The Meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on Tuesday, January 18, 2022, called to order by Mr. Goncalves at 5:30 p.m. (Mr. Rosenblum 5 minutes late)

Members present: Derek DeBarge, James Gennette, Antonio Goncalves, Williams Rosenblum and Manuel Silva.

First Order of Business: The Pledge of Allegiance

VISITATIONS

5:30 p.m. – Deborah Boucher – Eversource Representative and Amy Henderson (by phone) Community Relations Representative

Ms. Boucher explained that this is a proposal to change the lighting on Sportsman's Road and Claudia's Way. A lot of lighting in that area is mostly decorative and in need of repair. A lot cannot be repaired or replaced due to them being eliminated or not available. Ms. Boucher showed the Board of Selectmen the proposed changes and repairs with a power point presentation. Currently, lines are underground and will be moved to overhead.

Printouts for details of light removal, light install, existing poles and overhead wire install were also handed out by Ms. Boucher.

Ms. Boucher also explained that all of these will be LED lights with the exception of the flood lights. In the first section, they will go from 17 lights down to 10 lights. If the Selectmen do not feel this is sufficient lighting, they can increase or decrease the number of lights. The second section, they will remove 11 lights and add 6 lights. In the last section, 25 lights will be removed and replaced with 16 lights. There will be multiple flood lights in the parking lot of the Boys & Girls Club.

Ms. Villano stated that this work is being done because the lights can no longer be replaced or repaired. This is a cost-effective move for the Town. Currently there are approximately 53 lights going down to 32. Currently each decorative pole is rented and they cost anywhere from $36 - $44 per pole per month. This costs about $25,000 annually for Sportsmen's Road and Claudia's Way. By replacing these, the town will get better lighting as well as reduce the cost to about $6,500 annually.

Mr. Gennette confirmed that the town would be going from decorative lights to regular street lights and asked if any of lines are going across road that were not going across the road before?

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Ms. Boucher stated that there are a few areas that will be crossing the road. She showed Mr. Gennette on the power point which sections they would be in and she stated that there will still be enough clearance for the higher trucks to pass through.

Mr. Gennette asked what the cost to the Town is going to be to replace these lights?

Ms. Boucher stated there is no cost to the Town and she also explained that they discussed doing minimal overhead wires.

Mr. Goncalves asked why the wires cannot stay underground and continue on from there?

Mr. Boucher stated that they can them but keeping the lines underground are more expensive to fix and they take a lot longer to fix if needed.

Mr. Goncalves asked if this was part of the Mass Save program?

Ms. Boucher stated this is not part of any program.

Mr. Goncalves stated that this will be a great savings.

Ms. Villano stated that this is a $18,500 savings for one road. She also stated that the DPW and Eversource reps met with her and Mr. DeBarge and walked the entire area to review the area. Also,

where the decorative lights are currently are, it is not as safe as it could be. The overheads will provide more light and safety.

Mr. DeBarge stated that he was present at the meeting with Ellie and Ms. Boucher and he agrees that it is not well lit with his experience driving up and down that road. Mr. DeBarge also likes the new setup at the back of the Boys & Girls Club because that area is always dark and has caused a lot of problems in the past with people illegally dumping for example.

Ms. Boucher also stated that the current underground wire could not be used and they would have to replace it. She is not sure she can get that passed by Eversource like she has had with the overhead wires.

Mr. Gennette would like to take a look at not crossing the road with overhead lines. Other than that, he's on board with the project.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves to authorize the changes proposed by Eversource relative to the lighting on Sportsmen's Road and Claudia's Way to the Boys and Girls Club including Rooney, seconded by Mr. Silva. Vote 4-1. One Opposed.

6:15 p.m. – Ludlow CARES Representative

Ms. Matusik, Public Health Coordinator for the Town of Ludlow representing Ludlow Cares for this meeting. Ms. Matusik explained that her role within the community focuses on populations as a whole with health disparities, problems in the community and focusing on research and education. Within this research, she came across Ludlow CARES that supports the well-being of the community, especially the youth. The plan for this year is something called Share the Care and the purpose is to provide active care and by one person doing something nice it helps to promote the other person to do something nice. This hopefully turns a negative mindset to a positive mindset. The donations from this will go to the senior class of 2022. They would like to get this on social media and possibly a robo-call as well.

Mr. Rosenblum stated that this was started last year and any positivity they can get, they'll take.

