The Meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on Tuesday, August 31, 2021 began at 5:30 p.m. Remote participation due to COVID-19.

Members Present: William Rosenblum, Chairman, Derek Debarges, James Gennette, Antonio Goncalves and Manuel Silva

First Order of Business: The Pledge of Allegiance

Visitations:

Ludlow Housing Tenant Member Interviews Beginning at 6:00 p.m.:

6:00 p.m. – Raymond Charles Anderson

Mr. Rosenblum: First, Mr. Raymond Charles Anderson. How are you, Mr. Anderson? Yes, come on right up.

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Mr. Goncalves: Hot seat.

Mr. Rosenblum: Hot seat, yes, absolutely. You can speak right into that microphone right there. How are you Mr. Anderson?

Mr. Anderson: Fine, how are you?

Mr. Rosenblum: Good. Thank you for your interest. Generally, what we do in any kind of interview is that we let you, umm, let the person go ahead and tell us a little bit about yourselves and the Board would generally ask some questions and then we kind of give you a final statement type of thing. So, if you want to go ahead and introduce yourself and tell us a little bit about yourself that would be great.

Mr. Anderson: I'm Raymond Anderson, my wife is Shirley. We've lived in housing for 15 years. We like it there very much and I've also worked there for 12 years, in maintenance and I feel I have a lot to bring because what do they call it a tenant seat, that's what it's called? I don't know that much about it but if it's something I can do to help the tenants to you know, ease their minds and help them. Especially new tenants, when they come in their scared, they don't know what's going on, but if they have questions maybe they can come to me and I know a lot about Wilson Street, State Street, Chestnut Street because I've worked at all three facilities. I pretty much know what's going on and things that need to be done, that could be done but it's, you know basically it's up to the tenants, get their opinion on what they want done. That's how I feel.

Mr. Rosenblum: Okay. Thank you very much. Does anyone have any questions for Mr. Anderson?

Mr. Silva: I have a question Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Rosenblum: Mr. Silva.

Mr. Silva: Mr. Anderson could you tell me something that you would like to have done or see that would really help the residents there?

Mr. Anderson: One of the big problems we have there is parking. There's not enough parking. All three developments. I know there's no land but that's a big issue. Parking, people are fighting, people are, visitors come in and they park in a tenant's spot and that raises heck and that's tough. I don't know what they're going to do about it and all three sights are the same way. We have trouble with plowing in the winter time, you get a big snowstorm, you got to find a place to put the cars so the vendors can come in and plow so they can put their cars back. That's another issue.

Mr. Silva: Thank you. That's it for now.

Mr. Gennette: Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Rosenblum: Mr. Gennette.

Mr. Gennette: Mr. Anderson how are you doing tonight, pretty good?

Mr. Anderson: I'm good, I'm good.

Mr. Gennette: So, do you know anybody that's on the housing commission now?

Mr. Anderson: Huh?

Mr. Gennette: Do you know anybody that's on that Board now?

Mr. Anderson: Yes, I do.

Mr. Gennette: You do. Do you have a pretty good relationship with them? Do you think that they're doing a fair job of,

Mr. Anderson: Umm, yes, I do. Yes, I do.

Mr. Gennette: Thank you.

Mr. Rosenblum: Mr. Debarge?

Mr. Debarge: Yes, umm, Mr. Anderson I found something interesting in my travels as a Police Officer in this town, as well as, a Selectman. One of the things I found interesting was the lack of fire escapes at the Wilson Street building.

Mr. Anderson: That's a big issue.

Mr. Debarge: So, I contacted the State, why in new construction they didn't have egresses out in the back of the building? It's something that would be too cost effective is what I was told or I'm sorry too costly is what I was told. My point with all this, is that's what I would consider a serious flaw in the building of those. As we know tenants don't move as fast as they used to and not having a secondary egress is dangerous. Other than what I'm bringing up, what would you say is something that you would urge the housing authority to do in all of its properties?

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Mr. Anderson: I know it would be very expensive to put back doors on those developments that you are talking about. Those are the newer developments that were built in 1989, Wilson Street.

Mr. Debarge: Correct.

Mr. Anderson: The front building and the back building, you're right they have no back doors. The first floor is not too bad, you could climb out a window if you had to. Second floor is pretty high, you're not getting out. Especially an 80-year-old woman. She's not going to be climbing out a window. That would be tough.

Mr. Debarge: Yeah, I don't think I would be either.

Mr. Anderson: So, what would have to be done, they would have to have fire escapes somehow put on the back. That's been an, that's an issue for years they've been talking about that.

Mr. Debarge: Okay.

Mr. Anderson: Very expensive.

Mr. Debarge: Yeah. That's all I have.

Mr. Rosenblum: Thank you. Mr. Goncalves.

Mr. Goncalves: Yeah, I'm just wondering what is your vision for the future as far as growth of housing units etc.? Something you'd like to go after, see happen? Do you think we have a manageable amount or we should pursue monies for additional units?

Mr. Anderson: I know that housing has a tough time with budgets, they don't get enough money to really extend you know, make more units, improve on them. It's tough, it's really hard. I'd like to see bigger you know, better parking you know.

Mr. Goncalves: I believe that the parking issue is being addressed or somewhere, wasn't there a long-term plan here for parking? Next three, four years. So, that's going to help.

Mr. Anderson: Like I said, I've been there for 15 years and I think from year one it's always been an issue.

