The Meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on Tuesday, February 8, 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:

5:45 p.m. – Josh Carpenter, Chairman of the Town Administrator Screening Committee – Provide updates.

Mr. Rosenblum explained that the Town Administrator interviews have been postponed due to some lose ends being tied up. Josh Carpenter will give the Board some updates.

Mr. Carpenter handed out the packets for the top three candidates to the Selectmen. He then explained that with the help of Carrie Ribeiro, HR, Mary Icardi, Consultant from the Collins Group, John DaCruz, Town Moderator, Linda Collette, Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Hubbard Library, Tim Donnelly, former member of the LCTV, Laurie Smith, Celebrate Ludlow Member, Nick Burrow, Town Administrator in Wilbraham and Nicole Parker, Town Administrator in Hardwick, they worked over the 3-4 weeks in interviewing the candidates and selected these three as the finalists. The three finalists are Angie Ellison, Marc Strange, Mary T. He wished the Board of Selectmen good luck with the interviews.

Mr. Goncalves asked how many candidates were interviewed in total?

Mr. Carpenter stated that there were 15 total candidates from the consultant and the Search Committee interviewed 9 of those.

Mr. DeBarge thanked everyone on the search committee for their help.

Mr. Gennette thanked Mr. Carpenter also.

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Mr. Silva thanked the committee also and that the interviews will move forward tomorrow with the Board of Selectmen and the top three finalists.

Mr. Rosenblum thanked everyone as well and understands that it was a bit of a challenge with the time constraints.

CORRESPONDENCE:

37. Mike DiMauro – requesting the Board to proclaim and recognize April 2 as World Autism Day and April as World Autism Month.

    Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Gennette to recognize and proclaim April 2 as World Autism Day as well as April as World Autism Month. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

38. Andrew B. McCaul, Senior Transportation Planner, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – informing the Board that PVPC is starting the development process for the 2023 to 2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Board to appoint the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) member and alternate.

    Moved by Mr. Goncalves, seconded by Mr. Silva to notify the DPW to report back to the Selectmen with the nominee they would choose for this member and the alternate so that the Selectmen can appoint them. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

39. Department of Public Utilities – Notice of Filing, Public Hearings and Procedural Conference.

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

40. Polish American Citizen's Club – Annual Beano Report for 2021.

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

41. Stephen Santos, Chairman - informing the Board that the DPW Snow and Ice Removal Budget has been over expended as of January 31, 2022. Board to declare a State of Emergency. Board of Selectmen to approve the snow and ice deficit spending.

Moved by Mr. Silva, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to declare a state of emergency as of January 31, 2022 and to approve the DPW's snow and ice deficit spending. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

UNFINISHED BUINESS

Board to approve and sign the Memorandum of Agreement between the Town and the Firefighters Local 1840.

Moved by Mr. DeBarge, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to table the item until the next meeting. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. DeBarge, seconded by Mr. Goncalves to approve and sign the Selectmen Meeting Minutes of October 19, 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 November 2, 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 Minutes of January 11, 2022 with all members present. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Board to approve and have the Town Counsel sign the agreement for judgement.

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

Board to discuss the lease and vacating the old Senior Center.

Moved by Mr. Silva, seconded by Mr. Gennette to schedule a meeting with the Housing Authority to discuss. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Board perused the Selectmen Meeting Minutes of November 9, 2021.

BOARD UPDATES/MISC.

Mr. Goncalves stated that the Board of Health/Town decided not to buy the pallet of COVID tests until they see what the State or Federal Government is offering.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds Updates. NONE

Mr. DeBarge did receive a call from a resident commenting on how important it is to do the high school track and field and Whitney, etc. with these ARPA funds and he agrees.

Mr. Rosenblum did mention that the demo of Veteran's Park would be top on the list because it will save the residents a ton of money in the long run. He did mention that at tomorrow's meeting they will be conducting Town Administrator interviews beginning at 5:35 p.m.

Event Calendar:

February 21 – President's Day – Town Offices are Closed

Chairman to approve and sign 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.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Mr. Gennette stated that there is a new test drug coming out for Alzheimer's clinical trials and they will be discussing this with Congressman Neal soon to be sure that Western Mass is not overlooked. He also reminded residents that there is a walk for Alzheimer's coming up and asked for participation.

Mr. Silva stated that COVID cases are declining but reminds the residents to wait for the state's recommendations. Hopefully things will be better in the summer.

Mr. Goncalves agreed with Mr. Silva and reminded residents to remain diligent with this. Be careful with upcoming super bowl parties. Sent condolences to the Tereso family for the loss of their father, owner of Ludlow Auto.

Mr. DeBarge sent his condolences out to the McDonald family for the loss of their son Andrew & to the Tereso family as well.

Mr. Rosenblum also sent his condolences to the McDonald and Tereso families and prayers to those families. The news is already talking about states lifting their mask mandates in schools. It is a topic for our school committee tonight as well.

Moved by Mr. DeBarge, seconded by Mr. Silva to adjourn this meeting at 6:06 p.m., not return to open session, and to enter Executive Session for the purposes of discussing strategy for negotiations for the International Brotherhood of Police Officers, Local 374 and Local 487, as well as to discuss a possible litigation. 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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