Mr. DeBarge stated that it was a success last year, it started off strong, petered out and finished strong. It is a fantastic idea and it will be fun to do it again.

Mr. Gennette asked how many years Ludlow CARES has been doing this?

Ms. Matusik stated that this is the second year.

Mr. Gennette said this is a great thing.

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Moved by Mr. DeBarge to support and get involved with the Ludlow CARES Share the Care program for 2022, seconded by Mr. Goncalves. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

6:30 p.m. – Tom Zidelis, ARPA Consultant

Mr. Rosenblum stated that at every meeting they talk about the ARPA funding and any updates. Thus far, the Board has been taking in recommendations from the community and other departments in Town. Mr. Rosenblum asked Mr. Zidelis if he would like to update the Board in regards to ARPA?

Mr. Zidelis stated that he has been working with the Town and filed the initial ARPA draw down. In May 2021, the Treasury had interim guidelines and last week they published their final guidelines and they will go into effect as of April 2022. Any actions taken by the Town/Board are governed by the interim rules until April, 2022. The criteria that was perquisite in the original rules are still in effect. The high-level activities such as public health, revenue loss, water and sewer, premium pay and the broadband are still the underpinnings of the regulations. The regulations have gone into greater detail as to how to accomplish the activity. Additionally, they opened up the reporting portal. The first report for the Town would be due in April of any activity that the Town has undertaken as far back as May through April so there is an extensive reporting requirement. To put a caveat on it, depending on the activity that the

Town chooses, the prerequisite information that has to be filed with the service and will be dictated by the activity. One final comment relative to the final rules, there are 435 pages of new regulations as it relates to ARPA. What you don't see is the information that has to be gathered to be in compliance with each and every regulation, depending on what you do. This will be a major undertaking to ensure that the reporting is done properly. He will work in walk-step with the Town Administrator and the Town Accountant to make sure it's done right.

Ms. Kim Collins explained to Mr. Zidelis that she provided the Board with the overview of the final rule, which was about 44 pages. They have that in front of them right now. She asked Mr. Zidelis if he could explain something in the overview a little bit better. It talks about calculating loss revenue and it talks about a standard allowance of $10 million dollars and she is wondering if Mr. Zidelis could explain if that is something that they could utilize to make things easier.

Mr. Zidelis stated that he would call it a default and explained that what happens is the regulations came out with a calculation of revenue loss and over time, that evolved because of certain things. He doesn't know if the Town has availed itself to things like school building assistance. In the base year if the Town received the old school building assistance reimbursements and then that went away, it is now being calculated in the calculation of revenue loss. Plus, if you think, they are putting regulations in that span 50 states, certain things in predominantly the Commonwealth proceeds coming to the Town, are not applicable in other jurisdictions, like Washington state. So, what they did was, they came out with a default method. The one down side to the default calculation is that once you avail yourself to that form of calculation, once again, you have to put the calculation in every year. But once you go in that direction, when you go to the default up to $10 million, you are stuck with that calculation. So, if things change next year for whatever reason, and your revenue loss goes up, it doesn't matter if you avail yourself to that calculation, you are stuck with it for the next 2 years. So, it is an option that the Town can pursue but I would advise we still do the revenue calculation and actually compare it to what you could avail yourself to. But if things change and, a big local receipt per the Town of Ludlow would be motor vehicle excise revenues go down next year and it exceeds what you are doing for the default revenue loss, that's going to be money you can't access. Does that make sense?

Ms. Collins asked if it is still just a different form of calculation, it's not necessarily a standard allowance that they can just claim. The town will still have to calculate it...

Mr. Zidelis explained that the Town still has to document it, you can't just say you lost a million dollars. You are going to have that calculation that substantiates it. But once you go with that default calculation, you are through the continuation of the ARPA period, you've elected in that direction and you are going to be limited to using only that. Even if your revenue loss goes up, until year two.

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Mr. Goncalves asked if he is the gentleman who retired from Worcester?

Mr. Zidelis stated that he is.

Mr. Goncalves after looking at our standard allowance of $10 million and if the Town of Ludlow's grant is 6.5 or 6.8 or 6.9, does it make sense to go through all the calculation or take the standard of $10 million.

Mr. Zidelis explained that he still has to do the detail of it. You still have to justify. The standard $10 million is predominantly for larger communities. So, you are still going to have to do the calculation because if you can only justify, say, a $2 million revenue loss, you can't avail yourself of the $10 million. So, you have to put it up to the reasonable test.