Mr. Goncalves: Is that and everyone is here, the Granville, Granville Street or Granville...is that anything that's in the near future or?... Okay I'm good, thank you Mr. Anderson.

Mr. Anderson: I know one of the things, the tenants they come in there and they're scared. You know and they have issues but they're afraid to say anything, you know. Being the maintenance man people, you know I go to their apartments to do some maintenance and they have other things that need repair and I tell them well, why didn't you put in a work order. Well, they're afraid they're going to get evicted. Can you imagine that? That's a terrible thing to think, you know. So, what we got to do is let them know that we are there for them, you know if they got issues, tell us, you know.

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Mr. Goncalves: That's great.

Mr. Rosenblum: I kind of have like a Derek Debarge question, got a couple points to it. Being that this appointment isn't until March, do you intend to continue with the position after March?

Mr. Anderson: To be honest with you, first I have to find out what it entails. You know, I don't know, I don't know what my duties are going to be, you know. If I like it, I'll stay. I'm not going anywhere, I'm 75 years old.

Mr. Rosenblum: Okay. Well, that kind of goes into actually the next part of my question is that there are necessary trainings that go along with it. So, would you be willing, there's, it would include a five-hour training with online sessions,

Mr. Anderson: Sure.

Mr. Rosenblum: that's takes computer testing and periodic Board training classes, so.

Mr. Anderson: Being in the maintenance department, I've done that already.

Mr. Rosenblum: Okay. Alright. I'm good.

Mr. Anderson: Getting back to Mr. Debarge, we used to have a drive through, walk throughs, they used to come through with the bikes. I don't know if they're doing that anymore.

Mr. Debarge: I don't know either sir to be honest with you. I don't know. I'm retired from there now but,

Mr. Anderson: Talk to my daughter, she is a dispatcher, that's Shelby, Shelby Anderson,

Mr. Debarge: Oh, okay. Yep.

Mr. Anderson: and she says they've been coming through but I don't know what time they've been coming through.

Mr. Debarge: Yeah, the shifts are kind of sporadic, you know depending on staffing and,

Mr. Anderson: And that's a big concern about the tenants because some of the tenants are up late, they do the laundry late and it would be nice to see a guy come through on a bike just to say hello. It makes them feel better, more secure.

Mr. Debarge: Sure.

Mr. Rosenblum: Alright.

Mr. Anderson: I mean those are some of the things that I think of right now. I'm sure I got more.

Mr. Rosenblum: That's all you have to say? Any closing remarks to anything? You're good?

Mr. Anderson: I'll just say that if I am elected, I'll do my best.

Mr. Rosenblum: We appreciate that. Thank you very much.

Mr. Gennette: Thank you Mr. Anderson.

Mr. Goncalves: Thank you Mr. Anderson.

Mr. Anderson: Thank you.

Mr. Silva: Thank you sir.

Mr. Debarge: Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Rosenblum: Mr. Debarge.

Mr. Debarge: I'm sorry Robin, Ms. Carbide I didn't recognize you, maybe we could have, could you explain what the housing authority actually does? Since everybody's here.

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Ms. Carbide: What we do?

Mr. Debarge: Yeah, for the ones that are applying.

Ms. Carbide: So, we have housing for elderly...over 60 and under 60 disabled. We have 150 one-bedroom units and we have two congregates. We have 16 family houses spread out across Ludlow. So, the Board, we get our budget, I myself as the Director do the daily running of all the regular business and then we have a Board, they basically make policies and review budgets and CIPs for capital funding. We have an annual plan where we have you know what our state funds are going to go for, if we need any accessibility funds or things like that. So, the Board...they're kind of an over-seer of how it's run. So, everything basically, the day to day goes basically to me and all big plans, monies and all that, gets all approved by them and policies that kind of decision they would make like you know selling land or different things like that, different policies we do. Umm, as a Board member we usually have our meeting on Wednesday's, the third Wednesday of the month at 11:00 at the 114 Wilson Street. The five hours of training is through the HCD and we're state only, we have no Federal program. So, we are run by the HCD, they're the ones who subsidize our unit. At this point to answer, I believe it was your question, the HCD is not expanding to subsidize in housing unit at this time. We are working with Mass housing to see about the land over on Grandview to see what our options are. If it's ours to use on our own or if the HCD has to oversee us. So, basically, we're landlords to elderly and disabled low income.

Mr. Silva: So, I got a little confused. So, we have a Housing Authority and there's three members I believe on the Housing Authority or is it,

Ms. Carbide: The Board?

Mr. Silva: Yes.

Ms. Carbide: There's five positions.

Mr. Silva: Five total.

Ms. Carbide: Yes.

Mr. Silva: Now this here, the way it's written it's Ludlow Housing Tenant Member.

Ms. Carbide: Correct, meaning,

Mr. Silva: Is that one in the same or is this another facet of the Housing Authority?

Ms. Carbide: No, no there's five positions on the Board. One is State appointed by the Governor. Three are voted in by the Town and there's one now, this is the new position that is mandated through the State that one of your members has to be a tenant. We actually have two other tenants on the Board but this going to be a set one.

Mr. Silva: Right so this, this, he's actually on the Board not just,

Ms. Carbide: No, this is a Board member, a regular Board member, yeah.

Mr. Silva: Just wanted to make sure because I thought this was like a, you know a tenant member I thought they had another little,

Ms. Carbide: No, they do have things called...for the tenants but we don't have an...

