The Meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on Tuesday, May 4, 2021 began at 5:30 p.m. Remote participation due to COVID-19.

Members Present: William Rosenblum, Chairman, Derek Debarge, James Gennette, Antonio Goncalves, and Manny Silva.

First Order of Business: The Pledge of Allegiance

Visitations:

5:30 p.m. – Finance Committee – FY22 Budget Discussion

Mr. Gregoire stated that last week the Finance Committee completed it's work in reviewing each departments' budgeting requests and provided recommendations on everything that was outstanding. One of the areas that we are still struggling with and examining in terms of the impact that COVID will have on the broader economy on the Town going forward. There are a lot of assumptions built in this year. One example is that the health care premium is going down .6% and that values only about $60,000 Town wide but the change in health care premiums in general is declining by over $450,000. This was due to staffing and the issue is whether all this staff will ramp up again. So, this can be a concern for us. Another concern is the deficits in Town, such as Golf and whether this will be resolved this coming fiscal year. Financially we must be cautious of investing in additional staff and projects and then quickly cut back on them. Mr. Gregoire went through the recommendations highlighted on the FY22 requested budget spreadsheet.

Mr. Alves reiterated what Mr. Gregoire had said and agreed that we have to look at the big picture at all times.

Mr. Debarge stated this has been a very difficult budget season and would like to make some changes. Agreed with Mr. Gregoire regarding the health insurance and does believe it will increase in the future. Some Department Heads have come before the Board of Selectmen and stated they had funding for certain positions or projects and then they go before the Finance Committee and say they made and error and there is no funding, and this is very frustrating. Regarding the Finance Committee's recommendations, Mr. Debarge is in favor of HR getting a full time assistant due to the amount of work that department must do, and he will speak in favor of this at Town Meeting. He is not sure about the Police Department as well as the DPW. Agrees with the Recreation Department due to the pond closure. However, is undecided about the amount of staff for summer camp, 28 vs. 30 councilors.

Mr. Silva agrees with Mr. Debarge on some of this. Asked if Mr. Gregoire and the Finance Committee looked at the necessities of the department? Each Department Head came in a gave an explanation as to what the necessity was for their request.

Mr. Gregoire explained that the Finance Committee did look at the necessity of the department but also affordability. The Committee was struggling as to where to draw the line. They did not discount any of the requests and needs, better long-term planning is needed.

Mr. Silva is concerned that the positions that the Board of Selectmen recommended are being not supported by the Finance Committee. Mr. Silva feels that the budget can sustain these positions.

Mr. Gregoire explained that there isn't a comfortable cushion with the levy right now and the positions requested will increase every year due to contracts which makes the Finance Committee very uncomfortable.

Mr. Goncalves thanked Mr. Gregoire for what a great job the Finance Committee does every year. He believes the Town has done a great job in keeping the rate down over the past few years. He agrees with Mr. Debarge & Mr. Silva that HR needs the additional personnel, especially after the pandemic. Mr. Goncalves also feels that the Police Department is over-worked, and crime is on the rise. Police reform and additional training that is needed now is taking a toll on the department and additional officers are needed. The DPW I had a difficult time with at the beginning by Mr. Santos convinced me that with the mandate, that money is needed. The councilors, it's a hit or miss due to the pandemic.

Mr. Goncalves still believes that the additional $240,000 requested by the school needs to be explained in more detail. Personally, Mr. Goncalves will support the level II budget request at Town Meeting.

Mr. Gregoire explained that for level-services budget, they would have needed about $350,000. The $241,000 is just to meet contractual obligations. Due to the pandemic our school system will be subsidized by Federal funds this year, therefore, next year our operating costs and contractual obligations will be much higher. In terms of the councilors for Recreation, there is some flexibility there.

Mr. Gennette values the Finance Committee and all of the time they put into going over the budget. He does agree with the budget moving forward to the Town Meeting. He certainly agrees with the HR Department. There needs to be a better plan for next year as to the timing of when the Department Heads can make requests, etc.

Mr. Rosenblum agrees with the HR Department. The Recreation Department does generate revenue. Mr. Rosenblum agrees with the budget as well. The process needs to change, and deadlines need to be set.

