The Meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on Tuesday, July 6, 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 Manuel Silva

First Order of Business: The Pledge of Allegiance

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Visitations:

6:00 p.m. – Matt Walting, Student Film Producer and Layla O'Shea, Co-Producer of Walting Entertainment – Film Production Days (Correspondence #129)

Mr. Rosenblum explained that the 6 O'clock visitation is with Matt Walting, Student Film Producer and Layla O'Shea, Co-Producer of Walting Entertainment. Asked Mr. Watling to explain what they will be doing.

Mr. Walting explained that they will be producing a 15-minute short film, with the goal of filming at Primavera Café Restaurant on East Street and Hubbard Street. The production base camp will be set up in the parking lot behind St. John the Baptist School. The production consists of about fifteen people and five cast members at most. We will be doing some stunt work out in front of the restaurant and would like to ask the Town about possible road closures during this time for the safety of the crew. It would be a portion of East Street, not its entirety, surrounding their very specific location.

Ms. O'Shea explained that it should be just one day of stunt work outside. It's just going to be a little bike accident. The story is about a neighborhood restaurant owner who has an altercation with a new person in town who is of Hispanic descent. She hits him on his bike accidently, but it's partly his fault because he was running after somebody who was stealing salt and pepper shakers. He makes some very rude remarks regarding her culture and background and it's a story about him trying to make up for doing that. The woman had a tough background and you know by the end that he's redeemed himself.

Mr. Gennette asked how much of East Street would be blocked off for this? He also asked how many days and/or hours it would be blocked off?

Mr. Walting the road closures are only needed for one day, which would be August 16th. It will need to be between the two points on either side of Primavera at the intersections where Hubbard Street is. It should be a very short detour just right down passed where it branches off and then up one street and your back right on East Street. The stunt scene we are doing will done in two separate scenes and it's the same stunt. It shouldn't be lengthy about an hour at a time but twice that day for about an hour at a time.

Ms. O'Shea asked if it would be better to have the traffic stopped for certain times because the scene is going to take place for maybe a minute or two. So, if we had a Police Officer directing traffic so it's not a complete closure.

Mr. Walting explained that we've reached out to both the Fire Department and the Police Department. He talked with the Fire Department about necessary safety precautions. He is still waiting to hear back from the Chief of Police.

Mr. Rosenblum asked the Chief to have a seat at the table.

Chief Valadas wanted to verify that they were proposing to block off Hubbard, East at Prospect, East at Highland and East at Winsor during periods of the filming?

Mr. Walting stated that was correct.

Chief Valadas explained if the road was going to be blocked they will need to have to have a detail officer there. For an operational period of 8 hours, the cost for three officers with no Supervisor it's about $1300- $1400. The Police Department could coordinate with the DPW to bring out horses. He does not think that cruisers are needed by if they wanted them, it would be an additional $120 for an 8-

hour period. They can have the road blocked to make it easier. He asked Mr. Walting if he was going to have lines going across the road?

Mr. Walting explained that those are no longer happening due to the budget. That was one of the easiest things to remove from their plans.

Chief Valadas explained that putting something on the surface of a public way would be tricky and you could not have anything go over that. If something happened to it, they would be completely responsible for it. Chief Valadas asked if they were looking for all four days for the Police Officers?

Mr. Walting explained that it will only be needed for one day.

Chief Valadas asked if it was for the 9th, the 10th, the 16th and the 17th.

Mr. Walting explained they only need the closure for the one day.

Ms. O'Shea asked if the $1300 for one day?

Chief Valadas stated it was for one 8-hour day and gave them a hand out of the rates for what it costs for Police Officers.

Mr. Goncalves asked Mr. Walting if he was going to do one of the stunts in the morning and then one in the afternoon?

Mr. Walting stated that was correct.

Mr. Goncalves asked the Chief if there is a minimum of hours?

Chief Valadas explained that there is. The minimum is four and then afterwards it would be two-hour increments. Then after 8 hours it is time and a half, and those rates are contractual. The officer will be in full uniform with full Police powers so if something else happens they would able to have radio contact with the central dispatch. They would be hiring a Police Officer for security and traffic. They would be working for you as a contractor or contracted service. The total would be $1374.72 for three officers for an 8-hour period.

Mr. Debarge explained that Mr. Walting could go down to four hours. Then if you go over four, it goes to six, if you go over six it goes to eight.

Mr. Walting explained that the Assistant Director's will come up with the plan for scheduling how the scene should be filmed before they make the final decision on this. He asked the Chief how quickly he would need to have their decision?

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Chief Valadas explained that the earlier the better. Some companies call us up the morning of the event and this becomes more difficult.

Mr. Walting guaranteed that will not happen with them.