Mr. Silva: Okay. I'm clear now.

6:10 p.m. – Manuel F. Chaves, Jr.

Mr. Rosenblum: Alright. Moving along, our next interview is Manuel Chaves, Jr. How are you sir?

Mr. Chaves: Fantastic, how are you guys?

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Mr. Rosenblum: Like your shirt.

Mr. Chaves: Thank you.

Mr. Goncalves: Thought it was Grisly Adams for a minute.

Mr. Chaves: I'm Manuel Chaves, I live at 19 Hampden Street and umm, I got, I'm retired machinist of 25 years. I worked as a carpenter for 10 and here I am. I'm a volunteer for Ludlow Housing for the last two years because they were short-handed. Umm, that's about it. My shoe size is 11.

Mr. Rosenblum: Could you repeat that, I missed it?

Mr. Chaves: My sneaker size is size 11.

Mr. Rosenblum: Is that medium or wide?

Mr. Chaves: That's wide.

Mr. Rosenblum: Okay.

Mr. Goncalves: This comes with a clothing allowance?

Mr. Chaves: It should.

Mr. Rosenblum: Excellent. Mr. Gennette.

Mr. Gennette: You said you did some volunteering and I'm just wondering what that was?

Mr. Chaves: I take out the trash on State and Meadow Street.

Mr. Gennette: State and Meadow? Do you know the Board as well? That was the last question I asked Mr. Anderson.

Mr. Chaves: No, I don't know them. I don't know the Board.

Mr. Gennette: You don't. So, you don't know if you get along with them yet or not?

Mr. Chaves: I get along with everybody.

Mr. Gennette: That's a great answer. Thank you.

Mr. Rosenblum: Proven his point so far. Mr. Silva.

Mr. Silva: Yeah, my question is, where would you, anything that you would like to see change that would improve the residents?

Mr. Chaves: Well, my pet peeve is the curb appeal. It seems like Ludlow Housing has all kinds of money of buying houses and redoing them but maintaining what we have, the money is not there. I don't know what's going on. You know, we got a dumpster on Meadow Street, it looks like a ghetto. If you guys ever take a ride down Meadow Street and take a look at it. I do my best, I buy bleach, I do whatever I can to stop the stink from it but umm, that's the way it is and it's been like that for four years.

Mr. Silva: All set.

Mr. Rosenblum: Mr. Debarge.

Mr. Debarge: Mr. Silva stole my question because I had brought up one of the concerns that I had is, in my travels was the egresses. So, I was going to ask you what you thought was something that you would, if you had the deciding factor on the Board for which direction to go in any of its places what would do and you answered the question. I don't disagree with you about curb appeal when it comes to a lot in this town. Businesses, there's front stores of businesses, East Street as well, trying, some of us our trying to clean it all up. So, I'm with you on that. If there's anything you want to add to it but like I said you,

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Mr. Chaves: You know as far as fire escapes where I live in, we got two, two hallways you know per side okay and you know they're four feet wide. You can get out of that building in a flash. Okay.

Mr. Debarge: Yep.

Mr. Chaves: Plus, it's all concrete. I mean it ain't going to burn. The only thing that's going to burn you know is maybe a sofa or if they fall asleep smoking a cigarette, whatever, which they shouldn't be doing anyways but umm, you know as far as getting out of the building, I think they're fine.

Mr. Debarge: Okay.

Mr. Rosenblum: Mr. Goncalves.

Mr. Goncalves: Just again, I mean do you have a bigger vision as to what the Housing Authority should be bringing to the town?

Mr. Chaves: All I, to me it's just the curb appeal and the way things are going right now they're acceptable to me because we're short-handed. I mean if there's something wrong with somebody's apartment, I mean you got a look and say hey you know what I mean, they only got two guys, I mean and they got all these people, you know all these apartments to do. I mean you can only do so much. You know what I mean?

Mr. Goncalves: There's two maintenance people is that it?

Ms. Carbide: Right now, we have one.

Mr. Chaves: We only have one right now.

Ms. Carbide: We have one starting tomorrow.

Mr. Goncalves: Oh, okay. That's because Mr. Anderson left?

Ms. Carbide: No, Mr. Anderson left a few years ago.

Mr. Goncalves: Oh, okay. I'm good.

Mr. Rosenblum: You're good?

Mr. Goncalves: Yes.

Mr. Rosenblum: Umm, obviously this goes until March. Would you be looking to continue after March?

Mr. Chaves: Absolutely, as long as you need me, I'm here.

Mr. Rosenblum: Okay and you have no problem doing any necessary training, such as the five-hour online training..., computer testing?

Mr. Chaves: Whatever's got to be done.

Mr. Rosenblum: Okay. That is all I have. Umm, would you like to, any closing remarks or umm, are you a large in your shirt?

Mr. Chaves: This to me is kind of intimidating you know what I mean. It's like,

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Mr. Rosenblum: You're handling yourself well though?

Mr. Chaves: Well, glad you think so.

Mr. Debarge: Yeah, I appreciate your candor. You're handling it very well.

Mr. Rosenblum: We all live in town...

Mr. Chaves: It's all a facade believe me. I have my boss right over here.

Mr. Rosenblum: Alright then. Well, thank you very much Mr. Chaves for coming in.

Mr. Chaves: Thank you for allowing me to be here.