Mr. Goncalves asked if the potential award is $6+ million, but we will have to show the revenue loss to get any part of that? It's just not given.

Mr. Zidelis explained that the Town will get the full $6 million. The Town of Ludlow will get in 2 installments to total $6 million. What the Town does with it, is the second part. He gave an example, as far as the revenue loss, saying the revenue loss comes up to $2.1 million and the Town avails itself to the default, that $2 million is what the Town will carry forward. In future years if in fact, with their formula, your revenue loss in that first year was $2.1 million and suddenly by doing the calculation, it balloons to

$2.6, you can't switch the calculation method. The Town would be wedded to the revenue, flat revenue loss calculation of $2 million.

Mr. Goncalves asked if the Town has a revenue loss of $2 million, what does that have to do with the $6 million that the Town will receive?

Mr. Zidelis stated that of that $6 million, the Town is saying that they are recovering $2 million for prior years revenue. The Town would debit the ARPA account and credit the revenue for $2 million.

Mr. Goncalves asked if they would have to get even for prior losses before they can bring on new projects?

Mr. Zidelis explained that it would be a utilization of that $6 million.

Ms. Collins stated that the Town can do projects at the same time as they are taking the revenue loss.

Mr. Goncalves asked if the Town could do $5 million worth of projects if they had $2 million worth of loss?

Mr. Zidelis explained that the Town would not have to avail itself to the 1 of 6 they could go with a lower amount. Just hypothetically, he was listening when the Board was talking about the COVID test kits and the proposal to buy a pallet. But conversely, the Town is going to have $6 million at its avail and as an example the Board could authorize buying $6 million worth of test kits which leaves $346,000 in the Town's allocation. Once the calculation is done, the Town could apply that difference to revenue loss and the ARPA proceeds were still utilized in their entirety. Mr. Zidelis explained that this is like building the Town budget. If the Town's budget, over a 2 – 3-year period, is going to be $6.3 million and you allocated $80,000 out of that $6.3 million leaving $6.22 million. The Town will have to build a multi-year budget in compliance with the regulations and it can include the revenue loss component. It is a multi-faceted budget that will span multiple years.

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Mr. Goncalves verified that at the end of the day, they have the option to take it against lost revenue or not?

Mr. Zidelis stated that the DOR had issued an IGR or guideline a while ago and now they just issued a new one. Mr. Zidelis and Ms. Collins will have to circle back with the new guidelines and do a recalculation. They will do it again with the new instructions by how the DOR has interpreted the guidelines issued last week. Once again, the Town may not avail themselves to that loss revenue and may do other projects or activities that are compliant with the new regulations.

Ms. Collins asked if would make sense to go back to the list that was sent that the Board had originally come up with for projects. Some of the bolded items were items that they weren't sure if they would be covered under the IFR. Now that they have the 435 pages and the overview of the final rule, which has a lot more detail in terms of items that are qualified that didn't appear as qualified before. She asked to go through the items that the Board originally sent out and determine which items they know are eligible and which items they need to look into. At this point, the $80,000 for the test kits, $500,000 for an HVAC system at the Public Safety Complex was approved by the Board. There are a number of items that are being thrown around. On page 133 of the final ruling, it talks about demolishing buildings.

Mr. Zidelis stated that is something new that came up in this that he did not see it on the original. It is a new criteria for abandoned properties.

Ms. Collins asked if Veteran's Park Elementary School would qualify under that in order to demolish that building. She is unsure what the plan would be for that area because it is possibly wetlands, possibly nothing could be done to it. There has been talk about making it into public fields. She would like to know if that is something that would now be covered under the program?

Mr. Zidelis stated that they don't speak to that type of building. It is an interesting question about demolishing a municipal building.

Ms. Collins stated that it lists residential, commercial and industrial.

Mr. Zidelis stated that he will have to circle back to Ms. Collins about that one. There are some scope issues with the other listing that have been put out. It kind of implies private buildings but the actual regs don't say that.

Mr. Silva stated that all of the Selectmen are really geared up about this and are trying to do something with this building. It is twofold, one is they want to take that property and develop the fields that are there for better use but the school needs to be removed. That building has asbestos in it and several issues and that is one of the reasons why they moved on from that building. There are health issues there and Mr. Zidelis spoke about that already. Mr. Silva also stated that a vacant building is not conducive either.

