The Meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on Tuesday, February 2, 2021 began at 5:00 p.m. Remote participation due to COVID-19.

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

First Order of Business: The Pledge of Allegiance

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Visitations:

5:00 p.m. – (1) The Board entered into Executive Session for the purpose number 1.

*To discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual.

(2) The Board entered into Executive Session to discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies with respect thereto.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. DeBarge to enter into Executive Session at 5:04 p.m. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

6:00 p.m. – Board of Health – Fire - Senior Center - Schools - Ludlow COVID-19 Vaccine Site Discussion.

Michael Lefever, Board of Health Chairman; Andrea Crete, Health Agent of the Board of Health; Police Chief Dan Valadas; Fire Chief Ryan Pease; Jodi Zepke, Senior Center; Kristen Bunten, R.N.; and Kelly Lamas all participated remotely.

Ms. Crete provided an update on a possible vaccine site in town. Ms. Crete stated she and the Board of Health nurses have completed training on the Prepmod software used for scheduling vaccinations. Chief Pease has been coordinating with Our Lady of Fatima Church to secure it as a vaccine site. Ms. Crete stated the paperwork is ready to be submitted to the State this week. There is a survey that needs to be completed in order to request vaccines. Ms. Crete stated she is also working on securing volunteers so that the clinics can be staffed. If the State grants vaccines for our site, Ludlow will be limited to 100 doses per week. Ms. Crete stated if Ludlow were to receive the Moderna vaccine, another clinic would be scheduled 28 days later for the second dose. Ms. Crete is hopeful if approved by the State, the vaccine site would be ready by the end of February. If for some reason Our Lady of Fatima Church is unable to be used as a vaccination site, Ms. Crete will look into something manageable for a clinic to be held at the Town Hall. We are currently in Step 1 Phase 2 of vaccine distribution to seniors age 75 and older. Ludlow Senior Center is assisting seniors with scheduling appointments at Eastfield Mall. Ludlow has also secured 14 appointments for the vaccine in Palmer. The State will be issuing an 800-telephone number to book appointments soon.

Ms. Villano stated Fire Chief Pease has indicated several paramedics are willing to assist with administering the vaccine. Ms. Villano stated Police Chief Valadas has committed to facilitate security protocols. Ms. Villano stated Jodi Zepke, at the Senior Center has been assisting seniors with navigating various web sites to schedule their vaccines. Ms. Villano also encouraged residents to go to the vaccination site run by the State at the Eastfield Mall and at Big Y while the Town is working on securing a site within Ludlow. Ms. Villano stated Kristen Bunten, R.N. has agreed to have some of the school nurses assist with providing the vaccines. Ms. Villano stated she along with Ms. Crete, Fire Chief Pease, Fire Deputy Chief, Police Chief Valadas, and Nurse Bunten all toured the Our Lady of Fatima Church classroom section where the vaccination site would be held.

Mr. DeBarge asked when will those with two or more comorbidities be able to receive the vaccine. Ms. Zepke stated we are currently in Step 1 of Phase 2 which is strictly for seniors 75 years plus. Ms. Zepke stated the Governor is not going to release Step 2 Phase 2, until those seniors 75 years plus receive their second dose. It is Ms. Zepke's understanding that those individuals with two or more health issues will fall under Step 2 of Phase 2.

Ms. Zepke stated she has been assisting seniors with booking appointments at Eastfield Mall because that is where the most appointments are available. Ms. Zepke stated an issue some seniors will run into is transportation to Eastfield Mall.

Mr. Goncalves asked if the Ludlow vaccination site will be for Ludlow residents only. Ms. Crete affirmed that the Ludlow site would not be set up as a public site on the Prepmod system and Ludlow would have a specific URL web site for registration.

Mr. Rosenblum asked how far in advance do weeks open up to book appointments at Big Y. Ms. Zepke stated most places open up a week in advance.

Ms. Zepke stated she has been receiving calls from seniors 65 years plus and emphasized the current phase is for seniors 75 years plus. Ms. Zepke stated the regional vaccination site in Palmer is strictly a list for seniors 75 years plus. Ms. Zepke stated she was able to schedule 14 appointments today for Friday in Palmer. Ms. Zepke stated the Ludlow Senior Center has a voice mail set up for seniors to leave their name and number which is monitored by her staff who assist seniors with booking appointments at Eastfield Mall.

Ms. Crete stated the Board of Health Nurses have also been assisting seniors book appointments at Eastfield Mall. Ms. Crete stated the State will be coming out with a 1-800 number for people to call to register appointments. Ms. Crete stated there are approximately 7 of the 11 committed towns included at the Palmer regional site which receives 100 doses of the vaccine per week. Ms. Crete stated we were able to receive 14 appointments for Ludlow seniors.