6:20 p.m.- Jon S. Baldwin

Mr. Rosenblum: Next, we have John S. Baldwin.

Mr. Debarge: Hi, Mr. Baldwin.

Mr. Rosenblum: How are you sir?

Mr. Baldwin: Hi. I'm good.

Mr. Rosenblum: Mr. Baldwin, thank you for coming in this evening. As you probably heard, if you'd like to make an opening comment or anything, open comments, then the Board will ask you some questions and then if you have anything else to say. So, the floor is yours.

Mr. Baldwin: Okay. I live on 116 Wilson Street. I owned my own business for 30 years. I worked for the Board when they hired Robin. I was on the search committee for the new Director. I'm on the

grievance committee now and I would like to help Ludlow Housing in any way I can and give back. They were very good to me and gave me a nice home to live in where I'm very happy and that's about it.

Talking over each other.

Mr. Rosenblum: Mr. Debarge, would you like to start?

Mr. Debarge: Sure. Mr. Baldwin thanks for coming in. It's always nice no matter what aspect of it for town service for people to want to volunteer and be and get involved. In the interest for staying on course I would ask you the same thing and it doesn't have to be what my concern was about the property you live in; it could be what your greatest concern is about all the properties or Ludlow Housing as a whole. So, if you were given, if you were given the power to make the next decision on where, which direction it was going to go, where would you go?

Mr. Baldwin: Well, to be honest I think Robin is doing a fantastic job there. I don't have any complaints. I don't really, I mean, what more can people ask for. I mean you have a very nice, clean place to live, it's safe.

Mr. Debarge: That's a perfectly good answer too.

Mr. Baldwin: She's doing a superb job in my opinion.

Mr. Debarge: She is.

Mr. Baldwin: I think the Board is doing a good job. I don't have any complaints there.

Mr. Debarge: Great.

Mr. Rosenblum: Mr. Goncalves.

Mr. Goncalves: Just again keeping in line. Do you see a bigger picture your involvement, wanting to get bigger, more aggressive seeking funds? Would that be part of what you'd think you'd like to do?

Mr. Baldwin: If that would be part of it, I would be happy to help in any possible way I could, yeah.

Mr. Goncalves: Yeah, so we're limited to what 160 some odd units and then the other homes. I wish we could get another 100 you know, 150. I'm not really sure how you accomplish that. Not from the town, we don't have any money but maybe at the State level.

Mr. Baldwin: Right and I don't know if the State has any either to give us.

Mr. Goncalves: Well, they say they don't. You know, I think they're okay. That's it, thank you for applying. Thank you very much. I'm good.

Mr. Rosenblum: Mr. Silva.

Mr. Silva: Yeah, Mr. Baldwin thank you for the interest. One thing that you would like to see that would better serve the residents?

Mr. Baldwin: Again, I mean, I don't see of anything that's wrong there. I mean I heard Ray talk about the parking lot. You know in the winter we do have to move our cars. We have to move them up on to the grass which they usually plow you know and then we have to move our cars back and you know sometimes people do park in your spot but I mean you know it's not like we're some big you know condominiums that has all kinds of money to spend to have all kinds of parking and parking lots and snow removal. I think for what we have, we're quite fortunate for what we have, I mean.

Mr. Silva: Thank you.

Mr. Rosenblum: Mr. Gennette.

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Mr. Gennette: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Baldwin what business did you have for 30 years?

Mr. Baldwin: I had a used car business for 30 years.

Mr. Gennette: Where was that located?

Mr. Baldwin: In Springfield.

Mr. Gennette: In Springfield and you said you were on the grievance committee?

Mr. Baldwin: Yes, I am.

Mr. Gennette: How do you like that?

Mr. Baldwin: Well, I haven't had to act on it yet.

Mr. Gennette: Well, that's probably good.

Mr. Baldwin: I've been on it for two years. So, that's a good thing, right?

Mr. Gennette: Yeah. So, you're familiar with the Board already?

Mr. Baldwin: I worked with the Board when we were searching for a new Director when Robin was hired.

Mr. Gennette: And you have a pretty good relationship with them?

Mr. Baldwin: Yeah, I get along fine with everybody.

Mr. Gennette: Yeah.

Mr. Baldwin: I think they got along fine with me.

Mr. Gennette: Excellent, that's all my questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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Mr. Rosenblum: Alright. Well, if you are looking for grievances, you can always run for Selectmen. We get plenty of them. Again, we try to stay in line with our questions, umm, this only goes to March, would you be willing to continue if elected to this position beyond March?

Mr. Baldwin: Absolutely.

Mr. Rosenblum: Okay and,

Mr. Baldwin: I'd love to help in any way I can help the Ludlow Housing. Like I said, I got very sick and I lost my business. I lost everything I owned and you know when your self-employed, you don't pay into social security which you should. You know raising a family, I was taking care more of my family then putting into social security, thinking I was going to work forever and you know when I was down and out and needed a home, Ludlow Housing gave me one and I would do anything in my power to always be grateful to them for that.

Mr. Rosenblum: And no problem with the training or online training sessions or,

Mr. Baldwin: No.

Mr. Rosenblum: No, alright. Well, if you have anything else now, you can go ahead and have a final statement if you'd like.

Mr. Baldwin: No, I just hope that whoever you pick, everybody gets along with them that's on the Board. That's all. Anything to better Ludlow Housing would be excellent. Not that they need anymore bettering because I think that they're perfect but that's my opinion.