Mr. Zidelis stated that he is not saying that the building is not eligible but this is the first he is hearing about it and he is not familiar with the building. He stated that if Mr. Silva reads this section, in its totality, they talk about not only resolving a public health issue and a structural issue, which they can probably check that box off. Also, the end use of what is going to be done with the space, like a green space where people can congregate and get outside, it's another of the prerequisites somewhere else relative to parks improvements, that would intern strengthen the case to pursue something like that. The devil is always in the details. Once someone can tell him what the end use is, then they've made a determination that it's a public health and safety issue and albeit it's a municipal building. If it is going to be used for passive recreation, that's another section of the regs that would strengthen the town's case to use it for something like that. He states that on the older list, there are things that are clearly eligible. Ventilation work you are doing at Public Safety clearly fits in the old regs but with each project, there is a level of detail that he needs to understand and work through it in order to work up the determination. They need to be able to say that fits into this category clearly and they would write it up and document it accordingly. He asked if he could get a revised list and then someone could lead him who to discuss the scope with, or what the project actually entails, they can go through very expeditiously the items before the Board. If they have any cost estimates, they could put together a multi-year budget of what this $6.4 million could be assigned to in terms of projects.

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Ms. Collins asked Mr. Zidelis if he would like her to read down the list the projects on the table so far?

Mr. Zidelis stated they can go through the list.

Ms. Collins stated that there is the HVAC for $500,000 at the Public Safety Complex; at one of the parks, Whitney Park, it is where they have the Summer program, it's an outdoor summer camp and they also do before and after school care there, it's a very affordable program in town as opposed to the Community Center; they were looking at a club house rehabilitation to include bathrooms; there is a press box and bleachers there for about $250,000 that needs to be replaced and they were looking for tennis upgrades or pickleball or an outdoor pavilion?

Mr. Zidelis explained that all of those are enhancements so that people can avail themselves to outdoor recreation. He is unsure about the press box.

Ms. Collins asked if everything there seems okay except the press box?

Mr. Zidelis explained that what Ms. Collins is calling a clubhouse, he would call it a bathroom facility and amenities like that would assist people in getting outside and using the parks.

Ms. Collins asked if security cameras, playgrounds, improvement to fields in our public parks would all be acceptable as well?

Mr. Zidelis said yes that is correct however as of April, the global overarching of the original regs that were spoken to, and he will have to go back to the new regs that they were talking about. Doing improvements that assist people to assess outdoor facilities is generally permissible expenses. Once again, the devil is always in the details/improvements.

Ms. Collins is hoping that once they have a good understanding of what types of things are approved, the Board will be able to put together a clearer picture of what they want done in those areas and then they can provide that to Mr. Zidelis once they have it for a final determination. They have a track with a football field in the center of it behind the school and it is used for school events but also available to the public when school is not using it.

Mr. Zidelis asked if the general utilization is for all residents? Barring an event occurring, he could go walk the track?

Mr. Goncalves stated that he could but it's actually a safety hazard right now and in desperate need of repair.

Mr. DeBarge wanted also let Mr. Zidelis know that is also a loss of revenue for the Town too. Our track team must be bussed to other fields rather than host. The area is in such disrepair that they can't hold tournaments; if it was repaired, they could host tournaments which is a revenue loss currently. They cannot use the baseball field in regular varsity games and the track is closed to everyone. The other thing is part of this discussion is for an outdoor classroom setup in that area for the high school students where they would walk a trail and stop off at different areas for environmental issues or whatever like colleges do. This was part of the whole thing and they are very interested as to his opinion and what they can do with this, if anything.

Mr. Zidelis explained that he will speak to the inherent project, not the proposed benefits on a financial basis. In terms of the regulations, they speak to improvements for when you are outside because you are are not congested inside and spreading COVID. Those auspices, getting people outside is what the intent is of the legislation is so if fixing the facilities so people can do laps around the track, if that is the desired outcome, they can write up that determination because this meets the criteria of the regulations, which is getting people outside, into passive recreation. Independent of that, you host an event, that's an added benefit. The primary reason for doing that particular improvement was to improve outdoor recreation capabilities for the residents of the Town of Ludlow.

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Mr. DeBarge thanked Mr. Zidelis.

