The Meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on Tuesday, February 9, 2021 began at 5:30 p.m. Remote participation due to COVID-19.

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2021 APR -1 P 2:24
TOWN OF LUDLOW

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

First Order of Business: The Pledge of Allegiance

Visitations:

5:30 p.m. – Carrie Ribeiro, Human Resources Director – Revised COVID-19 "Return to Work" Policy and Andrea Crete, Health Agent of the Board of Health participated by teleconference.

Ms. Ribeiro, Human Resources Director appeared before the Board to discuss revising the COVID-19 "Return to Work" Policy based upon the CDC guidelines.

Ms. Crete stated the most significant change was the 14-day quarantine guideline.

Ms. Crete stated he previous guideline was that if you were exposed to someone positive, you had to quarantine 14 days and return to work with a negative COVID-19 test. Now, the 14-day quarantine is only required if somebody cannot get tested or are not going to self-monitor and can return to work on the 15th day without a negative test. Ms. Crete stated this will be handled on a case by case basis.

Ms. Crete stated the State allows for two scenarios. The first is a 7-day quarantine, returning to work on the 8th day if they are asymptomatic with a negative COVID-19 test. The test would need to be taken no sooner than day 5. The second is a 10-day quarantine coming back on the 11th day if not displaying any symptoms and have been self-monitoring.

Ms. Crete stated the State revised the 10-day isolation for someone who tests positive or has symptoms. Ms. Crete stated the return to work for this scenario would be based on if they were asymptomatic or symptomatic. Ms. Crete stated if any other scenarios occur, the CDC guidelines would be followed.

Ms. Crete defined a close contact as someone who has tested positive that you live with or have been within 6 feet of for 15 minutes total or more within a 24-hour period.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum to approve the Town of Ludlow COVID-19 Return to Work Policy as amended effective today. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

Correspondence:

26. 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 22, 2021.

* This item was previously approved as Correspondence #24 at the February 2, 2021 Board of Selectmen Meeting with an incorrect incident date of 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 22, 2021. This item was previously approved as Correspondence #24 at the February 2, 2021 Board of Selectmen Meeting with an incorrect incident date of January 1, 2021. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

26a 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 February 2, 2021.

Moved by Mr. Rosenblum, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to approve the 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 February 2, 2021. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

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26b 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 February 2, 2021.

Moved by Mr. Rosenblum, seconded by Mr. DeBarge to not 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 February 2, 2021. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

27. Tighe & Bond, Inc. – providing the Board the Quarterly Post-Closure Use Landfill Inspection Report for the Holyoke Street Landfill.

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

28. Megan Rogers Coll, P.E. – notifying the Board that the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) approved the executed contract of Ludlow Construction Company, Inc.

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

29. Lawrence J. Lavigne, Resident – request to be appointed as an unenrolled poll worker. Town Clerk recommends approval.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. DeBarge to approve Lawrence J. Lavigne to be appointed as an unenrolled poll worker. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

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

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

31. Christ the King Social Committee – Annual Beano Report for 2020.

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

32. Marcia Wellman, Senior Project Manager, Project Services, Eversource Energy – Transmission Vegetation Management in Ludlow.

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

Unfinished Business:

Board to vote on a motion to amend the Traffic Rules and Regulations by establishing a 25 miles per hour speed limit in thickly settled or business districts Town wide, unless otherwise posted.

Moved by Mr. Rosenblum, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to amend the Traffic Rules and Regulations by establishing a 25 miles per hour speed limit in thickly settled or business districts Town wide, unless otherwise posted. Vote 3-1 in favor.

For the Board's Information: The Board of Assessors has commented on the Equalized Valuation Program that they are in line with the values submitted in the tax rate process for previous year and found no discrepancies in the calculations.

The Board was informed the Board of Assessors has commented on the Equalized Valuation Program that they are in line with the values submitted in the tax rate process for previous year and found no discrepancies in the calculations.

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Update on a possible Town run vaccination site.