Mr. Rosenblum: Alright well thank you Mr. Baldwin. Thank you for coming in.

Mr. Goncalves: Thank you.

Mr. Baldwin: Thank you.

Mr. Debarge: Thank you sir.

6:30 p.m. – Sandra Dutilly

Mr. Rosenblum: And last but not least, hopefully I don't, Sandra Dutilly.

Ms. Villano: I believe she may be on the phone Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Rosenblum: Is this on? Did I say that right, Dutilly?

Mr. Villano: Dutilly, I believe so.

Mr. Rosenblum: Hello, Ms. Dutilly, are you on the phone? Not muted,

Ms. Villano: Just checking to see that we're not muted.

Mr. Rosenblum: Ms. Dutilly, can you hear us?

Talking over each other.

Mr. Rosenblum: Do we have a phone number for her? I do, it's right here. I don't want to say it out loud.

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Ms. Villano: Yeah, I know.

Ms. Dutilly: Hello, I'm here. I don't have the bandwidth,

Mr. Debarge: Oh, okay.

Mr. Rosenblum: Alright, so you can hear us, okay?

Ms. Dutilly: Oh yeah, I hear you on both ends right now. I'm going to shut, it's echoing now. Yes, I've been listening to your conversation for about 15 minutes now. So, how are you?

Mr. Rosenblum: Okay. Good. Thank you for calling in. Umm, as you probably heard, what we're doing is you can tell us a little bit about yourself and introduce yourself, tell us a little bit about yourself and then the Board will ask you some questions and then if you have any final comments, you have that opportunity. So, if you'd like to tell us a little bit about yourself now that would be great.

Ms. Dutilly: Well, I'm Sandra Dutilly. I've lived in Ludlow Housing now for 18 years at 25 Butler Street. Umm, I am a homemaker and I'm looking to try and help with you know certain things that I'd like to see and like to help with in like upgrades of stuff like you know if someone said something in regards to sidewalks being you know messed up or things of that nature you know. See if we could get some funding somehow to get that part fixed for the safety of the people going in and out of places. Umm, I'm not quite sure exactly what you're looking for from me to say but I can tell you in my situation, I would have to go online for the training because I do not have a vehicle. Umm, I do realize that the meeting is once a month. I was overhearing the conversation in the beginning. Umm, that's over at Wilson Street. Umm, and you know I'm a pretty calm, relaxed person. I'd like to see and help in any way that I can. I haven't had you know; I'd just like to help out in a way that I can because I appreciate what everyone has done for us over the years and I'd like to give back in some way.

Mr. Rosenblum: Okay, thank you very much. Umm, start with Mr. Goncalves.

Mr. Goncalves: Yes, thank you, thank you for applying Ms. Dutilly. So, do you have a big picture for the Housing Authority and what direction we move in?

Ms. Dutilly: Are you asking me about what direction you'd like to see it go in?

Mr. Goncalves: Yes.

Ms. Dutilly: Right now, Robin's been doing a wonderful job and I would just like to say that I can't thank her enough. She has been one of the best landlords so far. Umm, improvements, you now umm, I'd like to see that she could get some possible funding for some of the things she'd like to see get done. Umm, so that's it's not so hard on everybody. You know they had the funding for the furnaces, which they've done already which is you know, a beautiful thing, but you know there's some other things that could be addressed in regards to it just for the upkeep of the buildings themselves.

Mr. Goncalves: Okay and you mentioned the sidewalks, is there any place in particular where they're really bad?

Ms. Dutilly: Umm, I live in one of the townhouses so it's a little bit different for me. I mean, it's just because the erosion underneath the driveways, the sidewalks from all the weather and everything that's been going on over the years and it just ends up putting little pockets that make you, that you could possibly trip on or you get frost heaves because of the ice and snow. So, it's basically you know a situation like that.

Mr. Goncalves: It's more generalized.

Ms. Dutilly: Right.

Mr. Goncalves: Okay. Good. Thank you very much. I'm all set.

Mr. Rosenblum: Thank you Mr. Goncalves. Mr. Silva.

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Mr. Silva: Yes, umm, thank you for interest Ms. Dutilly. You pretty much answered the question that I have through your first statement but umm, maybe you could enlighten us a little more. What is the number one thing that you would like to see happen for the residents to have a better quality of living?

Ms. Dutilly: Number one thing I'd like to see. In my general area or throughout the whole place?

Mr. Silva: The whole, the whole Housing Authority. The whole thing you know. What would you like to see happen to benefit the residents?

Ms. Dutilly: Umm, what would benefit, well, umm, I mean there are certain things like I was saying that need updating in the units to help keep it safe for everyone. Things of that nature you know. Umm, houses or apartments, they are settling you know and if there's a way you know to fix things like that, that would be a benefit because then you wouldn't have more issues happening through the whole, to the apartments if they had upgrades. So, that's another thing that I was hoping we could see happen with funding is just for you know to update things inside the building, like disposals, we don't have disposals in here. That would cause most people to have you know animals that are going to be attracted in our neighborhoods you know if we had one. Not quite sure what else it entails when it concerns...but that's something that would benefit people to.

Mr. Silva: Yeah, thank you. That's something would actually help the residents to have better living arrangements. Obviously, everybody wants modernized apartments and like you said the funding is a key issue but thank you.