Mr. Goncalves asked if they should come up with a better list, a more concise list, detail what's there and what the issues are and get everything to Mr. Zidelis?

Ms. Collins said they should do that.

Mr. Goncalves asked if they should allow residents to pop some ideas across to the Board?

Ms. Villano stated they already put that out there.

Mr. Rosenblum explained that they have already accumulated some things from some citizens through email and such and they can add those things in. If it's Whitney Park, then they will look at the things within Whitney Park etc. Mr. Rosenblum believes they should be Repairing and upgrading what they already have but if they start to add things in, it may increase their expenses down the road for upkeep on top of the maintenance they should already be doing plus whatever upgrades that we do.

Mr. Zidelis explained that one of the things they did put in the final regulations is that if you are doing capital improvements, they highlight that you really should look in the operational or new operational costs that would now come into play with these improvements. He stated the Town needs to be cognizant of costs that will be born from these projects.

Ms. Collins explained that it comes down to hazard pay. One thing she noticed in the new overview, is it specifically calls out state, local or tribal government workforces as eligible employees. They increased the types of employees to about thirty different ones and they call out specifically state, local or tribal government workforces. Therefore, in everything she has read, even when they add new employees, it very specifically states that they want you to look at lower income employees. A lot of other towns or governments have given money out to every level of employee but in order to follow the rules, she asked Mr. Zidelis what he would say is the most important thing to look at for determining hazard pay?

Mr. Zidelis explained that the one thing in there they talk about is having direct contact during the COVID period. You can view that literally, that being public safety having direct contact but something as simple as having contact accepting a tax bill, a piece of mail from one person to another, so that's one that is one of the regulations about the disparate population or low income is somewhat similar to what the Governor did with how they're allocating their proceeds not only to government workers but to the people who were frontline people at the supermarkets. You'll see that occurring with the state's ARPA money. They are going to have to go through it because there is a lot of options that you can pursue in the Town in terms of public safety as well as administrative employees in the town depending upon what their work was.

Mr. Rosenblum asked if they should we go through the list and fine tune it. Then they can revisit it and see what the money breakdown is and see where they can go with it from there.

Mr. Zidelis stated that sounds like a logical plan and they can start on that tomorrow and put some structure to this.

Mr. Rosenblum stated that is it for the evening. They will discuss this amongst themselves. He asked Mr. Zidelis if he had anything more for them?

Mr. Zidelis stated he does not. He stated it is now time to memorialize this.

Mr. Rosenblum thanked Mr. Zidelis for calling in this evening.

Mr. DeBarge asked Mr. Zidelis, in concern to water and sewer work, what about road work without any of that?

Mr. Zidelis stated that he has not seen anything that directly says road work but logically, if they are going to do a water drop or sewer drop, the repaving of the street or damaged sidewalks would be incidental improvements that arise because of the water situation. He has not seen these coming out with clearly doing road work independently.

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Mr. DeBarge thanked Mr. Zidelis.

Ms. Collins stated that they also talk about fire trucks and police vehicles. There was a fire truck in question and asked if they can only purchase these items if they lost revenue?

Mr. Zidelis stated they would have to appropriated out. In other words, they would charge the ARPA funds itself for a reasonable amount and pick it up as an estimated receipt and then appropriate it out on the budgetary side.

Ms. Collins asked if they are allowed to purchase a fire truck as a capital item and charge it to ARPA or do they need to have a revenue loss to offset that?

Mr. Zidelis stated the Town would have to show a loss in order to do that.

Mr. Rosenblum thanked Mr. Zidelis for his time.

Mr. Goncalves asked Ms. Collins if the loss would have to be specifically in the fire department in order to use the funds to purchase the fire truck?

Ms. Collins stated that the revenue loss does not have to be specific to the department.

Mr. DeBarge asked Ms. Collins if an area of Town asked to have tie-ins for sewer and water, can they do that with these funds?

Ms. Colins stated that the tie-ins are covered but she would have to look through the regulations to see if it has to be a lower income area.

Mr. Rosenblum asked if the Board was ready to put something together now? They know they have the safety complex; tests and he would like to look at Vets Park, Whitney Park bleachers for now and maybe more. The track and field are also of interest.

Mr. DeBarge would like to do Vets Park, Whitney Park, Track and Field, the High School.

Mr. Silva stated that Vets Park should be priority number one. If this cannot be done with ARPA funds, the taxpayers are going to have to fit the bill. The track and Whitney would be next on the list. Other than what was allocated already, these projects should be the priority.