Chief Valadas explained the more lead time they have it makes it easier to coordinate with the DPW get wooden horses out there to block the road. The Police Department will probably do a press release, but the vendor must provide all signage for detours. Whenever you do detour it must be done in the correct manner. If not, it can be a source of complaints.

Mr. Walting thanked them for the meeting.

Chief Valadas wished them good luck with the production and gave them his card to be in touch. He also explained Mr. Walting can call and asked for the Shift Supervisor and they would be able to take his request. He stressed that the most lead time that he could give would be more advantageous.

Mr. Gennette asked if this is a school project or if it was going to be a premier somewhere?

Mr. Walting explained that it is not a school project. It's a personal passion project between he and Ms. O'Shea.

Ms. O'Shea explained that they've already had a feature film that was done and it's on Amazon Prime and you tube now. She also explained that Matt was the youngest best Director at the Film Festival a couple years back.

Mr. Walting explained that it's ironic because he believes they shot that one in Ludlow as well.

Ms. O'Shea stated that they filmed the bar scene at the El-Cid.

Mr. Walting said they also filmed on a couple of the streets up by the Wilbraham border as well.

Mr. Gennette asked if this film will also be on Amazon Prime?

Ms. O'Shea explained that they're hoping it will be and they are also going to submit it to film festivals and have some kind of premier and everything as well.

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Mr. Goncalves asked what the one is called that's already on Amazon Prime?

Ms. O'Shea stated that it's called "Just say Goodbye". It's a heavy drama about teen suicide and has done very well.

Mr. Goncalves stated that there was another movie filmed out in this area. It was a long time ago, but it was "Lady in White" and it was filmed Ludlow/Wilbraham about 15-18 years ago. It was a thriller, paranormal, ghost type thing.

Chief Valadas stated that they also filmed some scenes for John Travolta's movie, "A Civil Action" in nearby Palmer.

Mr. Silva also stated that there's a movie that using all of Ludlow's "welcome to Ludlow" signs. He can't remember the name of it though.

Mr. Walting commented that now that the pandemic is over, the movie business is back. Netflix was up over in Westover not too long ago and everyone is here again.

Ms. O'Shea stated there was some heavy hitters on that production.

CORRESPONDENCE

127. Attorney Joshua Y. Levine – Petition for the transfer of an All Alcoholic Beverage License and location change for Turnpike Package Store, Inc. to Ludlow Gurukrupa, Inc. Board to schedule a Public Hearing.

Moved by Mr. Silva, seconded by Mr. Gennette to schedule a Public Hearing for the All Alcoholic Beverage License change from Turnpike to Ludlow Gurukrupa, Inc. Vote 4-0-1. One Abstention.

128. John W. Parsons, Esq. – notifying the Board of the status report of the Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission (PERAC) issued to the Hampden County Regional Retirement Board (HCRRB) on June 24, 2021.

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

129. Matt Walting, Student Film Producer, Walting Entertainment – requesting approval for a small portion of East Street and Hubbard Street adjacent to Primavera Café Restaurant to be closed to thru traffic, excluding local and business traffic, during the following production days for the safety of cast and crew: August 8-10 and August 15-17.

Moved by Mr. Silva, seconded by Mr. Debarge to approve the request from Matt Walting for the film production on August 8th through the 17th pending approvals from the Ludlow Fire and Police Departments. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

130. Michele Goncalves, Ludlow Cultural Council – requesting approval to use the parking spaces at the Ludlow Public Schools Chestnut Street building for their community market event being held on October 2-3, 2021 at the Gazebo.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Silva to approve the request to use the parking spots at the Ludlow Public Schools Chestnut Street building for the Ludlow Cultural Council's fair on October 2-3, 2021. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

131. List of Finance Committee Appointed Liaisons.

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

132. Ginger Jackson-Gleich, Policy Counsel, Prison Policy Initiative – correspondence to the Board.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Moved by Mr. Debarge, seconded by Mr. Gennette to approve and sign the Selectmen Meeting Minutes of February 16, 2021 with all members present. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. Debarge, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to approve and sign the Selectmen Meeting Minutes of May 10, 2021 with all members present. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. Debarge, seconded by Mr. Gennette to approve and sign the Selectmen Meeting Minutes of May 4, 2021 with all members present. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

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Moved by Mr. Gennette, seconded by Mr. Debarge to approve the end of year transfer for the Human Resource Department in the amount of $6,671.44. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Moved by Mr. Debarge, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to approve and sign three (3) copies of the contract between COMSTAR, LLC and the Ludlow Fire Department for Ambulance Billing for temporary services. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. Debarge, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to appoint Octavia Anderson as the Animal Control Officer for the Town. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. Debarge, seconded by Mr. Silva to appoint the Election Officers as read by Mr. Debarge. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. Debarge, seconded by Mr. Gennette to approve and sign the Gravel Bank permits. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Board perused the Executive Session Meeting Minutes of June 1, 2021.

