers are going to go. Our revenues might be short for the year. The State might cut us for their contributions to our Town. We just don't know what is going to happen in the future so but with this picture right here is very good. Hopefully we will get all the funds that we have projected, and we will go from there. You never know if we will need a Special Town Meeting to do something else. Keep it in the back of your heads. With that, Mr. Gregoire I believe is on. I don't know if he has anything he would like to mention.

Mr. Gregoire: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to thank you all on behalf of the Finance Committee. We appreciate your kind words and the partnership that we have with Ellie, and with Kim working through these issues fundamentally and ultimately, I think we forged together with you folks that we are making the manageable decisions that are needed with the long term financial best interests for the community. I think that discussing was the largest impact on this number and the costs, I guess increases in terms of the levy, is around our excluded and non-excluded debt and we are starting to get into those years where according to the debt schedule, where we will see more of the debt service for both of the capital projects that we have going on as well as some of the other minor capital projects that we've adopted over the years. So, with that in mind, we have little room to manage and we did a good job this year managing within that and making tough decisions. I think we are in for many more years of those types of decisions to be balancing what we have and the needs of the departments as well. I think I would just echo your most previous comments, we are entering into a year of a lot of uncertainty. We thought maybe 2021 would be the most difficult in terms of impact, but it could be in the next two years that we see the largest impact. So, we have to, you know, we are balancing this budget on not funding lots of needs and so we have to be cognizant of that and what the greatest needs are and try to evaluate them with open eyes and what can be born out of our resources. I think it is a reflection of making those good decisions and ones that hopefully will bear fruit in the future. Thank you.

Mr. Goncalves: Mr. Chairman, just one quick question.

Mr. Silva: Mr. Goncalves.

Mr. Goncalves: Joe, when you are doing the projections on new growth for next year, is that more residential, more commercial, or what type of a split does that encompass?

Mr. Alves: You mean the growth?

Mr. Goncalves: Yeah.

Mr. Alves: The total growth is anything new that the Town has. So new homes, it has to be physical, new equipment and stuff like that. So, if you get a kitchen renovation, that's not growth.

Mr. Goncalves: Right, but I could see it was $656,000 last year this year, for 2021 it's projected $538,000 so it's about $120,000 less.

Mr. Alves: That was mostly Eversource. Their growth last year was about $15 million and went down to about $7 million.

Mr. Goncalves: So, you are anticipating the commercial residential property split. . .

Mr. Silva: Hold on, let me interject just for a second. That is not no longer a projection. That is the fact what the growth is for this year.

Mr. Goncalves: For this year?

Mr. Silva: Yes.

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Mr. Goncalves: That's based on everything. . .

Mr. Silva: That's based on everything that was picked up for the previous year.

Mr. Goncalves: Right.

Mr. Silva: As far as what actually came into the Town, homes, commercials. Now next year when we go to do our budget which we'll probably start for fiscal year 2022 shortly, our subcommittee we will be looking at a projection.

Ms. Villano: In a couple of weeks.

Mr. Silva: And we kind of have to anticipate how many homes are going to be built, is there any new manufacturing, which would be great. That really reduces your tax base. So, then you project and what generally happens is that you probably want to take a three-year average of the past three years, what has the growth been and normally you'll hit somewhere around that number.

Mr. Goncalves: The other reason I'm saying, so that Center Street development isn't here yet.

Mr. Alves: No. Most of that stuff is not on.

Mr. Goncalves: Most of that stuff was after the first. So, the Wendy's, the MedExpress, Kentucky Fried et cetera that's all for next year.

Mr. Alves: Yes, all for next year.

Mr. Goncalves: Ok, that's great.

Mr. Silva: Because we are not a Chapter 653 we are still January 1, what is there on January 1. You can go to, keep that in the back of your mind also you can opt and vote to go to July 1 for a one year interim which will give you, if you really get into a crunch, you want to get a growth in, you'll get a half year growth in that year obviously you will not get it the following year but it helps sometimes when you get into a bind.

Mr. Goncalves: Thank you.

Mr. Silva: With that, if somebody wanted to make a motion on the first part of our classification.

Mr. Alves: It should have been in your packets. The three motions we needed.