Andrea Crete, Health Agent, provided an update on the Town run vaccination site at the CCD school next to the Our Lady of Fatima Church. Ms. Crete stated the request for the maximum amount of 100 vaccine doses for local Boards of Health has been submitted today. Ms. Crete stated we should know in 48 hours if our request has been granted. Ms. Crete stated local Boards of Health are only allowed to request 100 doses.

Board to approve and sign Selectmen Meeting Minutes of January 5, 2021.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum to approve and sign Selectmen Meeting Minutes of January 5, 2021. Members present were Chairman Silva, Mr. Goncalves, Mr. DeBarge, and Mr. Rosenblum. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

Board to approve and sign Selectmen Meeting Minutes of January 19, 2021.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. DeBarge to approve and sign Selectmen Meeting Minutes of January 19, 2021. Members present were Chairman Silva, Mr. Goncalves, Mr. DeBarge, and Mr. Rosenblum. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

Board to approve and sign Executive Session Minutes of January 5, 2021.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. DeBarge to approve and sign Executive Session Minutes of January 5, 2021. Members present were Chairman Silva, Mr. Goncalves, Mr. DeBarge, and Mr. Rosenblum. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

New Business:

Board to discuss a possible ballot question regarding the Selectmen acting as the Board of Public Works.

Mr. Silva stated this item needs to be placed on the ballot to move forward.

Ms. Villano stated the statute states that 60 days before it goes to the Annual Town Meeting it goes before Special Town Meeting can vote to put it before the Annual Town Meeting. The Annual Town Meeting encompasses the election warrant within the Annual Town Meeting, so it needs to be put on a ballot question. It can be put on the ballot for the upcoming election in March 2021.

Mr. DeBarge and Chairman Silva agree the question should be placed on the ballot and to let the voters decide.

Mr. Rosenblum stated the Board of Selectmen will not be running the day to day operations of the Department of Public Works, but rather looking to put the correct people in place at the department to make sure it is being run properly. Mr. Rosenblum agrees this should be a ballot question for the people to decide.

Moved by Mr. DeBarge, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to place a question on the ballot to be worded, "Shall the Town vote to have its Selectmen act as the Board of Public Works". Vote 4-0. All in favor.

Motion rescinded by Mr. DeBarge, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. DeBarge, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum to place on the March 22 ballot the binding question, "Shall the Town vote to have its Selectmen act as the Board of Public Works". Vote 4-0. All in favor.

Board to ratify the letter of support for the WestMass Application for an EPA Assessment Grant.

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Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. DeBarge to ratify the letter of support for the WestMass Application for an EPA Assessment Grant. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

Chairman 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 reminded senior residents there is assistance for residents 75 years old and older to secure their appointments for the vaccine and encouraged all to do so at Big Y, Eastfield Mall and to call the State at 211 for assistance. Be careful of scams with tax season upon us and not to provide anyone over the telephone with personal information.

Mr. DeBarge stated a Ludlow High School sophomore, Alexander Nicoll organized a meeting to be held at the Superintendent's office tonight which has been postponed due to the inclement weather. Mr. Nicoll is advocating for in person learning to resume for the betterment of the mental and social health of students. Mr. DeBarge supports Mr. Nicoll's efforts. Mr. DeBarge stated if contact sports such as hockey and basketball can now be played, kids should also be allowed back in the classroom.

Mr. Rosenblum stated he sent an email to the School Committee regarding the spectator guidelines for athletics. Mr. Rosenblum stated some members may be overstepping their bounds over the guidelines being used in terms of spectators at sporting events, specifically for hockey. Mr. Rosenblum stated the guidelines can also be used in gyms for basketball and has discussed them with Tim Brillo, Ludlow High School Athletic Director. Mr. Rosenblum also agrees it is time for the kids to go back to school and glad to see we are moving forward.

Mr. Silva stated he often gets asked why parochial schools are in session and why public schools are not. Mr. Silva stated our numbers are trending down and asked residents to continue keeping their guard up and to stay safe.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum to adjourn the meeting at 6:24 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.