Mr. Gregoire wanted to reiterate that the DPW was only approved because it would have negatively impacted the DPW at level service. We want to get to the point where we are not reactionary with the budget.

Mr. Debarge agreed that this type of conversation is needed but much earlier in the year. He also complimented Ms. Villano and Ms. Collins for what a great job they did with the budget. Mr. Debarge feels this is a good start to where the Board should be headed.

6:30 p.m. – Quarterly Meeting Agenda with the Board of Public Works

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1. Trash Fees
***Billing**
***Structure**
***Trash Collection Fees/Contracts**

Mr. Santos, DPW Chairman explained that the billing for trash fees has been extremely difficult to complete. He has been working with Mr. Pereira, Tax Collector and Mr. Alves, Assistant Assessor. They thought they would be able to generate the invoices through MUNIS, however this was not the case. This has been ongoing since mid-January. If we are unable to process through MUNIS then we may have to send them out to be done or keep a running spreadsheet manually. Mr. Santos read the email with directions on how they would need to proceed with this.

Mr. Silva asked if Mr. Santos reached out to surrounding communities as to how they do their trash bills?

Mr. Santos stated that most of the cities have their own billing departments and handle it themselves. We did get information about one company that was doing it, but they no longer handle municipalities. In order for us to bill through the MUNIS system, we would have to purchase the software and then have training to do it.

Mr. Silva asked if this could be added to the tax bill?

Mr. Santos stated that Mr. Alves told him they cannot put anything in the tax bill that is not related to taxes.

Mr. Silva believes that you can put other things in with the tax bill and this would save money on the mailings, etc.

Mr. Goncalves asked if the information could be extracted from the MUNIS system and then put into a different form?

Ms. Villano explained that Ms. Collins did send an email to Mr. Alves explaining how this process should be done. It may be a little more work then processing them through MUNIS would be, however, because we are under the gun to get the invoices out, it will just need to be done.

Mr. Goncalves asked if the abatements could be avoided and just request a copy of the resident's license with the adjusted fee?

Mr. Santos believes it's in the best interest of the Town for the resident to fill out the abatement form. He read the information that will be enclosed with the trash bill.

Mr. Silva asked about the elderly resident that her son takes the trash, will she have to pay the fee?

Mr. Santos stated she will have to fill out the abatement fee and they will have to handle on a case by case basis. We are also trying to figure out how we are going to police this as well.

Mr. Silva asked about a three-family home and how they will be billed?

Mr. Santos stated that the bill will go to the owner of the property for all three units. Any multi-family home with four or more families, must get a dumpster.

Mr. Debarge asked how this information will be sent out to the residents and suggested a robo-call.

Mr. Santos agrees with Mr. Debarge and will do a robo-call, as well as, an article in the Register once there is a target date to send out the bills. The trash fee averages $1.97/ week for one 35-gallon trash barrel and all the recyclables you want.

Mr. Silva asked when the Town would be ordering the new bins for trash?

Mr. Santos stated that will cost the Town $623,000 for the bins and go automated. The current hauler does not have automated capabilities.

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Mr. Silva asked if a resident over 62 years old owns multiple properties in town, can they apply for the abatement for each property?

Mr. Santos stated that it will only be for the property they reside in.

2. **Plans to beautify the athletic fields (leveling and planting/mowing/general upkeep) *Possible dedicated crew**

Mr. Santos explained there is no plans for major work to the fields. We did some sodding in the fall and lined soccer fields. We have contacted Mr. Brillo, LYSA, and Ludlow Baseball. As far as a dedicated crew, we don't have enough personnel to have a dedicated crew on anything. Currently, the DPW has 13 full time employees. For the most part, there are two employees at the cemetery who do mowing, trimming, grave openings and funerals. Two to three employees on tree crew, they do trimming, removal, stump grinding, storm damage. We try to always have one-person street sweeping unless they are in the roadside mower. Transfer Station is open Wednesday through Saturday and we are very short staffed there. Usually the one person who works the transfer station on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, also does pot hole patching on Monday and Tuesday. On Wednesday, Thursday, Friday a road repair employee does pot hole patching. One mechanic in the garage who will also go out for sewer blockages or street sweeping. Road repair crew does construction projects, parts and field maintenance, road side mowing, weed whacking, sewer blockages, catch basins cleaning, sewer repairs, sign installations, and painting. They also assist other departments as well, such as School Department, Town Hall, Elections set up and take down, Veterans Services, Senior Center, Police Department, Fire Department, Library, Celebrate Ludlow and Festa. Budget for contracted services can be costly due to prevailing wages, therefore, bringing more employees onto the DPW will hopefully alleviate some of that.