Ms. Lamas stated she is working on COVID-19 mitigation efforts at Baystate where they have a mobile health unit. Ms. Lamas stated one of their priorities is working on providing information dispelling myths and misinformation about the vaccine and asked if Ludlow has provided the same for their residents.

Ms. Crete stated the Board of Health Nurses have published a Covid-19 public service announcement to residents on our LCTV and Town web site in addition to the Board of Health providing weekly calls to keep residents informed. Ms. Crete stated the Board of Health provides information to residents from trusted sources such as the CDC and Massachusetts Department of Public Health web sites.

Ms. Villano stated postings provided by the State are also displayed in the kiosks located outside in the rear of Town Hall, in addition to being on the Town web site, the Town Face Book page, and on our local cable network LCTV. Ms. Villano asked Ms. Lamas to share any additional information with the Board of Health and the Board of Selectmen's office. Ms. Villano also stated any verbiage Ms. Lamas would like to include in the weekly robocalls to the residents is welcomed.

Mr. Silva thanked everyone for their efforts in assisting in the development stage of opening a Ludlow COVID-19 vaccine site.

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6:45 p.m. - Ludlow Cares Coalition - #ShareTheCare2021 - Ben Bovee discussed The Ludlow CARES Coalition's launch of a brand-new campaign, **#ShareTheCare2021,** and asked our community to share random acts of caring. Each act of caring/kindness that one does, or witnesses can be submitted through Ludlow Cares Coalition's social media, email, or mail. CARES is hoping that this encouragement of positivity and small moments of happiness may help us all cope during the pandemic. The Ludlow CARES Coalition would like to give back to the Ludlow High School Senior Class. The initiative is to get individuals and/or groups to do 2,021 acts of care throughout the community, then the Ludlow CARES Coalition would donate $2,021.00 to the Senior High School Class. The Ludlow CARES Coalition will also be doing a letter writing campaign and floral gifts to uplift the spirits of our seniors around Valentine's Day. More information can be found at www.ludlowcarescoalition.org

Correspondence:

12. Andrew B. McCaul, Senior Transportation Planner – informing the Board that Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) is starting the development process for the 2022 to 2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), the TIP Sub-Committee meeting will be on February 10, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at PVPC.

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

13. Brian Shameklis, Safety Committee Chairman – recommending to the Board that a traffic mirror be replaced on West Street and that a new traffic mirror be placed on East Street across from Hubbard Street.

Moved by Mr. DeBarge, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to approve a traffic mirror be replaced on West Street and that a new traffic mirror be placed on East Street across from Hubbard Street. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

14. 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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15. Ludlow Elks Lodge – Annual Beano Report for 2020.

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

16. Chloe G. Liszka, BSA Troop 1774G – requesting approval from the Board to allow her Troop to build a low maintenance flowerbed filled with flowers native to the Northeast region to help feed pollinators and to suggest a location to place the flowerbed.

Ms. Villano suggested placing the flowerbed either along the Riverwalk path or near the intersection of Winsor and East Streets.

Mr. DeBarge suggested placing a flowerbed in the grass area on the left as you drive onto Sportsman Road near Baird Middle School, near the reservoir, or near the cemetery depending on the size of the flowerbed.

Ms. Villano will confirm the size of the flowerbed with Ms. Liszka.

Moved by Mr. DeBarge, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to approve the request to build a low maintenance flowerbed filled with flowers native to the Northeast region to help feed pollinators. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

17. Douglas J. Stefancik, Town Planner – informing the Board the Planning Board has approved the site plans for Winn Development for 95 units of Age 55+ Housing in the Smart Growth Overlay District and in the Mill Redevelopment District, located on State Street.

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

18. Geoffrey E. Snyder, Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Revenue Division of Local Services - informing the Board of the completion of the 2020 proposed Equalized Valuation (EQV) Program which represents the full and fair cash value of all taxable property for each municipality as of January 1, 2020.

Moved by Mr. Rosenblum, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to file Vote 4-0. All in favor. Ms. Villano will also verify the accuracy of the valuation with the Town Assessor.

19. Board to approve the resignation of Kylie R. Voight as a full-time dispatch and to further approve her appointment to a per-diem dispatch.

Moved by Mr. DeBarge, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to approve the resignation of Kylie R. Voight as a full-time dispatch and to further approve her appointment to a per-diem dispatch. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

20. Jamie & Richard Jacobs – Petition for a Zone Change from Residential B to Business B at 193 Center Street, Ludlow, MA.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum to accept the Petition for a Zone Change from Residential B to Business B, place on the warrant and forward to Planning for action. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

21. Polish American Citizen's Club of Ludlow – Annual Beano Report for 2020.

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

22. Springfield Water and Sewer Commission Host Upcoming Webinars on Customer Assistance Programs – links to the webinars are available on the Commission's website at waterandsewer.org.

