The Meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on Tuesday, January 4, 2022 began at 5:30 p.m. Remote participation due to COVID-19.

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

First Order of Business: The Pledge of Allegiance

VISITATIONS:

NONE

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CORRESPONDENCE

1. William Nowak, Moderator, Deacon and member of Closure Committee – notifying the Board that Union Church of Christ, 51 Center Street will be listed for sale and in use until the final closing.
   Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Silva to file. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

2. Shawn Giroux, Arborist Electric Transmission Vegetation Management, Eversource Energy – notifying the Board Eversource Energy will be performing vegetation work in several locations within Ludlow.

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

3. Kimberly H. Robinson, MUP Executive Director, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – notification of FY 2022 District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) Program.

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

4. Kelly De Gobbi, Resident – requesting the Board to publish on the Town website a process for a citizen to submit considerations for ARPA funded projects.

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

5. Massachusetts Department of Revenue Division of Local Services – Announcing the Second Round of the Community One Stop for Growth Grants: "Expression of Interest" Now Open.

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

6. 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 December 23, 2021.

   Moved by Mr. Gennette, seconded by Mr. Goncalves 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 December 23, 2021. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

7. Jodi Zepke, Director, Council on Aging – requesting the Board to declare fitness equipment and furniture as surplus for disposal.

   Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Silva to declare the following items as surplus at the Senior Center: 3 treadmills, 1 recumbent bike, 1 elliptical machine, 2- 42" round wood-grained tables, 2 black with wood top file cabinets. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Silva to approve and Chairman to sign Change Order #3 for the Riverside Drive Project. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Board to discuss CDC update on guidelines for quarantine and isolation.

Ms. Ribeiro explained that the CDC updated the guidelines for quarantine and isolation last week and if you test positive for COVID, you must quarantine for 5 days regardless of vaccination status. After 5 days you may resume normal activities as long as you are symptom free or the symptoms are getting better but you will need to wear a mask for an additional 5 days.

If someone has been exposed to COVID but is completely vaccinated they do not have to quarantine but are asked to wear a mask for 10 days and test on day 5 if possible. If they test positive at that point, they will need to quarantine as stated above. In addition, if you completed the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine over 6 months ago or the Johnson & Johnson over 2 months ago and you have not been boostered or you are unvaccinated, you need to quarantine for 5 days and wear a mask for an additional 5 days. If unable to quarantine, then you must wear a mask for 10 days.

The return-to-work policy will be updated per the CDC updates.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Silva to approve the CDC updates based on the release dated December 27, 2021 from the CDC and to accept any additional recommendations or updates from the CDC as they become available unless otherwise discussed by this Board going forward. Vote 4-1.

Board to discuss a possible mask mandate for all municipal buildings.

Mr. Gennette asked if there were any recommendations from our Board of Health?

Ms. Villano explained that they have not, however they did put up signs in the building to wear a mask regardless of vaccine status. She suggested having the Board of Health come in to discuss with the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Goncalves did praise the Board of Health for getting signs to the local businesses regarding the mask advisory.

Mr. Gennette read a letter from Gary and Kathy Provencher regarding masks mandates in Town. He stated that the CDC does not believe the Omicron variant is as lethal as previous variants. He does agree that all residents should look out for each other and be safe. However, he does not believe in mandating people to do certain things. This is against peoples Civil Liberties.

Mr. Rosenblum read a letter from an employee of the library regarding wanting mask mandates as well. He agrees with Mr. Gennette that they should not tell people what to do. However, when he does go out to businesses in town, he does see a lot of people still wearing masks. Many businesses still require that you wear a mask. He explained that they do track the numbers of COVID patients and also the CDC and state recommendations.

Mr. DeBarge stated that after speaking with several of the businesses in town, he feels that it is difficult enough for them to get staff never mind have them police the patrons that visit them to wear a mask. He does not believe in mandates either. The CDC recommendations keep changing as well. Individuals should have the right to choose. Please respect each individual's opinion.

Mr. Silva agrees with the Board for the most part but also feels if the Board of Health and CDC recommend a mask then we should wear it.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. DeBarge to reaffirm the mask advisory for all municipal buildings. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. Silva, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to appoint Brandon Colling as an on-call sealer of weights and measures. He is the Deputy Sealer of Weights and Measures for the City of Springfield. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Board to discuss a Class II licensee holder for failure to provide the appropriate transfer of license

paperwork.