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. Goncalves stated that the cable committee had a preliminary meeting on negotiations of the new contract, which should be given to the Board next week.

Ms. Villano stated that the contract will be coming before the Board the week of the 20th.

Ms. Villano also updated the Board that the bid for the War Memorial went out and are due by the 30th. Therefore, the Board should be able to appoint the contract at the next meeting. The bid for the payroll services went out and that will probably take effect the beginning of October. The RFP bid was put out for the Ambulance Billing and Collections services.

Mr. Goncalves regarding the new owner of the trailer park, the Building Commissioner was concerned that there may be something in the law that prohibits him from replacing the old units. After some research, Mr. Goncalves found a couple of case laws that he thought may pertain to his ability to go in and immediately change them out. He sent a quick note to Town Counsel, Rose Crowley and asked to interpret these cases, which will hopefully prevent in by-law changes. Mr. Goncalves believes he will be able to replace those units as well as increase the park up to 25% if he wanted to. Hopefully he will have an answer at the next Board of Selectmen meeting.

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Mr. Silva asked if the unregistered cars on the property has been addressed yet?

Chief Valadas stated that this issue is being worked through. A gentleman did come into the Police Department Saturday and wanted to file a larceny suit against the Town and Mr. Lennon for stealing property. Mr. Lennon provided the documentation that was sent to the residents.

Mr. Goncalves stated that there is a rent control commission now. It is made up of Mr. Goncalves, Dolly Cincone, Michael Szlosek and Mary Evangelista. They will be meeting to go over the rent increase.

Mr. Gennette asked the Chief if the Police Department is actively ticketing speeders in town or has that changed due to the pandemic?

Chief Valadas explained that the officers have always enforced the laws of the Commonwealth but it's at the discretion of the Police Officers. During COVID there was less contact with people and more warnings given out. The staff has been notified to assign a post to certain areas and enforce traffic violations.

Mr. Gennette stated that it feels like speeding has gotten worse this year but thanked the Chief for the update.

Chief Valadas explained that the Police Department is looking into someone who went through town and made circular burn patches. There was at least five. It happened on Kendall and Holyoke, West Street, Center and Moore, Church and Fuller, Pineknoll and Rood. If the person lives in Ludlow we more than likely will find them.

Mr. Goncalves mentioned the inappropriate protest signs at the Turnpike entrance regarding the president.

Chief Valadas stated he did not see any signs like that in Ludlow. However, the sign is not obscene because there isn't any pornographic material therefore it is protected just like flag burning on a public venue but not on the street. If the flag/sign holder stepped into the street, then that is illegal but if they are on the sidewalk they are protected. The sign itself is not a threat and is protected.

Mr. Silva asked if the protests are even further protected?

Chief Valadas stated that school cases are usually winning because it is a control venue and learning environment but public buildings if it is not obscene and not threatening it's protected. The protesters could stand on the front steps of the Town Hall and there's not much you could do about it.

Mr. Rosenblum asked where the protesters were standing?

Mr. Goncalves believes they were in front of Dunkin Donuts.

Mr. Debarge stated that it was not a safety issue so therefore it was protected because it was only language.

Chief Valadas also commented that panhandling in Massachusetts use to be illegal but it's not any longer. Private property is different, and they can be removed from there.

Mr. Silva stated that there has been a considerable number of panhandlers now.

Chief Valadas stated that certain statues are protected. You cannot vandalize things, but you can hold a sign and be protected.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Mr. Gennette stated that he was called out for a remark he made at the last meeting regarding knowing your precinct members and where to vote and he's happy that people are paying attention.

Mr. Debarge hoped everyone had a safe and happy Independence Day. He stated that last week before the weekend he took a ride through the Mills to look at progress there and around there. He was very disappointed at how East Street looked. There are weeds everywhere and some of the flower boxes didn't have any flowers. He would like to see more businesses get involved with their store fronts but feels that it is the Selectmen's responsibility to make sure Ludlow looks nice when people come in.

Mr. Goncalves hopes everyone had a nice Fourth of July weekend. Reminds the elderly about the scams. Open enrollment is starting for Medicare so be sure you know who you are speaking with. No one should ask you for your social security number or a credit card number. Open enrollments begins October 15th so just be careful.

Mr. Rosenblum wants to let the residents know that the trash is on a regular schedule this week. He also put in on the Ludlow Community Forum to inform everyone. Please let your neighbors know as well.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Gennette to adjourn this meeting at 6:33 p.m. and not return to open meeting but enter into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing strategy for negotiations with Ludlow Police Dispatch. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Vice Chairman

Ludlow Board of Selectmen

All related documents can be viewed at the Board of Selectmen's Office during regular business hours.