Mr. Goncalves suggested reallocating the fund from Harris Brook School because it came in under budget. Those funds could be allocated for the track and field and the ARPA funds could be used for these other things. Also, the funds from Harris Brook are already in the tax rate.

Ms. Villano stated that she will have to look at the time frame for when the funds could be reallocated, but it will need to go to the Town Meeting before being used. It could take up to a year to know what funds are available.

Ms. Collins asked about the IT/ICM upgrade and if it was already on the list? She needs to know if this has been approved by the Board for $100,000?

Ms. Villano stated that is the Public Safety software that needs to be upgraded.

Mr. Rosenblum stated that they will need to do that as well. Currently, on the list they have $500,000 for Safety Complex, $100,000 for IT, $80,000 for COVID tests. They need to look more into Whitney Park, the track and field and the demolition of Vets Park.

Ms. Villano stated that the Public Safety is $525,000, not $500,000.

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Mr. Rosenblum also reminded the Board that once Vets Park is taken down, they will have to go to Conservation to discuss the wetlands, etc.

Mr. DeBarge would like to have a new baseball diamond in town as well. The track is unsafe and the football field is horrible as well.

Mr. Villano also asked if they can find out if the track and field will encompass lighting and the bleachers, or just finite to certain areas?

Ms. Collins explained that she thinks they need specific things that need to be done in each location along with the dollar amounts and then she can bring that to Mr. Zidelis.

Mr. Gennette asked Ms. Collins if she felt that the IT project for $100,000 would be approved under ARPA?

Ms. Collins stated that she is confident that this will not be kicked out even under the new regulations.

Moved by Mr. Gennette to approve up to $125,000 for IT related software updates using the ARPA funds, seconded by Mr. DeBarge. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Mr. Gennette agrees with Mr. Silva that Vets Park should be the priority with the ARPA funds and then if the "extra" money from Harris Brook can be reallocated to the track and field then that is what needs to be done.

Mr. Silva asked if they would consider demolishing Vets Park, creating new fields in that location and updating the current track and field at the high school as one project? He also asked if Ms. Villano could get a soft estimate for that?

Ms. Villano stated that they would need to hire an engineer to look at the entire project.

Mr. Silva believes this would be cost effective.

Ms. Villano will look into it to see if this is doable but the town may have to come up with the funds to pay for the engineer to do the study.

Ms. Collins will find out if ARPA funds can be used for the engineering study.

Mr. Goncalves would like to know how much if any of the money that was set aside for the track and field project is still available?

Ms. Villano will find out what is left for funds that Mr. Goncalves inquired about and she will also find out approximately how much an engineer would cost to come out and do the study and if ARPA funds can be used for the engineer.

Mr. Silva asked if the soccer field in front of Harris Brook School was a regulation size field?

Mr. Goncalves stated that it is not regulation size and it can only be used for the younger kids.

Mr. Silva stated that is another field lost in town.

CORRESPENDENCE

12. Matthew P. Wzorek, Project Manager, Tighe & Bond, Inc. – providing the Board the Quarterly Inspection Report for the Holyoke Street Landfill Post-Closure Use Permit.

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

13. James Bartolemei, IBPO Union National Representative – advising the Board the Ludlow Police IBPO Local 487 are ready to begin their new collective bargaining agreement with the Town of Ludlow and request dates of availability to meet.

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

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14. Joseph Tyburski – requesting to be appointed as a Republican poll worker. Republican Town Committee Chairman recommends appointment.

    Moved by Mr. Goncalves to appoint Joseph Tyburski as a Republican poll worker, seconded by Mr. Genette. Vote 5 -0. All in favor.

15. Lorie A. Hanson, Resident – letter of interest to serve on the Ludlow 250th Semi-Quincentennial Celebration Committee.

    Moved by Mr. DeBarge to appoint Lorie A. Hanson to the Ludlow 250th Semi-Quincentennial Celebration Committee, seconded by Mr. Silva. Vote 4-0-1. One abstention.

16. Andrea Crete, Board of Health Agent – requesting the Board to declare a list of office supplies as surplus for disposal.

    Moved by Mr. Gennette to approve the request by Andrea Crete, Board of Health Agent to declare the list of office supplies as read as surplus for disposal, seconded by Mr. Goncalves. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

17. Massachusetts Department of Revenue Division of Local Services Bulletin 2022-1 – Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds – Recovery Funds – Revenue Loss (Supersedes Bulletin 2021-7).