Ms. Dutilly: Okay.

Mr. Rosenblum: Thank you Mr. Silva. Mr. Gennette.

Mr. Gennette: Ms. Dutilly, good evening. Thank you for applying.

Mr. Gennette: You know I have a concern with availability. You being able to get to the meetings and things like that. You said that you don't have a vehicle,

Ms. Dutilly: I can't hear you now. I don't know what happen.

Mr. Gennette: Am I not,

Mr. Rosenblum: Can you hear me?

Ms. Dutilly: Yep, I heard ya. You just faded,

Mr. Gennette: Oh, I apologize.

Ms. Dutilly: It's okay.

Mr. Gennette: Yeah, my question was I'm really concerned about your availability to the commission, to being able to get to their meetings and things like that. You say you don't have a vehicle. How do you plan on remedying that?

Ms. Dutilly: Well, it's not that far from my home for one. Umm, which is a plus for me and if I have any issues, call an Uber you know and that'll get me there if I have to. I mean really, I'm not that far from there at all. So, as long as,

Mr. Gennette: Have you, sorry go ahead.

Ms. Dutilly: Sorry.

Mr. Gennette: No, you go ahead.

Ms. Dutilly: I was just going say as long as it's not...weather out there or whatever, maybe, maybe, I don't know if you would allow like, like you are now with this type of meeting, a virtual type thing if I could have bandwidth of some type to be able to do it and do it that way. I'm not sure but that's just something I could throw out there too.

Mr. Gennette: So, one of the questions that I've been asking is if you know the other people on the Board? Umm, have you met,

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Ms. Dutilly: No.

Mr. Gennette: You don't know them?

Ms. Dutilly: I don't know any of them.

Mr. Gennette: No, you're not sure. What do you think of the Board? You think they're doing a pretty good job or?

Ms. Dutilly: Right now?

Mr. Gennette: Sure.

Ms. Dutilly: I believe Robin is doing a wonderful job with what she's doing. I do apologize because I don't know really what's been going on in there because I haven't been really you know engaging too much in it but I know that if I was involved, I would be more so.

Mr. Gennette: Thank you.

Mr. Rosenblum: Thank you Mr. Gennette. Umm, I just oh Mr. Debarge.

Mr. Debarge: Thank you. Thanks for forgetting me. Thanks, Ms. Dutilly, for applying. Again, as I said to everybody, I appreciate your umm, your want and willingness to help. Umm, I was actually searching for

another question because all of mine have been answered so I'm going to defer to the Chairman. Thank you. How about that?

Mr. Rosenblum: Yeah, thanks. Okay, alright the question I, you know staying in step with what questions I've asked before knowing that this position goes until March, if selected would you be willing to continue after March? Do you see this going beyond March?

Ms. Dutilly: I don't see a problem with it.

Mr. Rosenblum: Okay and also you actually answered my question before about completing necessary training and things of that nature. So, umm, you did answer that saying you would be doing it. So, that is it for me. So, if you have anything else you'd like to say, by all means go ahead right now.

Ms. Dutilly: Okay. Is this a position that is open right now until March? Is that what this is all about?

Mr. Rosenblum: Yes.

Ms. Dutilly: Okay and then from March on out, is it a yearly thing or is it, I mean what is the time limit frame that one would have on a Board?

Mr. Rosenblum: It's a five year.

Ms. Dutilly: Five years?

Mr. Rosenblum: Yes.

Ms. Dutilly: Okay. That's basically all I wanted to know if that's okay. Yeah.

Mr. Rosenblum: Okay. Alright. Well again thank you for calling in. Thank you very much for your interest in the position.

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Ms. Dutilly: Okay. Thank you so much. You have a nice night.

Mr. Rosenblum: You too, thank you.

Mr. Silva: Thank you, you too.

Ms. Dutilly: Thanks. Bye.

Mr. Debarge: Bye now.

Mr. Goncalves: You gentlemen know it's five years, five-year commitment.

Mr. Chaves: Now I know. Have to sign a contract.

Mr. Goncalves: Robin.

Mr. Rosenblum: Yes.

Ms. Carbide: So, this goes to March but we would still have to do this again. Okay. I just wanted to make sure,

Mr. Rosenblum: Right. No, no that's why I just wanted to make sure that if selected knowing that it goes to March that the process would have happen again. I just basically if someone is willing to put in beyond March is what was my question. Discussion? Motions, discussion?

Mr. Gennette: Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Goncalves: I'm just, my wheels are turning right now.

Mr. Rosenblum: Your wheels are turning right now. Does anyone have any comments so Mr. Goncalves wheels can keep turning?

Mr. Gennette: I do, I wouldn't mind Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Rosenblum: Your wheels to turn too or you have any comments?

Mr. Gennette: No, I would love to be able to make a comment.

Mr. Rosenblum: Okay, go right ahead then Mr. Gennette.

Mr. Gennette: So, listen thanks for everybody that's looking to be in the position. I think it's pretty important. The tenant seat is probably arguably one of the most important, representing the people that you're housing. So, looking over all these, I think everybody's qualified but and I don't want to get into the qualifications of everybody but if I was to make a recommendation to the Board at this time it would probably be for Mr. Raymond Anderson. He seems to have a good experience. He has a good knowledge of the building. He knows around, he knows the Board. He's been kind of living it for a while. So, he probably would be my recommendation.