Mr. Goncalves: Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Silva: Mr. Goncalves.

Mr. Goncalves: I make a motion that the Board and the Town of Ludlow adopt a residential factor of 1 that each property classification full and fair cash evaluation fair share of the tax levy.

Mr. Rosenblum: Second.

Mr. Silva: Motion seconded. Mr. DeBarge?

Mr. DeBarge: Yes.

Mr. Silva: Mr. Goncalves?

Mr. Goncalves: Yes.

Mr. Silva: Mr. Rosenblum?

Mr. Rosenblum: Yes.

Mr. Silva: Mr. Silva, yes. Now Joe, do you want to bring us up on the residential exemption.

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Mr. Alves: Yes, again that shifts an amount from a certain class to another class. So, if your home is below a certain threshold, you get sort of a tax break that gets put on the higher end of the threshold, so we usually recommend not to adopt the residential exemption.

Mr. Silva: Again, just for clarification, that is not a class shift.

Mr. Alves: No, it is a value shift.

Mr. Silva: Residential shift only, stays within the residential portion from lower homes to higher homes not a class so what that does is puts the burden on the more expensive homes to pay for the less expensive homes and give them a break. It's kind of cumbersome to do but, I don't know if anyone has any questions on that? Do you have any numbers on the shift?

Mr. Alves: The shift would be, no not at this time.

Mr. Silva: 20% shift? Actually, I believe there's legislation that you can go even more than that.

Mr. Silva: .....You don't have what the differences would be?

Mr. Alves: No, not at this time. This is all that I could get together for today.

Mr. Silva: Anyone got any questions on the residential exemption?

Mr. Goncalves: Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Silva: Mr. Goncalves.

Mr. Goncalves: I make a motion that we do not adopt the residential exemption on the residential tax rate.

Mr. DeBarge: Second.

Mr. Silva: Motion seconded. Mr. Rosenblum?

Mr. Rosenblum: Yes.

Mr. Silva: Mr. Goncalves?

Mr. Goncalves: Yes.

Mr. Silva: Mr. DeBarge?

Mr. DeBarge: Yes.

Mr. Silva: Mr. Silva, yes. Motion carries 4-0. And the final, Joe. The final Small Commercial Exemption.

Mr. Alves: Small Commercial Exemption. The Board can approve and grant a Small Commercial Exemption to all Classes. Commercial properties that are occupied by businesses with an average annual employment of no more than 10 people and an assessed valuation of less than $1,000,000. We recommend not to adopt the Small Commercial Exemption.

Mr. Silva: Anyone need information on the Small Commercial Exemption?

Mr. DeBarge: Yes, what is this by definition then?

Mr. Goncalves: Residential on Small Commercial Property.

Mr. Silva: Huh?

Mr. DeBarge: Say that again.

Mr. Goncalves: It would be the same as we just spoke about on the Residential side except that it would pertain to the Commercial Properties, smaller Commercial Properties. You'd be shifting some of the larger down to the smaller businesses.

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Mr. DeBarge: Oh, I see. Ok.

Mr. Silva: I don't know. Joe you want to explain it, or you want me to explain it? It's up to you.

Mr. Alves: Go for it.

Mr. Silva: Small Commercial Exemption is a 10% exemption that would be allocated to the value of properties that are under $1,000,000 and that have less than 10 employees at the facility. So, the Assessor would have to go out and figure out which parcels would qualify for this and not all of them would because of those restrictions. The caveat in this is that the actual exemption and the actual break to these smaller commercial properties is it goes to the owner, not necessarily the business. It goes to the actual owner of the property. In fact, some of the businesses that are leasing would not benefit unless the landlord gives them a break on whatever lease that they have.

Mr. DeBarge: Got'cha.

Mr. Goncalves: Or if there is a triple net lease.

Mr. Silva: If they would like to. So that's kind of a touchy thing. But it's actually just a shift of helping out the small businesses.

Mr. DeBarge: So, you'd have to be the owner operator in order to get the benefit.

Mr. Silva: Pretty much.

Mr. DeBarge: Ok.

Mr. Goncalves: Mr. Chairman?

Mr. Silva: Mr. Goncalves.