Mr. Silva asked if there was a way to schedule something every afternoon for example?

Mr. Santos stated that it is prioritized according to baseball. For example, the entire month of May is mapped out as to what fields get used for which game and they try to fix home plate, lined the field and the mowing is scheduled. Once a week or every other week, the soccer fields are lined.

3. **Status of the New Cemetery**

Mr. Santos had a blueprint of what the new cemetery will look like. This was sent out to a private engineering form to go over it and give us bid documents. We received two quotes, one was $78,000 and the other was $83,000. In the perpetual care fund, there is one that is a trust and you cannot touch any of it. The other one you can use and it's from burial costs, funeral costs and the interest from the "trust" fund. In January, the burial fees were increased. We wanted to get the granite curb done, sign put up, landscaping and paving. Without an engineer, we had no cost evaluation. We decided to move forward with our annual bid contractors. Currently, the trees have been cut, the stumps have been removed, the old building has been demolished and removed, and the sidewalks have been removed. A land surveyor has been contacted and he will come out and put the four corners in, so we don't encroach on someone else's property. The annual bid contractor will come in and flatten it out. Our engineering department can lay out the actual grave sites themselves. We will use the annual bid contractor to lay the gravel in the roadway, the granite curb and the paving. We have plenty of loom but there will be a cost to truck it from one location to the other. We also have the gravel for the roadway as well.

Mr. Goncalves asked if you can buy a plot in advance at the new cemetery?

Mr. Santos stated that he doesn't want to sell in advance not knowing what their time frame will be. People will not be able to choose which lot they want at the new cemetery either, they are going in a row.

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Mr. Silva asked about the overflow parking for the cemetery/reservoir?

Mr. Santos stated that the DPW was asked to open the gate at the new cemetery temporarily for overflow parking, which they did. This gave an additional 15 spots. The Board of Public Works is concerned about when the new cemetery opens and possibly having cars parking on the road and blocking the gate. They are anticipating have to leave an employee there once the grave is ready for a funeral so there aren't any issues. There were also safety concerns with cars parking across the street and then running across Center Street.

4. **The Memorial landscaping at Island Pond Cemetery.**

Mr. Santos explained that Veterans Services wants to remove arborvitaes and mulch around the memorial and plant. Spoke with Eric Segundo and the Board of Public Works has no issues with this. Eric is very good at reaching out to the DPW for requests like this.

5. **Tree Report**

Mr. Santos gave the Board of Selectmen a copy of the report, in 2019 there were 965 total requests. Traffic signal repair, street debris removal, sewer blocks, damage to street signs, snow complaints and tree complaints. Under 'other' could be a wash out on the side of the road, a guardrail damaged, a dead animal, or flooding. In 2020 there were 733 total requests, 285 were tree complaints. Currently we have 146 total requests with 47 being tree complaints. When a complaint comes in, a work order is generated, and a description is given to the foreman and logged into the computer and a hard copy is on the desk. Once the work has been completed, it is logged in with the description from the crew who performed the work and the work order is removed from the system. This helps a lot with the pot holes especially.

6. **Recreation Letter**

Mr. Santos confirmed that the grant for the new bleachers fell through. The DPW did put new boards on the number one field. Once they get summer help in, they will belt sand them and put a coat of paint on them.

Ms. Villano reiterated that the town has tried over the past several years to get grants for the bleachers at Whitney. She thinks the Board of Selectmen should consider the bleachers as a capital project for next year.

Mr. Soares suggested including the press box and the scoreboard.

Mr. Santos stated that the scoreboard has been painted and repaired.

Mr. Debarge stated that Senator Lessor will be contacted for this project again.