Mr. Silva: Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Rosenblum: Mr. Silva.

Mr. Silva: I don't want to put Robin on the spot but I don't know if she has any recommendations, any insights. How you feel about these members,

Ms. Carbide: I really don't want to get, it's too personal with the tenants and I don't want to favor one over another.

Mr. Silva: I imagine that, I imagine that but you know but you feel they are all pretty qualified and they would,

Ms. Carbide: Like I said I do not want to comment or put myself or my relationship with any tenant in...so I'd rather not speak. Sorry.

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Mr. Rosenblum: Understandable.

Mr. Silva: Yep.

Mr. Goncalves: Mr. Chairman I'll just say this, in looking at the four applicants, it seems like everybody had a pet project with exception to Mr. Baldwin. He was a little more generalized in what he was looking for and it's not a bad thing that you're worried about the parking or you're worried about the garbage or she's worried about the sidewalks, Ms. Dutiily. It just seems there was one focus with everyone but Mr. Baldwin was more of generalized focus for the better good of the community as opposed to trying to accomplish one thing. Umm, that's the only thing that's coming to my mind right now but again I'm reliving everybody's interview right now but that's the one thing that pops out for me immediately.

Mr. Rosenblum: Mr. Debarge.

Mr. Debarge: You know I, Mr. Anderson, his experience in maintenance is umm, is a huge bonus for this. I, you know, I think Mr. Chaves he kind of talks like me, very direct, I appreciated his candor. I think that's a bonus in a situation like this. Mr. Baldwin umm, is very happy to be there and you know I agree with everybody saying, I actually have been talking to Robin pretty often. She's probably sick of me calling her but she's doing a fantastic job as well. What I'd be looking for or is who's going to add to that? Who's going to look into the future rather than remain status quo. I agree with Mr. Gennette also, I'm concerned with Ms. Dutilly's availability. In my opinion and again it's my opinion, I would expect a Board member no matter where that Board member is appointed from to get out to all different properties and see what's going on and even speak to tenants. Umm, which I'm sure you all plan to do but I have pause with the availability with Ms. Dutilly. That being said, I wish umm, I wish we

could appoint all three of them but we can't so, umm, I'd like to say I'd go with the majority of the Board but that's a cop-out. I like all three of them. If I had to choose one, on shear, on shear experience, it would have to be Mr. Anderson. I wish we could expand it but anyways that's what I have.

Mr. Rosenblum: Mr. Silva.

Mr. Silva: Hi.

Mr. Rosenblum: How are you?

Mr. Silva: Umm, as most of you know when I look at these things and we're always so close, I always go by the service that's happen, that people have served on and we have two members that actually have served per se and helped out the Housing Authority. Mr. Anderson has and Mr. Chaves has. So, I would narrow it to those people and then I would narrow it to who served the most and Mr. Anderson I believe you said 12 years you worked maintenance and so in a way that's actually made the improvements to the residents who live there. So, I would not have a problem with Mr. Anderson either.

Mr. Rosenblum: Thank you Mr. Silva. Again, I agree that I am concerned with the availability and the transportation of Ms. Dutilly. Umm, and I mean the remaining three all have qualities that I would be looking for in someone that would become a member of this Board. I mean Mr. Anderson does have experience with the years of working in the maintenance and Mr. Baldwin has also been on the search committee for the new Director, he's on the grievance committee also. So, I would lie somewhere between the two of them.

Moved by Mr. Silva, seconded by Mr. Gennette to appoint Mr. Anderson as the Housing Authority Tenant Member at this time until March. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Correspondence:

164. Andrew B. McCaul, Senior Transportation Planner, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – informing the Board and the eastern tier municipalities that James Barry of Belchertown has been elected to be the member and Mark Gold has been elected to be the alternate member.

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

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165. Allison DeLong, Resident – letter of interest to serve on the Ludlow Historical Commission.

Moved by Mr. Gennette, seconded by Mr. Silva to appoint Allison DeLong to the Ludlow Historical Commission. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

166. Kimberly Boyer, Resident – formal dog complaint against dog owner, Brittany Kowalski (with supporting police reports).

Moved by Mr. Debarge, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to schedule a hearing regarding the formal dog complaint against dog owner Brittany Kowalski. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

167. Ryan M. Pease, Fire Chief – requesting the Board to declare the Department's 1988 Ford F-350 pick up truck as surplus equipment.

Moved by Mr. Debarge, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to declare the Fire Department's 1988 Ford F-350 pick up truck as surplus equipment.

168. Beverly Tokarz, Friends of the Ludlow Senior Center – seeking approval of the Board to host a "Pocketbook Bingo" event on Sunday, October 24, 2021 at the Polish American Citizens Club in Ludlow, MA.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Debarge to approve the permit for the "Pocketbook Bingo" event on Sunday, October 24, 2021 for the Friends of the Ludlow Senior Center and to waive the fee. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

169. Jeffrey R. Gavioli – letter of resignation from his volunteer position with the Ludlow Cultural Council.

Moved by Mr. Debarge, seconded by Mr. Gennette to accept the resignation of Jeffrey R. Gavioli from his volunteer position with the Ludlow Cultural Council. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

170. Debra A. Chisholm – letter of interest to serve on the Board of Rent Control.

Moved by Mr. Silva, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to advertise for the position of the Rent Control Board for two weeks and schedule interviews. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

171. Kim M. Batista, CMMC, Town Clerk – requesting the Board to appoint Ann Converse, Business Administrator as the Records Access Officer for the Department of Public Works.