Mr. Goncalves: I'd like to make a motion that we do not adopt a Small Commercial Exemption for commercial and industrial properties.

Mr. DeBarge: Second.

Mr. Silva: 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. Now I will take a motion to, unless before we do, unless anyone has any further questions for Joe for assessing purposes or what not? If not, I'll take a motion to close the hearing.

Mr. Goncalves: Mr. Chairman, I make a motion that we close the public hearing.

Mr. Rosenblum: Second.

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

Mr. DeBarge: Yes.

Mr. Silva: Mr. Goncalves?

Mr. Goncalves: Yes.

Mr. Silva: Mr. Rosenblum?

Mr. Rosenblum: Yes.

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Mr. Silva: Mr. Silva, yes. Motion carries 4-0. We are closed. Thank you.

Mr. Alves: One last thing. We need to sign the LA5. We did this last year. So, if you guys can do it on your own tomorrow. Let me know if you need some help. Thank you.

6:00 p.m. – Board of Health/Health Agent, Public Health Nurse, and Lt. Irwin to discuss the Governor's Order today to roll-back the entire State to Step 1 of Phase 3.

Andrea Crete, Health Agent for the Board of Health; Angela Kramer, Public Health Nurse; and Lt. Irwin appeared before the Board to provide an update regarding the weekly robocalls being done by the Board of Health and to discuss the most recent Governor's order rolling the State back to Step 1 of Phase 3 as of Sunday, December 13, 2020.

Ms. Crete stated the Board of Health will be contacting businesses in Town that will be affected. Ms. Crete stated specifically that indoor event and recreational spaces will be reduced to a 40% occupancy rate which includes indoor dining. Ms. Crete stated, pursuant to the Governor's order, indoor dining seating capacity is limited to six (6) per table, will have a 90-minute limit to remain at the table, and it is encouraged that family members of the same household dine together. Ms. Crete stated musical performances in restaurants are prohibited and food court seating will also be closed.

Ms. Crete stated workplace and fitness center protocols have been updated to require face masks in offices when you are not in your own workspace or alone. Ms. Crete stated teleworking is encouraged if possible. Ms. Crete stated at gyms, face masks must always be worn .

Ms. Crete stated she received a complaint regarding protests and demonstrations which are exempt from the gathering limits. Ms. Crete stated as far as local Board of Health involvement, the Department of Public Health has advised not to get involved and be engaged as far as enforcing people wearing face masks or social distancing. Ms. Crete stated her recommendation to the public is to stay away from the gatherings and always encourages participants to wear masks and try to maintain the social distance .

Ms. Crete stated the Public Health Nurses have completed over 170 compliance inspections which includes complaints received.

Ms. Crete stated basic protocols for protection are wearing masks, maintaining at least 6 feet social distance, reduce gatherings, and wash hands frequently.

Mr. Silva stated the Board is not in favor of imposing any further strict rules or closing businesses down or superseding the Governor's orders.

Mr. DeBarge asked Public Health Nurse Kramer to explain the protocol of contact tracing.

Nurse Kramer stated she receives notification through Maven concerning a positive case; contacts the patient; and asks the patient a series of questions including any symptoms they may have and where they work to determine if other cases may be linked. Nurse Kramer stated if the patient is a child, she notifies Nurse Kristen Bunten who will then conduct the contact tracing.

Nurse Kramer stated she also receives calls from businesses indicating they had a positive case and they ask if they are following the correct protocols.

Mr. DeBarge stated the Chairman of the School Committee praises himself and the School Committee on how great the schools are doing with their contact tracing and how it is not the schools spreading the virus, but it's the Board of Selectmen's fault for not shutting the Town down and not doing a good enough job at contact tracing. Mr. DeBarge stated when he was the Board of Selectmen Chairman, he had a better dialogue with the then School Committee Chairman and the current one does not seem to

communicate at all, it's just social media bashing and it is not the way two committees should be and bad business.

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Nurse Kramer stated contact tracing is an all-day job especially since the surge which requires her to work with other communities. Nurse Kramer explained for example how a positive Ludlow resident may work in Agawam which causes the communities to share information with one another and are mandated by the State in what the Nurses must ask and input the findings within Maven. Nurse Kramer explained how it is through this shared information, it was determined the list of symptoms began expanding, becoming less severe compared to April, and the virus is changing.