7. Grant received by Veterans Services for continued monument restoration

Mr. Santos stated that the DPW did take some funds out of Perpetual Care to help Veterans Services and keep it going. The DPW will continue to help even though they received a grant because it's probably not going to go very far.

Mr. Debarge stated that the $18,800 for the grant received has very specific guidelines as to what it can be used for. Mr. Debarge was thankful to the DPW for the stone and loom for stones that were buried in the ground. Mr. Debarge asked Mr. Santos if the flags can go up for Armed Forces next week?

Mr. Santos will work with Veterans Services as much as they can, and they will put up the flags for Armed Forces week. The one at Town Hall may be an issue.

8. Director's job description

Mr. Santos explained that they could not do anything until recently because Mr. Suprenaunt was still on the payroll. He spoke with Ms. Ribeiro in Human Resources and there is a rough draft started. The Board of Public Works did go to Town Meeting and asked to take the PE designation out of the job description, which was approved. There are three surrounding towns looking for DPW Directors and we have been looking at their job descriptions to get a better idea of what we want ours to look like.

Mr. Debarge asked if the Board of Public Works would consider putting "Facilities Manager" into the Director's job description?

Mr. Santos does not feel that "Facilities Manager" should be put into the job description because if the Director's job is done correctly, it is a full-time job. The Facilities Manager position is a 25-30 hour a week position and needs to be done separate from the Director.

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Mr. Debarge would like for the discussion to at least be had by the Board of Public Works.

Mr. Santos will put that on the agenda for the next meeting and we will discuss that.

Mr. Silva stated that Wilbraham had a full time Facilities Manager and it took up most of his time and Wilbraham is much smaller than Ludlow in regards to buildings. They also had an Engineer. Mr. Silva also asked if the Board of Public Works was sure they do not need a full time Engineer on board.

Mr. Santos stated they do not because most of the Engineering done is through the Sewer Fund for Waste Water and plans and controls. The PE Designation was not being utilized. We would like to put an Engineering Firm on retainer in case anything comes up.

Mr. Silva asked if that is going to be cheaper?

Mr. Santos stated that it is.

Mr. Goncalves stated that usually it is a third-party review and the cost is passed on to the developers.

Mr. Gennette asked if there is going to be an issue with the employees working under them that are more qualified than the new administrator?

Mr. Santos stated that they will still need some type of construction background in order to do the job. We need to get it right this time around.

9. Paving projects

Mr. Santos stated that the following will start in the next few weeks: Parkview, Mountainview to Stivens Terrace, Reynolds, Pondview and Posner, Hill Terrace. Most of this is through Chapter 90. Preliminary roads up for discussion in the fall are Chapin, between Holyoke and Fuller, May Road, Fuller Street from Church to West, this is approximately $380,000. Then Cardinal Circle to Fuller. Manor, Colonial and Heritage are going to be next year. Booth Street will also be done. Pioneer Valley Planning Commission is going to do a study to examine each street in Town and then give us recommendations. The main roads and the more heavily used roads need to be completed.

Mr. Silva asked if there were any roads considered private ways that the residents would have to take care of?

Mr. Santos stated that all roads have been accepted by the Town as of right now.

Mr. Debarge asked if they could do a study for the intersection at Fuller and West?

Mr. Santos stated that they get two free studies per year but they used both of them for the heavy truck exclusion on Loopley and Swan.

Mr. Debarge asked about the signs coming off of Chapin onto Swan?

Mr. Santos stated they are still waiting for an answer from the DOT.

Mr. Debarge suggested putting the signs back up regardless.

Mr. Santos stated that you cannot do that because they can pull their Chapter 90 funds and the DPW currently receives $698,000 from them. Until they are approved, the signs cannot be put up.

10. Sewer Enterprise indirect cost

Mr. Santos gave a copy to the Board of Selectmen from 2013 to present. Health insurance and pension are actuals for the three employees that we have there. The shared employees are what we are questioning. Accounting, Tax Collector, Treasurer, IT, postage and DPW administration are all understood. The 2% for the Board of Selectmen is what we would like clarification for. Mr. Santos had reached out to some of the past Board members and they did not know either.

Mr. Goncalves asked Ms. Villano what involvement the Board of Selectmen have with the Sewer Enterprise fund?

