The Meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on Tuesday, December 14, 2021 began at 5:30 p.m.
Remote participation due to COVID-19.

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Members Present: Derek DeBarge, James Gennette, Antonio Goncalves, William Rosenblum and Manuel Silva.

First Order of Business: The Pledge of Allegiance

Visitations:

NONE

CORRESPONDENCE

235. Brian Shameklis, Safety Committee Chairman – recommending the Board authorize a traffic study to be conducted at the intersection of West Street and Brook Street.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Gennette to authorize a traffic study to be conducted at the intersection of West Street and Brook Street. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

236. Board to approve a request to charge off medical expenses and lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for an injury sustained by a Firefighter as a result of an incident that occurred on November 15, 2021.

Moved by Mr. Gennette, seconded by Mr. DeBarge to approve a request to charge off medical expenses and lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for an injury sustained by a Firefighter as a result of an incident that occurred on November 15, 2021. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

237. Petition for a Pickleball Court to be placed in the Town of Ludlow where the tennis courts are at Whitney Park.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Gennette to keep this on the list of possible use for ARPA funds. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

238. Ellie Villano, Town Administrator – requesting the Board to declare office file cabinets as surplus for disposal.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. DeBarge to declare four 4-drawer file cabinets and two 3-drawer file cabinets as surplus. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

239. Tracey A. Blair – letter from the owner of Turnpike Package Store outlining the steps being taken to resolve the license issue and further requesting the Board to consider renewing the 2022 liquor license.

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

240. Massachusetts Department of Revenue Division of Local Services – notifying the Board the Fiscal Year 2022 tax rate has been certified.

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

241. Chief Ryan Pease – Board to approve a request to carry over six (6) vacation tours from calendar year 2021 into calendar year 2022 for a firefighter unable to use all of his vacation time as a result of an injury on duty.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Silva to allow Private Austin Plante the request to carry over six (6) vacation tours to calendar year 2022. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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Moved by Mr. Gennette, seconded by Mr. Silva to nominate the following members for the Search Committee for the Town Administrator's position: Joshua Carpenter, Nicole Parker, Linda Collette, Laurie Smith, Timothy S. Donnelly, Atty John P. DaCruz, and Nick Breault. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. DeBarge, seconded by Mr. Gennette to approve and sign the Agreement between the Town of Ludlow, acting through its Ludlow Community TV and Ocker's Company. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. DeBarge, seconded by Mr. Gennette to approve and sign the Executive Session Minutes of October 19, 2021 with all members present. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. DeBarge, seconded by Mr. Gennette to approve and sign Executive Session Minutes of November 9, 2021 with Mr. DeBarge, Mr. Gennette, Mr. Rosenblum, and Mr. Silva present. Vote 4-0-1. One Abstention.

NEW BUSINESS

Moved by Mr. Silva, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to accept the FY22 Community Compact IT Grant in the amount not to exceed $10,300 to be used by the Senior Center and to authorize the Chairman to sign the Standard Contract Form. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. DeBarge to approve and sign the contract between the Town and Capital Carpet and Flooring for the carpet replacement on the first floor. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Board to approve and sign the contract between the Town and E.F. Corcoran Plumbing and Heating, Inc. for the replacement of the hot water tank at the Fire Department.

Moved by Mr. Silva, seconded by Mr. DeBarge to table. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Gennette to open the Warrant for the May 9, 2022 Annual Town Meeting and please note Articles are due to the Selectmen's Office by Friday, February 11, 2022 by 4:30 p.m. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. DeBarge, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to approve and sign the Class I, II, III Licenses for 2022 – signatures to be effective as of December 21, 2021. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. DeBarge, seconded by Mr. Silva to approve and sign the Liquor Licenses, Common Victualler's Licenses and Entertainment Licenses for 2022 – signatures to be effective as of December 21, 2021. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. DeBarge, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to waive the fees for the following licenses and establishments, Ludlow Council on Aging, Christ the King, Ludlow Community Center, Brigham Lodge, First Church, St. Elizabeth's Parish, Family United Methodist Church, St. Peter/St. Paul Ukrainian Church, Union Church of Christ, Exit 7 Players Theater and Our Lady of Fatima Church. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Perused the Selectmen Meeting Minutes of September 28, 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 spoke to the Board of Health, Angela Kramer today regarding the COVID vaccine clinic at Our Lady of Fatima in conjunction with Big Y and it was extremely successful. There was over 135 people vaccinated and 16 flu vaccines as well. She would like to put another one together soon. Thanked Angela and Big Y.

Mr. Silva also wanted to commend the Board of Health for listening to residents and keeping their current services.

Mr. DeBarge reminds residents that on the 16th there will be a meatloaf dinner at the Elks. It is a drive-thru/pickup event. It is open to all. It will be held from 5-7 p.m. On Saturday they are doing Wreaths Across America at Island Pond Cemetery from 10 a.m. to noon. Please join him in honoring our vets. The Rotary Club puts on all types of events and this year the Toys for Tots boxes were put out in 5 different locations and they will be picked up tomorrow. The boxes are located at Town Hall, Polish Club and the Boys and Girls Club.

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Mr. Gennette commends the Superintendent Search Committee and how well they are working.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds Updates

Mr. Rosenblum reiterated that the Pickle Ball at Whitney will be included for consideration of ARPA funds. Our consultant will be in the first week of January to go over all of the projects on the list.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Mr. Gennette excited for the holiday season. Hopes everyone enjoys the holidays and stays healthy.

Mr. Silva reminds residents that COVID is spiking again and to stay vigilant and safe.

Mr. DeBarge sends condolences to the Goncalves family and all the families who he recently attended funerals for. He attended an event at the Mills project with Lt. Governor and Sec. McNeely where they awarded grants to several communities. Our Mills project is the largest brownfield clean up in New England and it's a massive undertaking. In January we are looking to breaking ground on the Mill 8 apartments, retail and the clock tower. When Riverside Drive is complete, it will open 60 acres behind the property. This could be the jewel of Western Mass and I'm very excited to see where this is going. The Selectmen meet the same time as the School Committee so cannot usually attend them. He feels you cannot turn away from what is happening in schools across the country and Ludlow is not removed from that.

Mr. Goncalves scams are getting bigger and better so please be cautious when purchasing online. In agreement with Mr. DeBarge, that was his little cousin that passed away and he was passionate about the track and field project at the high school and would love to get that done.

Mr. Rosenblum was also able to attend the event at the Mills and it's great to see how Ludlow is becoming a model for other projects like this in the state. Sends his condolences to the Goncalves family as well.

Moved by Mr. DeBarge, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to adjourn this meeting at 6:26 p.m., and not return to open session but enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing pending 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.