Moved by Mr. Debarge, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to appoint Ann Converse, Business Administrator as the Records Access Officer for the Department of Public Works. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

172. Bruce Broyles, Member, Catholic parishes of Chicopee & Ludlow 9/11 Memorial Mass Committee – informing the Board of the annual deanery-wide 9/11 Memorial Mass being celebrated on Saturday, September 11th at 7:00 p.m. at St. Rose De Lima Parish, 600 Grattan Street in the Aldenville section of Chicopee.

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

173. Darlene (Dolly) Cincone – letter of resignation effective August 27, 2021 from the Ludlow Mobile Home Rent Control Board, the Ludlow Cultural Council, and the Board of Appeals (ZBA) (alternate member) and requesting the approval of the Board to remain on the Harris Brook Elementary Chapin Street Core Building Committee as this project is near completion.

Moved by Mr. Debarge, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to accept Darlene (Dolly) Cincone's letter of resignation as written in the correspondence above. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

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Unfinished Business:

Moved by Mr. Silva, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to approve and execute the contract between the Town and Harpers Payroll Services. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. Silva, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to sign the Memorandum of Agreement between the Town and L.A.T.O.S.S. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Silva to insert the zoning bylaw change regarding mobile homes into the warrant. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. Debarge, seconded by Mr. Silva to insert one article for the conveyance of the new cell tower as part of the Radio Commission Project. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. Silva, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to close the Warrant for the October 4, 2021 Special Town Meeting. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Board to discuss and vote on a determination of what will be done with the Veterans Park Elementary, Cole and Primary School buildings.

Moved by Mr. Debarge, seconded by Mr. Gennette to move forward with gathering information to demolish Veterans Park Elementary. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. Gennette, seconded by Mr. Debarge to put the Cole and Primary School buildings up for sale. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Board to discuss the request from Parkside/Head Start to remain in the Primary building.

Lease was extended through September from the School Committee. Parkside may have a temporary location in Indian Orchard after that.

Moved by Mr. Debarge, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to approve and sign the Selectmen Meeting Minutes of March 2, 2021 with Mr. Debarge, Mr. Goncalves, Mr. Rosenblum and Mr. Silva present. Mr. Gennette was not yet elected to the Board. Vote 4-0-1. One abstention.

Moved by Mr. Debarge, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to approve and sign the Selectmen Meeting Minutes of March 30, 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 April 13, 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 April 20, 2021 with all members present. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. Debarge, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to approve and sign the Executive Session Meeting Minutes of June 22, 2021 with all members present. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

New Business:

Moved by Mr. Debarge, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to make Harris Brook Elementary School the new location for precinct one for elections and Baird Middle School for the new precinct six for elections. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Board to discuss the feasibility of moving the Building Departments offices to the DPW Administration Building to free up space at Town Hall.

Mr. Rosenblum tabled this for 2 weeks until more research is done and before notifying any departments.

Board to discuss possible new full-time positions of a Grant Writer, Procurement Officer and Facilities Manager.

Mr. Debarge suggested getting average salaries for each position and job descriptions before making any decisions.

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Board perused Selectmen Meetings of May 4, 2021.

Board perused Selectmen Meetings of May 18, 2021.

Board perused Executive Session Meetings of July 6, 2021.

Board perused Executive Session Meetings of July 20, 2021.

Board Updates/Misc.:

Mr. Goncalves stated the mobile home park on Miller Street has a new owner and the rent control board allowed an increase. Tenants are happy with the changes there. Same owner purchased the park on West Street also.

Mr. Debarge spoke about clean up on East Street beginning. The DPW took out some of the grates already so clean up can begin with weeding and putting new mulch down.

Closing Comments:

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. Silva sent condolences to the Machado family; Ida was 100 years old. Reminds residents that Festa is this weekend and to please act responsibly.

Mr. Gennette reminds the Board that the Town must be able to grow and change. Even though people won't be happy with changes and moving departments, we must change with the times. It should be about serving the community better.

Mr. Debarge is frustrated with the speed of how things happen in our Town. Things take way too long to remedy. There is a huge mask issue between the schools & committee versus parents. He is against any type of mandates in this country because he believes in science. If everyone gets a change take a look at "industrial hygienist" they are experts in mask wearing. The masks that we are getting now do not stop the virus and thinks it is irresponsible for the commissioner of education in Massachusetts and the School Committee to issue a mask mandate without looking at the science regarding air exchange. It is damaging for children to wear masks for long period of times. He is also disgusted with the evacuation of Afghanistan and the current leadership of the Federal Government. Thirteen service members were lost for no reason. Thanks all military serviceman for their service. Thinks this pullout weakens our country.

Mr. Goncalves reminds everyone to have a good time at Festa but to be safe. September 11th there will be a remembrance ceremony at the Public Safety Complex at 10 a.m. Wished everyone a Happy Labor Day and to be safe.

Mr. Rosenblum also reminds residents that Festa is this weekend and has been extended a day, beginning Thursday 6-10 with a beer garden and band. Be responsible and have fun. This has been a very wet summer try to put drip edges on your home and keep the water away from the foundation.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Silva to adjourn this meeting at 8:32 p.m. and not return to open meeting but to enter into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing two possible litigation matters. 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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