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

18. ISO New England Press Release – Harsh Weather Conditions Could Pose Challenges to New England's Power System This Winter.

Mr. DeBarge asked if this notification goes out to the residents?

Ms. Villano stated that she asked for it to be posted on the Town's website but is unsure if it gets sent to the residents.

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

19. Kelli E. Gunagan, Assistant Attorney General – notification of the joint agreement to extend the Attorney General's review period of Article 19 for an additional 60 days which will now be due on March 6, 2022.

Mr. Goncalves asked what Article 19 is for?

Ms. Villano stated that is the Mobile Home bylaw change. There were issues that they had to review.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves to approve the extension to the Attorney General's office as requested, seconded by Mr. DeBarge. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

20. 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 January 7, 2022.

Moved by Mr. Gennette 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 January 7, 2022, seconded by Mr. Silva. Vote. 5-0. All in favor.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Board to allow the Senior Center to hold a "grab and go" event for the surplus goods in conjunction with the Schools – to be held on February 5th from 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon. The value of the goods is well under the $10,000 threshold.

Ms. Villano explained that the majority of goods have been given away; there are only tables and chairs left. The list has gone out to all of the departments first and some of the items went to certain departments and the rest of it is old chairs. These have been there for over 20 years now.

Moved by Mr. DeBarge to allow the Senior Center to hold a "grab and go" event for surplus goods in conjunction with the schools to be held on February 5th from 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon with the value of the goods being well under the $10,000 threshold, seconded by Mr. Genette. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Board to approve the expenditure of ARPA funds, not to exceed $150,000 for the purchase of COVID-19 test kits for the Board of Health.

Mr. DeBarge asked how many test kits they were going to get? He is concerned about how many they get because they do expire.

Mr. Rosenblum stated it is for 15,120.

Mr. Goncalves stated they are about $10.00 each and the Board of Health did receive several prices.

Ms. Villano explained that Ms. Crete send information today that people can go online and order 4 free tests from the state and the insurance companies are now required to reimburse residents up to 8 test kits per month. Therefore, Ms. Crete asked to approve the purchase but she does not think they will be purchasing that many because of the different places that residents can get them now.

Mr. Silva asked if those are the same thing that the post office is doing?

Ms. Villano stated that it is and explained that Ms. Crete is just trying to be ready in case they need these test kits.

Mr. Silva stated that he ordered test kits from the post office and he did get confirmation that they will not be mailed out until the end of January.

Mr. Rosenblum states he is on board with the Board of Health ordering one pallet and possibly handing them out to employees and residents.

Ms. Villano explained that employees have already received 4 test kits each and they could get more.

Mr. Goncalves explained to the residents that the government is giving out 4 test kits per household by logging onto special.usps.com.

Ms. Villano added that you can also use covidtests.gov.

Moved by Mr. Silva to approve an expenditure of the ARPA funds, not to exceed $80,000 for the purchase of COVID-19 test kits for the Board of Health, seconded by Mr. DeBarge. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Board to approve and sign Executive Session Minutes of December 14, 2021

Moved by Mr. DeBarge to approve and sign Executive Session Minutes of December 14, 2021 with all members present, second by Mr. Silva. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

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NEW BUSINESS

Board to approve and execute the DCR Permit at Minechoag Hill for the Radio Communications update project.

Moved by Mr. DeBarge to approve and execute the DCR Permit at Minechoag Hill for the Radio Communications update project, seconded by Mr. Gennette. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Board to vote to approve the discontinuance of the AccuVote Optical Scan Tabulator as of March 28, 2022 and vote to replace it with the ImageCast Precinct Tabulator (ICP Tabulator).

Moved by Mr. DeBarge as required by MGL v. 54; Section 34, I move that the Town of Ludlow is to start using the ImageCast Precinct (ICP) Tabulator and discontinue the use of the AccuVote Tabulator, seconded by Mr. Goncalves. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Town Administrator to discuss the implementation of an internal safety committee.

Ms. Villano met with MIAA risk assessment representative and there are a lot of safety committees that towns are putting together. Safety Committee would meet on a quarterly basis. Ms. Villano put information in the Selectmen packets regarding safety committee items. It's for workplace self-inspections, accident investigations, development of safe work practices and the development of a written safety program and facilitating safety training. She feels they should go forward with it. Selectmen should review and possibly approve the implementation of an internal safety committee.