Ms. Villano explained that it is for helping with the budget and fielding phone calls from residents.

Mr. Silva stated at one time the state came in and said there had to be indirect funds and the 2% is probably standard of what surrounding communities use.

Mr. Santos stated that after reading through the packet that Ms. Villano gave him, there isn't a standard rate, it goes by community to community. He asked if this was due to a lot of phone calls fielded by the Board of Selectmen?

Ms. Villano stated that there is a lot of time spent on this and she is unsure when the indirect costs were laid out for the Sewer Enterprise. If we want to take a more in depth look at it, we can but we need the Town Accountant's involvement.

Mr. Silva stated that you try to allocate how much time you spend on this.

Mr. Santos would like to know how this number is calculated? Debt services comes out of a different account now. The Board of Public Works is taking a hard look at the budget and where all of these funds are being used in order to be more diligent.

11. Exempt sewer accounts

Mr. Santos went through all of the municipality buildings that are exempt from paying a water bill. There are approximately 4800 sewer users and they pay $14.99 additional to pay for the municipal buildings. He asked if the Board of Selectmen if they thought it was appropriate to have the 4800 sewer users to pay for these buildings rather than the 21,000 tax payers?

Mr. Goncalves stated that yes, he believes the sewer users should because it's the cost of doing business.

Mr. Silva stated this is a community and we are all in this together. You cannot break out certain things.

Mr. Santos stated that is a double standard because we can take out 2% for indirect costs for the Sewer Enterprise fund but we can't charge them for the disposal. Most of this is sent to Springfield Water and Sewer because we don't process our own sewage. Mr. Santos stated that he can guarantee we have been to almost every municipal building for sewer blocks, etc. and that doesn't get charged to anyone. However, this sewer exempt account of $71,000 is going to Springfield Water and Sewer for disposal. The Board of Public Works does not feel it's fair to put all of the burden on the Sewer users when all the tax payers use these buildings. All of these buildings should have this cost into their operating budgets.

Ms. Villano stated that this would defeat the entire Sewer Enterprise system. If you want to really look at the funds being spent, the Town Hall pays the electricity, the utilities, the water, the gas, the repairs of most of the town buildings, including the DPW building.

Mr. Gennette believes this would be a nightmare because it could affect a lot of other things in Town.

Mr. Santos would rather pay a quarter of a cent then have someone else pay $14.99 per year.

Mr. Silva also stated that not all residents have the option to have public water.

Mr. Goncalves said this is something to discuss before the next budget is set.

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12. River walk maintenance agreement

Mr. Santos handed out the River Walk maintenance agreement to the Board of Selectmen and read page 3. This was maintained last year, minimally but then phone calls started coming in about ice and snow, etc. Being on the river, he reached out to Conservation and asked for help on how to treat the ice. Conservation finally sent a letter to Mr. Santos stating to use sand only while treating ice on the River Walk and not to use large trucks like bobcats for snow removal or trash pickup. We have no problem plowing it; however, we are concerned with using any type of ice melt and corroding the benches and light poles. Cost may be an issue, ice melt can cost up to $16.75 per bag which covers about 5,000 square feet and at 12 foot wide, this won't get us very far. We cannot use the spreader because the truck is too big, therefore, we would have to have a crew member walk behind a pick-up truck and manually spread it. This is going to be difficult and costly. The sand option will probably be out because over time you will get sand built up on the sides and then water will pool on the sidewalk. After speaking with Amherst, they leave their Riverwalk with snow and let their residents ski on it. Mr. Santos asked if it was possible to take the snow and ice removal section out of the agreement?

Ms. Villano stated that the entire Riverside Drive and the walk will become the Town property.

Mr. Silva stated once the vegetation is removed between the road and the sidewalk it will help with the ice melting.

Mr. Ouellette stated that a "use at your own risk" sign should be posted at the Riverwalk during the winter months.

Mr. Soares stated that the sidewalks in Town are not done by the DPW unless it is a safety walk.

Mr. Silva stated that this is a very special project that was done and it has to be maintained and it was agreed by the DPW in the past to do that.

Mr. Soares stated that the DPW also had a lot more employees then too.