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

23. Andrew P. Gilbert, President, Exit 7 Players – informing the Board of Exit 7 Players reopening plans for 2021, and the reopening of our community theater.

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

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24. 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 22, 2020.

Mr. DeBarge stated this is an incident which has no call for service from the public. Mr. DeBarge stated this incident has no exposure form and has been greatly researched by our Human Resource Department. Mr. DeBarge stated Chapter 41, Section 111F does not fall into place here where there is no evidence of injury, illness that has any history of a pertinent call for service, outside influence and no inference in any of the reporting that relates to work related injury or illness. Mr. DeBarge stated research from other municipalities shows they are not accepting Chapter 41, Section 111F for such an issue. Mr. DeBarge stated under the federal standards, the FFCRA allows up to 80 hours of paid leave.

Moved by Mr. Rosenblum, seconded by Mr. DeBarge to not approve a charge off of 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 22, 2020. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

24a. Board to approve a request to charge off medical expenses and lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for an injury sustained by a Firefighter as a result of an incident that occurred on January 1, 2021.

Moved by Mr. Rosenblum, seconded by Mr. DeBarge to approve a request to charge off medical expenses and lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for an injury sustained by a Firefighter as a result of an incident that occurred on January 1, 2021. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

25. Recreation Commission's request for pay raises for their summer employees.

Motion by Mr. Rosenblum, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to table and ask for the amount of the increase, classifications, and totals. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

Unfinished Business:

Board to vote to establish the speed limit to 25 m.p.h. in thickly settled areas as approved at Town Meeting.

Ms. Villano stated even though Town Meeting has approved the acceptance of this Mass. General Law section, it is now the responsibility of the Board of Selectmen to also accept it. The Town Meeting vote and the Board of Selectmen vote will need to be forwarded to the MassDoT.

Motion by Mr. Rosenblum, seconded by Mr. Goncalves based on Article 10 of the October 5, 2020 Special Town Meeting that we accept provisions of Mass. General Law Chapter 90 Section 17C which allows for the reduction of the statutory speed limit of 25 m.p.h. in a thickly settled or business district in the Town on any way that is not a state highway. Vote 3-1 in favor.

Board to approve and sign Executive Session Minutes of April 28, 2020.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum to approve and sign the Executive Session Minutes of April 28, 2020. Members present were Chairman DeBarge, Mr. Silva, Mr. Goncalves and Mr. Rosenblum. Ms. Fernandes was absent. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

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New Business:

Board to approve and Chairman to sign the Second Amendment to the Financial Assistance Award – Condition #7 (Project Development Time Schedule).

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. DeBarge to approve and Chairman to sign the Second Amendment to the Financial Assistance Award – Condition #7 (Project Development Time Schedule).

Board to discuss holding a 250th Semi-quincentennial Celebration – 2024. Selectmen DeBarge to provide information for discussion.

Mr. DeBarge stated Linda Collette contacted him regarding ideas for Ludlow's 250th celebration. Mr. DeBarge stated it takes a committee 2-3 years to plan and fundraise for such an event. Mr. DeBarge stated Ms. Collette used Westfield's 350th celebration in 2019 as an example. Mr. DeBarge spoke with State Representative Olivera who confirmed there are grants available and you can earmark money at the State level for such an event. Mr. DeBarge also consulted Senator Velis who was involved with Westfield's celebration. Mr. DeBarge suggested to start thinking about forming a committee of citizens. Mr. DeBarge stated his vote for Chairman of this committee is Linda Collette. Mr. DeBarge stated maybe this can be done in conjunction with Celebrate Ludlow. Mr. Silva suggested Mr. DeBarge to contact Ms. Collette to invite her to a future Board of Selectmen meeting.

Board to discuss waiving fees for the 2021 Mechanical Licenses.

Ms. Villano stated if the Board agreed to provide some relief by waiving the Mechanical License fees for fiscal year 2021, it would be approximately $4,000. Ms. Villano stated the Board does not have the authority to waive the Sunday portion because it is a State fee. Ms. Villano stated businesses will have the opportunity to either pay the State fee or not use their mechanical amusements on Sunday.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum to waive the fees for the 2021 Mechanical Licenses for all the Town applicants. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

Board to discuss extending hours for liquor establishments on Super Bowl Sunday.

Ms. Villano stated although businesses are currently allowed 25% capacity, we wanted to give businesses the opportunity to do so.

Moved by Mr. DeBarge, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to extend hours for liquor establishments on Super Bowl Sunday until 2am. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

Board to approve and sign the Entertainment License for Family United Methodist Church.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum to approve and sign the Entertainment License for Family United Methodist Church and to waive the fee. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

Board to approve the Citation for Helen Martowski, a lifelong Ludlow resident who recently turned 100 years old.