Nurse Kramer provided an explanation as to how the outbreak of cases at the Hampden County Correctional Center, created a rise in the numbers reported for the Town. Nurse Kramer stated those numbers count because the inmates reside in Ludlow and several employees were also included in those numbers. Nurse Kramer stated if those numbers were not included, the Town would be considered average compared to other Towns. Ms. Crete stated this is also how the State records the numbers. Ms. Crete used the example of how college students are counted as residents in the numbers for Amherst.

Mr. Goncalves commented he feels counting the cases at the Correctional Center is not an accurate picture of what is happening in the community. Mr. Goncalves stated he fears counting the cases from the Correctional Center may impact local businesses, if their cases are high, it may cause the Town to revert a step or phase. Mr. Goncalves suggested someone should reach out to the Governor's Office and have them reconsider those numbers. Nurse Kramer stated she did contact the State to ask them about the same concern of Mr. Goncalves and is awaiting a response.

Nurse Kramer stated stores in Town such as Big Y and Randall's will need to adhere to the 40% occupancy count.

Lt. Irwin stated the Police Department's position is to educate people and gain voluntary compliance which is the guidance received from the Mass. Chiefs of Police Association. Lt. Irwin stated the police logs do not show repeat COVID issues.

Ms. Villano asked for an explanation of the weekly reports received from the State, which show the number of cases versus the number of tests reported. Nurse Kramer stated each patient in Maven is assigned a number and no matter how many times an individual is tested, they are always linked to that Maven number.

Mr. Silva stated, and Nurse Kramer agreed the numbers reported on the Town robocalls are more up to date than the ones received from the State.

Mr. Rosenblum suggested including top reasons for people contacting COVID on the robocall. Mr. Rosenblum stated to go back any further in phases really jeopardizes a lot of things in Town and pleaded with residents to be adults and be responsible for yourself. Mr. Rosenblum commends the job the Board of Health department and police department are doing.

6:30 p.m. – The Dog Hearing for Chad and Megan Ruscio, 62 Minechoag Heights is cancelled. DeeAnn Smith, Animal Control Officer confirmed the dog owners no longer reside in Ludlow.

Mr. Silva stated this hearing was cancelled due to the dog owners no longer residing in Ludlow.

Correspondence:

260. Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC) - Joint Action News Fall 2020 Newsletter.

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

261. John R. Maher, Director of Governmental Affairs, Charter Communications – notification of upcoming channel line-up changes.

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

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262. Cathy Judd-Stein, Chair of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission – advising the Board of the application and guidelines for the 2021 Community Mitigation Fund grant program.

Ms. Villano will review to determine who the application needs to be forwarded to and to see if the Town is eligible.

263. Zac Ellison, President Local 1840 – advising the Board the Ludlow Firefighters Association, Local 1840, I.A.F.F., AFL-CIO is seeking to enter into negotiations for negotiating a successor collective bargaining agreement.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. DeBarge to open negotiations for the Ludlow Firefighters Association, Local 1840, I.A.F.F., AFL-CIO to negotiate a successor collective bargaining agreement. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

Unfinished Business:

Board to discuss appointing Elaine Hodgman, the alternate member and applicant, for the Zoning Board of Appeals vacancy. The vacancy is a regular member position with two years remaining of the unexpired five-year term. If appointed, does the Board wish to advertise for the available alternate position?

Moved by Mr. Rosenblum, seconded by Mr. DeBarge to appoint Elaine Hodgman as a regular member with two years remaining of the unexpired five-year term and to advertise for the available alternate position. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

Board to discuss Ludlow Fish and Game Club and Ray Haluch gravel bank permits that have not been approved due to issues with inspections.

Ms. Villano stated the DPW completed all the inspections. All gravel banks were permitted and based on conflicting information in the surveys submitted, DPW's recommendation was to hold the approval of the Ludlow Fish and Game Club due to not being able to access the property for inspection; and conflicting survey information for Ray Haluch.