Mr. Santos needs the funds in order to get these types of things done and we are trying to do our best with what we have. We are trying to be financially responsible.

Mr. Debarge agreed with Mr. Santos and everyone is trying to budget appropriately. The DPW needs to maintain the Riverwalk that is the bottom line.

Mr. Soares agrees and has no issues with maintaining it, but it's going to be difficult to do this in the winter months especially.

13. Arthur Street/Gaudreau – landlocked parcel – retention pond

Mr. Santos stated that the parcel is 113, which is in the middle and cannot be accessed. However, there is a retention pond there and we cannot do that because of the gradient.

Mr. Gennette asked if Mr. Gaudreau wanted three lots or a single lot?

Mr. Gaudreau stated it is a single lot and he has never seen water in the retention pond. He believes there is room on Arthur Street which would not affect the retention plan at all.

Mr. Goncalves stated that he would need about 60' of frontage.

All talking over each other.

Mr. Santos explained that they cannot do anything with the lot due to the retention pond. When that subdivision was done on Redwood Drive, the engineers did a storm water program and they calculated the size of the retention pond and what was needed to make sure they retain the runoff water from Wedgewood Drive. None of that can be changed by the DPW.

Mr. Gaudreau stated that he has never seen water in that pond and when he went to the meeting in 1997 and they just blew him off and they should have never landlocked him in.

Mr. Santos explained that he cannot address that but did explain that even though he is not seeing water in the pond, they have to have the capacity when necessary. Otherwise, this could flood surrounding homes.

Mr. Gaudreau asked how he goes about building a home there?

Mr. Santos stated that he needs to start at the Planning Board.

Mr. Goncalves believes that the two Boards should meet quarterly moving forward.

Mr. Rosenblum agreed with Mr. Goncalves and we need to be one Town.

CORRESPONDENCE

88. Manuel D. Silva, President of Silva Real Estate Services, Inc. – Right of First Refusal Request – Sale of Lot 0 East Street – Notice of Intent to Sell.

Moved by Mr. Debarge, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to table until all departments have responded. Vote 4-0-1. One abstention.

89. Request for an Alteration of Premises for Blue Water Sushi.

Moved by Mr. Silva, seconded by Mr. Debarge to schedule a public hearing for Blue Water Sushi. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

90. John D. Warner, Jr., Archivist of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts – notification of funding provided to the Town's application to the Veterans' Heritage Grant Program.

Moved by Mr. Debarge, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to file. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

91. Aimee Henderson, Eversource Community Relations Specialist – notifying the Board UDC, an authorized Eversource contractor, will be in our community and throughout Western Massachusetts performing field connectivity work which focuses on automation technology linking pole-top transformers with corresponding customer electric meters.

Moved by Mr. Silva, seconded by Mr. Debarge to file. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

92. Douglas J. Stefancik, Town Planner – requesting the Board to appoint Joshua Carpenter to be the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission Alternate Member.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Debarge to appoint Joshua Carpenter to be the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission Alternate Member. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

93. John R. Maher, Charter Communications – requesting the Board to consider Charter/Spectrum when utilizing federal funds that will become available for broadband to help expand broadband in our community.

Moved by Mr. Gennette, seconded by Mr. Debarge to file. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

94. 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 April 13, 2021.

Moved by Mr. Gennette, 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 Police Officer as a result of an incident that occurred on April 13, 2021. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

95. Michelle Goncalves, Chair Ludlow Cultural Council – informing the Board of the grant decisions for its FY21 grant cycle.

Moved by Mr. Debarge, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to file. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Moved by Mr. Silva, seconded by Mr. Debarge to approve and sign the Right of First Refusal for the Ludlow Country Club, Inc. – Lot 59 on Stevens Street and to not exercise the option to purchase the described premises. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Debarge to approve the Huxley Solar Pilot payment plan as submitted. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Debarge to table the First Amendment for Grant Administrator Services. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. Debarge, seconded by Mr. Silva to approve putting the basketball nets back up and notify the Board of Health. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Board discussed the Governor's updated COVID-19 Reopening Plan. Ms. Villano will check with the Board of Health to be sure there are postings about this. Mr. Debarge would like to verify it is also on

the Town's website.