Mr. DeBarge stated three history facts that occurred 100 years ago were: 1. The Sheppard-Towner Maternity and Infancy Act which focused on helping develop newborn and prenatal care; 2. Babe Ruth hit the home run record; and 3. The tomb of the unknown soldier was approved by Congress.

Mr. Silva stated Ida Machado also recently turned 100 and urged Ms. Villano to also issue her a citation for turning 100 years old.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum to approve the Citation for Helen Martowski, a lifelong Ludlow resident who recently turned 100 years old. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

Mr. Silva reminded residents about #ShareTheCare2021 and that more information can be found at www.ludlowcarescoalition.org.

Board perused Selectmen Meeting Minutes of January 5, 2021.

Board perused Selectmen Meeting Minutes of January 19, 2021.

Board perused Executive Session Minutes of January 5, 2021.

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Chairman has approved and signed all bills, warrants and abatements. A record of all warrants is in the Selectmen's office for perusal until provided to the Town Accountant's office.

Closing Comments:

Mr. Goncalves wished Ms. Martowski a Happy 100th Birthday and shared memories of her dog "Sheba" from 50 years ago. Mr. Goncalves warned residents to beware of scams, never give out your social security number, and to just hang up the telephone when receiving calls from solicitors. Mr. Goncalves reminded residents 75 and older to contact Jodi Zepke at the Senior Center for assistance with scheduling vaccine appointments. Mr. Goncalves advised residents to schedule their vaccine appointments at Big Y and Eastfield Mall as we continue to pursue establishing a site in Ludlow. Board of Health will also help with securing vaccine appointments. Mr. Goncalves encouraged residents to stay safe and be careful.

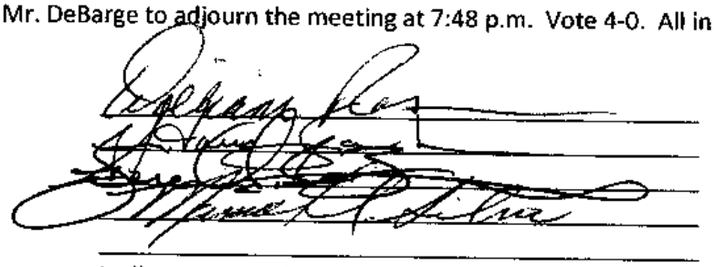
Mr. DeBarge stated as a parent of a high school sophomore, he recently received a survey on how parents felt about kids returning to school either hybrid or remote and wished the survey contained a comment section. Mr. DeBarge stated he supports his child going back to school hybrid as Cohort A and feels children should go back to school five days a week. Mr. DeBarge stated he does not usually comment on social media unless he is asked a question directly. Mr. DeBarge mentioned the recent tragic accident and injury regarding a hockey player at Olympia and sympathizes with the parents not being able to be there. Mr. DeBarge stated he does not agree with having only one parent attend sporting events and thinks both parents should be able to attend. Mr. DeBarge stated he is a baseball and basketball coach. Mr. DeBarge stated he coaches legion baseball and they were the first organized sport to play during COVID. Mr. DeBarge stated legion formed their own league in June and 15 out of 16 teams played 11 games including one week of playoffs and abided by all COVID protocols. Mr. DeBarge

stated parents could attend, were socially distant, kept attendees to less than 100 people at baseball fields and never had an issue. Mr. DeBarge stated for parents not to be able to see their children play and for children not being able to socialize with their peers, is a tragedy that is unspeakable in his opinion. Mr. DeBarge stated he believes socialization is needed for children in school and in sports and everything can be safe guarded.

Mr. Rosenblum stated he plays, coaches and has a child who plays hockey and thinks the School Committee should reconsider parents being able to attend sporting events both home and away. Mr. Rosenblum does not think Ludlow Athletics should override what local rinks are allowing. Mr. Rosenblum also sympathizes with the parents of the injured hockey player and for the player being alone in a hospital. Mr. Rosenblum stated he would like the School Committee to reconsider how many people can attend games. Mr. Rosenblum stated he also received the survey from the school. Mr. Rosenblum commends the School Committee and Ludlow School District with not having, as far as we know, any student to student or student to teacher transmission of COVID. Mr. Rosenblum agrees with Mr. DeBarge regarding the mental and social damage students are experiencing and if there was an option, would like to see kids back in school five days a week.

Mr. Silva stated the pandemic has created a lot of hostility and there is no place for it. Mr. Silva stated we are all in this together and there is not really much we can do. Mr. Silva stated to be kind just as the Ludlow Cares Coalition has encouraged.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. DeBarge to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 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.

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