Ms. Villano explained that the Board of Selectmen's office has reached out to this individual several times and has given him the steps he needs to take in order to transfer the license and he does not return calls or has given the proper paperwork as instructed.

Mr. Goncalves asked if this particular address where this individual was, has been approved for a new owner?

Ms. Villano stated that it has and suggested brining this individual in front of the Board.

Mr. DeBarge agreed that he should be called in front of the Board.

Mr. Silva explained that if he has not got his site plan and been in front of the Planning Board yet then he cannot do anything.

Mr. Gennette suggested sending a letter to him and explain what needs to be done.

Ms. Villano will have a letter sent to the owner explaining again what needs to be done in order for him to transfer his license to the new location, otherwise he will no longer have a valid license.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. DeBarge to approve and sign the Inter-Municipal Agreement for repairs to the Miller Street/Cottage Avenue Bridge by and between the Town of Ludlow and the Town of Wilbraham. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. DeBarge, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to proclaim the week of January 9th – 15th 2022 as "First Responders Appreciation Week" and to sign five (5) Proclamations of approved. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

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Moved by Mr. DeBarge, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to provide Westmass Area Development Corporation a permit and/or permission to access Riverside Drive for the purpose of providing snow removal to one of their tenants. Under this permit, it is to state that the sole responsibility and liability to that section of the road as a result of that snow removal belongs to Westmass. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Board perused the Executive Session Meeting Minutes of December 14, 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.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds Updates.

Mr. DeBarge stated that the landscaping around the Civil War Monument has been completed.

Mr. Gennette stated that he attended the DPW meeting and Mr. McBride from Recreation was also there and they discussed putting pickleball courts in while the tennis courts were being repaired. The DPW did approve the pickleball courts. He felt that the courts could have been put in at other parks instead of Whitney. There was a lot of talk about the DPW's budget and maintenance for any project that is going to be done.

Mr. Goncalves asked if the DPW was coming in for a meeting with the Board of Selectmen?

Mr. Rosenblum stated that the Chairman of Public Works told him that his Board did not want to meet with the Board of Selectmen. They feel that the Selectmen should go to one of their meetings instead. He is concerned with this; however, the Chairman did answer all of the questions that he had for them.

Mr. Goncalves thinks that the Board of Public Works needs to come in and let the residents know what is going on over there. He's tired of explaining to people what the trash bill is for.

Mr. Rosenblum agrees with Mr. Goncalves.

Mr. Silva thinks that the fact that the DPW does not want to meet with the Board of Selectmen is absolutely ridiculous.

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Mr. DeBarge agrees. This is why the government in this town needs to change.

Mr. Rosenblum stated that the approval of the pickleball court from the DPW means it will come out of their budget, not ARPA Funds.

Mr. Gennette did remind the DPW that this has not been approved for ARPA funds.

Mr. Rosenblum stated that he believes this town needs a Parks and Recreation Department that runs on its own and is in charge of the sports in town.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Mr. DeBarge reminded residents that the First Responder Appreciation Dinner will be held on Thursday, January 13th from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at Gremio Lusitano. The appearance of East Street needs to be addressed.

Mr. Gennette just wanted to comment that he agrees with Mr. Rosenblum regarding the Parks and Rec Department and would stand behind that 100%.

Mr. Silva commented about properties that have not been cleaned up and an ordinance was passed and owners are not compliant. We need to do better. Have a safe New Year and adhere to the guidelines.

Mr. Goncalves wished everyone a Happy New Years. There's a new scam with Amazon orders and to press a certain number to get your credit card information. Passed his condolences to the families of Tony Marie Mancuso, Orlando Jorge, Jimmy Ferraro, and Bill Wagner.

Mr. Rosenblum asked everyone to be respectful of others. Everyone has different comfort levels. This is year three of the pandemic and it makes his skin crawl thinking of it.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. DeBarge to adjourn this meeting at 6:56 p.m., and not return to open session. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Chairman

Ludlow Board of Selectmen

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