Moved by Mr. DeBarge to approve the implementation of an internal safety committee per the parameters laid out by our Town Administrator, seconded by Mr. Goncalves. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Board to approve and sign the Entertainment License and Common Victualler License for East Street Coffee Co., 135 East Street.

Ms. Villano explained that it only needs to be approved by the Board.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves to approve the Entertainment License and Common Victualler for East Street Coffee Co., 135 East Street, seconded by Mr. DeBarge. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Board perused the Selectmen Meeting Minutes of October 12, 2021

Board perused the Executive Session Meeting Minutes of December 21, 2021.

BOARD UPDATES/MISC.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds Updates

Mr. DeBarge stated that someone from the Board of Selectmen needs to initiate a meeting with the DPW to go over the trash fees.

Mr. Goncalves stated that he spoke to Mr. Santos and he does have the numbers for what the trash is going to cost the town.

Mr. Rosenblum stated that he was told they just began the negotiations regarding the trash. An inter-governmental agreement was also signed. Certain board members from the DPW felt that the Board of Selectmen attacked them and they don't feel comfortable meeting with them.

Mr. DeBarge stated that someone needs to stand up.

Mr. Rosenblum explained that he told Mr. Santos that they would go to them for the meeting but the room is not big enough there to have to public attend.

Ms. Villano stated that they should use the high school for neutral territory.

Mr. DeBarge stated that it should be set up like the Town Meeting so residents can ask their questions.

Ms. Villano will set up a time for the DPW and the Board of Selectmen to meet.

Mr. Gennette asked how the Town Administrator interviews were going?

Mr. Rosenblum stated that Ms. Ribeiro had suggested to him that February 8th would be the best date right now.

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Chairman approved and signed all bills, warrants and abatements. A record of all warrants is in the Selectmen's office for perusal until provide to the Town Accountant's office.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Mr. DeBarge explained that this was a very productive meeting, being able to move forward and streamlining some things with ARPA. This is what they should be doing as a Board of Selectmen. Mr. DeBarge stated that he attended the First Responders appreciation dinner last Thursday and wanted to thank Mr. Segundo from Veterans Services and the sponsors for everything. It was a great event.

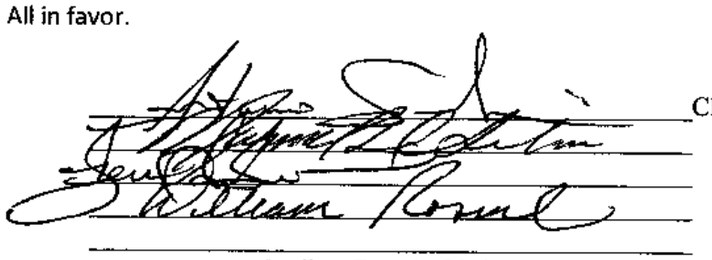
Mr. Goncalves stated that in the month of January, the first 18 days, there is 1,127 positive COVID cases which is about 300-400 more than December. The good news is the hospitalizations have dropped so they are hoping that trend continues. Told residents that they can go onto www.covidtests.gov or special.usps.gov and receive 4 tests per household. Reminded residents that the town has elections coming up and there are openings in the Selectmen, the Board of Health, the School Committee, the Planning Board, Library Trustees, Board of Assessors and 36 Town Meeting posts. The only two that has had papers turned in is the Selectmen and the School Committee. For all of the complaining that goes on, there are all of these positions open and no one wants to jump in.

Mr. Silva just reminded everyone to stay safe and take care of themselves.

Mr. Gennette agreed with Mr. DeBarge that this meeting was very productive. He is happy that they are moving forward with ARPA and the conversation about Vets Park has started up again. He is also pleased that Ludlow CARES came in. He gave Mr. DeBarge kudos for being a gentleman and meeting the DPW halfway to get things done. As a member of the Selectmen, he was encouraged by this meeting.

Mr. Rosenblum stated that there is a scam currently, where people are taking checks out of the mailboxes, whitewashing them and writing them for another amount and name. He suggested putting your mail into the box right in front of the Post Office or bringing it inside the Post Office itself.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves to adjourn this meeting at 8:03 p.m., not return to open session, seconded by Mr. DeBarge. 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.

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