The Meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on Tuesday, December 22, 2020 began at 6:00 p.m.
Remote participation due to COVID-19.

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Members Present: Manuel Silva, Chairman, Antonio Goncalves, Derek DeBarge (via video conference), and William Rosenblum

First Order of Business: The Pledge of Allegiance

Visitations:

No visitations.

Correspondence:

266. 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 December 8, 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 Police Officer as a result of an incident that occurred on December 8, 2020. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

267. John R. Maher, Director of Government Affairs, Charter Communications – providing a check in the amount of $290,019.44 as the PEG Access annual grant of the License between the Town of Ludlow and Charter Communications.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum to accept the check in the amount of $290,019.44 as the PEG Access annual grant of the License between the Town of Ludlow and Charter Communications. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

268. Megan Rogers Coll, P.E. – notifying the Board that the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) concurs in the award of the contract to Ludlow Construction, the lowest responsible bidder.

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

269. Megan Rogers Coll, P.E. – notifying the Board that the EDA Regional Counsel has reviewed the Title Opinion for the Ludlow Mills Riverside Drive Infrastructure Project. This approval satisfied Special Condition 16 of the Financial Assistance Award.

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

270. Mary Jane Handy, Director of Accounts, Massachusetts Department of Revenue – notification of the Fiscal Year 2021 tax rate being certified by the Bureau of Accounts for Ludlow.

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

271. Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC) News Release – MMWEC Home Energy Efficiency Program Adds Thermostats to "Connected Homes" Program.

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

272. Jaimye Bartak, Communications Manager, Springfield Water and Sewer Commission – notice of Temporary Change in Water Treatment at West Parish Filters Water Treatment Plant.

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

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273. 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 12-15 for the Harris Brook Elementary School (formerly the Chapin Street Elementary School).

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

Unfinished Business:

Board to review list of License Fees.

Ms. Villano stated there are no bylaws that allow a mechanism to allow an abatement for these fees, however she is awaiting response from counsel. Ms. Villano stated no formal requests for abatement have been received by our office.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum to table until a later date when we receive further clarification from Town Counsel regard the bylaw and how it affects the fees. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

Board to approve and sign Selectmen Meeting Minutes of November 24, 2020.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum to approve and sign the Selectmen Meeting Minutes of November 24, 2020. Members present were Chairman Silva, Mr. Goncalves, Mr. Rosenblum and Mr. DeBarge. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

New Business:

Board to review and approve Weather/Emergency Event Policy (Rev. 12/2020).

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum to approve the Weather/Emergency Event Policy (Rev. 12/2020). Vote 4-0. All in favor.

Board to open the Warrant for the May 10, 2021 Annual Town Meeting and will close the warrant at their March 2, 2021 meeting.

Moved by Mr. Rosenblum, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to open the Warrant for the May 10, 2021 Annual Town Meeting. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

Board to approve and sign Common Vic Licenses for Frank's Diner, Inter Produce, Greater Love & Divine Purity Church, Family Church, and Kentucky Fried Chicken for 2021; and Entertainment Licenses for Frank's Diner for 2021.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum to approve and sign Common Vic Licenses for Frank's Diner, Inter Produce, Greater Love & Divine Purity Church, Family Church, and Kentucky Fried Chicken; and Entertainment Licenses for Frank's Diner all for 2021. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

The Board perused Selectmen Meeting Minutes of December 8, 2020.

The Board perused Selectmen Meeting Minutes of December 15, 2020.

The Board perused Executive Session Minutes of November 24, 2020.

The Chairman approved and signed all bills, warrants and abatements.

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Closing Comments:

Mr. Rosenblum wished everyone happy holidays.

Mr. Goncalves wished everyone a happy holiday season and to enjoy time with family responsibly. Mr. Goncalves also congratulated Mr. DeBarge and Sheriff Cocchi on a successful COVID-19 testing site event held today at the Hampden County Correctional Center in Ludlow.

Mr. DeBarge stated the COVID-19 test site event held today from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Hampden County Correctional Center in Ludlow was a team effort success with Sheriff Cocchi, John DeAngelo from the Sheriff's Office, Patrick Leonardo, Operations Manager of American Medical Response (AMR), and Ellie Villano, Town Administrator. Mr. DeBarge stated 604 tests were performed and the maximum wait time was estimated to be 30-40 minutes. Mr. DeBarge stated test results should be received before Christmas. Mr. DeBarge praised and thanked everyone for their efforts.

Mr. DeBarge also stated he participated in laying wreaths for the veterans at Island Pond Cemetery and behind the Ludlow High School at the Sgt. Deforges monument. Mr. DeBarge also gave a special thanks to Brenda and Heidi from Capital Drive Releasing for their fundraising efforts used to purchase over 1,100 wreaths for our veterans at the cemetery without having their normal fundraising events due to COVID-19.

Mr. DeBarge shared the message that Wreaths Across America spreads which is to remember those who have served and sacrificed; honor the veterans that are currently serving; and to teach our youth about the history of our veterans and all they have sacrificed.

Mr. Silva thanked Mr. DeBarge for spear-heading the successful COVID-19 test site event at the Hampden County Correctional Center in Ludlow and laying of the wreaths for the veterans. Mr. Silva wished everyone happy holidays; advised everyone to stay safe; and suggested celebrating Christmas in July with extended family. Mr. Silva stated federal departments will be closed on December 24.

Ms. Villano stated President Trump has signed an executive order to close the federal departments on December 24. Ms. Villano stated this executive order does not affecting any of the surrounding communities and it is not a declared national holiday. Ms. Villano stated the Town Hall will close at Noon on Thursday, December 24.

Mr. Silva stated the Town Hall is still closed to the public and encouraged residents to call the specific department for their needs to make any necessary arrangements.

Ms. Villano stated the walk-up windows are open and important notices from the State and Federal government concerning COVID-19 for the community has been posted on the website, cable television, as well as within the enclosed wall mounted kiosks located outside behind Town Hall.

Mr. Silva advised all to familiarize themselves with the new orders the Governor has issued such as reducing capacity for establishments effective as of 12:01 a.m. on Saturday, December 26, 2020.

Moved by Mr. Rosenblum, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to adjourn the meeting at 6:34 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.