Moved by Mr. Rosenblum, seconded by Mr. DeBarge to send letters to Ray Haluch and Ludlow Fish and Game Club to open for inspection and submit updated surveys as required, within 30 days. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

Board to approve and sign Selectmen Meeting Minutes of September 1, 2020.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. DeBarge to approve and sign Selectmen Meeting Minutes of September 1, 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 September 29, 2020.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. DeBarge to approve and sign Selectmen Meeting Minutes of September 29, 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 October 13, 2020.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. DeBarge to approve and sign Selectmen Meeting Minutes of October 13, 2020. Members present were Chairman Silva, Mr. Goncalves, Mr. Rosenblum and Mr. DeBarge. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

Board to approve and sign Executive Session Minutes of October 27, 2020.

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Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. DeBarge to approve and sign Executive Session Minutes of October 27, 2020. Members present were Chairman Silva, Mr. Goncalves, Mr. Rosenblum and Mr. DeBarge. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

New Business:

Board to appoint Jeff Gavioli and Susan Amaral to the Ludlow Cultural Council.

Ms. Villano stated she spoke with the Chairman of the Ludlow Cultural Council who has no objection to either candidate being appointed and can have up to twenty-two members.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. DeBarge to appoint both Jeff Gavioli and Susan Amaral to the Ludlow Cultural Council. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

Board to approve and sign the Class I, II, III Licenses for 2021.

Moved by Mr. DeBarge, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum to approve and sign the Class I, II, III Licenses for 2021. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

Board to approve and sign Liquor Licenses, Common Vic Licenses and Entertainment Licenses for 2021.

Mr. Goncalves read the list of entities who's fees they would like waived.

Mr. Silva stated some entities have contacted him to waive their fees since their businesses have been closed.

Ms. Villano agreed to check the bylaws to determine if under a certain chapter the Board of Selectmen are allowed to abate fees for Entertainment Licenses.

Moved by Mr. DeBarge, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum to approve and sign Liquor Licenses, Common Vic Licenses and Entertainment Licenses for 2021. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. DeBarge to waive the fees of the Common Vic and Entertainment Licenses for 2021 for the Ludlow Council on Aging, Christ the King Church, Ludlow Community Center, Brigham Lodge AF & AM, St. Elizabeth Parish, The First Church, St. Paul's United Methodist Church, St. Peter/Paul Ukranian Church, Union Church of Christ UCC, Exit 7 Players, and Our Lady of Fatima Parish. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

Mr. Silva asked Ms. Villano to obtain the amount of fees received from those listed to determine if it would be detrimental to the budget. Mr. Silva also stated some entities have contacted him to waive their fees since their businesses have been closed. Ms. Villano agreed to check the Town Bylaws to see under which chapter the Board of Selectmen can abate fees for Entertainment Licenses.

Board to approve and sign the ABCC 2021 Seasonal Population Increase Estimation Form.

Moved by Mr. DeBarge, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum to approve and sign the ABCC 2021 Seasonal Population Increase Estimation Form. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

Board to approve and sign the ABCC 2021 Renewal Certification Form.

Moved by Mr. Rosenblum, seconded by Mr. DeBarge to approve and sign the ABCC 2021 Renewal Certification Form. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

Board perused Selectmen Meeting Minutes of October 27, 2020.

Board perused Selectmen Meeting Minutes of November 10, 2020.

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Closing Comments:

Mr. Goncalves congratulated all departments for keeping their budgets down; advised residents to be careful; and be vigilant as our COVID cases are on the rise; and encouraged residents to buy local during this Christmas season which would be greatly appreciated by our merchants.

Mr. Rosenblum advised residents to do their best to adhere to the Governor's mandates. Mr. Rosenblum congratulated Christopher Drewniak, a 2011 Ludlow High School graduate, who was named an "Everyday Hero" by the National Downs Syndrome Congress for his outstanding work ethic at our Local Big Y.

Mr. DeBarge stated he hoped everyone had a great Thanksgiving.

Mr. Silva stated he was notified of a complaint regarding the Board of Selectmen not wearing masks during the last few meetings. Mr. Silva apologized and stated the Selectmen will be wearing masks at the Board of Selectmen meetings.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. DeBarge to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 p.m. 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.