Board discussed reopening of Town Hall. Ms. Villano stated the Board of Health is working on a plan and the Health Agent went around yesterday taking a survey from each department as to their concerns. She will be presenting a reopening plan and they will discuss at their meeting next week. Mr. Silva suggested opening as soon as possible because surrounding communities have already done this. Mr. Debarge agrees that it should be open already and does not want to wait until the 18th. Mr. Rosenblum would like to get the information from the Board of Health as soon as possible to open up. Mr. Goncalves agrees they should open but definitely need guidelines first. Ms. Villano reiterated that she is all for having Town Hall open, however some departments are much busier than others and should have a policy where residents wait in the hallway.

Board discussed alternate lighting for Sportsmen's Road as they are obsolete and no longer available. Ms. Villano explained that after she and Mr. Debarge met with Eversource, they were told each light is costing $44 per month currently and if they were to be replaced with the cobra lights, it would cost $6 - $12 per month each. Eversource will be replacing these lights at no cost to the town. The Planning Board is suggesting town and country lights for new developments, however, the town is not accepting the electricity for these and must be paid by the Homeowners Association.

Moved by Mr. Debarge, seconded by Mr. Gennette to replace the existing lights along Sportsmen's Road with the suggested cobra lights on existing poles. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. Silva, seconded by Mr. Debarge to approve and sign the ABCC 2021 Seasonal Renewal Certification Form. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Silva to approve and sign the 2021 Mechanical Amusement, Billiard and Sunday Entertainment Licenses. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. Silva, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to call Mr. Haluch from Haluch's Gravel Bank in to discuss the gravel bank permit. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Gennette to approve and sign the 2021 Junk Collector's License for Treasures of the World. Vote 4-0-1. One Abstention.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Gennette to approve and sign the 2021 Common Victualler's License for East Street Coffee Co. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Gennette to approve and sign the 2021 Entertainment License for East Street Coffee Co. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

BOARD UPDATES/MISCELLANEOUS

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.

Mr. Gennette updated the Board that the Disability Committee has at least five letters of interest so far.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Mr. Debarge thanked Scout Troop 1774 boys and girls for the clean up of East Street from the underpass near Carmelina's Circle all the way down to the downtown area. They picked up 345 pounds of trash total. The flower box by Sosa's had flowers planted recently as well. It's nice to see these groups getting involved and would like to thank everyone. Wanted to let everyone know that there will be a meatloaf dinner, which includes mashed potatoes, gravy and a vegetable on May 17th from 5-7 sponsored by the VFW post 3236 /Sgt. Joshua Desforges and all proceeds will benefit the VFW and Elk's Veterans programs. Tickets are $10 each or $25 for a family of four. This is a pick up and drive up only at the Ludlow Lodge of Elks on 69 Chapin Street. For tickets and reservations call 893-8800 or Veterans Services Director, Eric Segundo. Mr. Debarge would also like to remind everyone that the month of May is Armed Forces appreciation month and thank you to all of the veterans.

Mr. Goncalves thanked the DPW for the productive meeting they had with them. Wanted to remind residents that May 10th is the Town Meeting and every precinct is in need of members and encouraged residents to consider coming on board. Reminded residents to be aware of the scams out there.

Mr. Silva advise residents not to let their guard down with the pandemic. We will get through this. Congratulated the Cares Coalition in meeting their goals of 2021 acts of kindness.

Mr. Gennette requested letters of interest for the Disability Commission. Remind residents to be careful driving, especially for kids on bikes.

Mr. Rosenblum echoed Mr. Gennette's comments of being careful driving out there. Adhere to the guidelines for Massachusetts with COVID. As far as scams go, please be aware of the Amazon scam. Apparently, the scammers are calling to "confirm" your purchase and then they get your credit card information. He also thanked the DPW for coming into the meeting tonight. One thing that he wanted to clarify about the trash is that you only need a purple bag is you are over the 35 gallons that is allotted or if you go to the transfer station. Please be mindful of your neighbors when getting rid of grass clippings and things of that nature as well. Be kind to one another.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Gennette to adjourn this meeting at 9:35 p.m. and not return to open meeting, and enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter and possible litigation matter. Vote 5-0. 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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