Meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on Tuesday, March 1, 2022 beginning at 5:30 pm in the Selectmen's Conference Room, Town Hall.

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

First Order of Business: The Pledge of Allegiance

Board entered into Executive Session for the following purposes:

To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with non-union personnel, for the Town Administrator.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves to enter into Executive Session at 5:35pm, seconded by Mr. DeBarge. Vote 5-0

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CORRESPONDENCE:

49. Melissa Rickson, Hubbard Memorial Library – requesting permission from the Board to use the Riverwalk for a nature walk on Thursday, September 1 at 6:00 pm.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves to grant permission for use of the Riverwalk for the nature walk on Thursday, September 1 at 6:00pm, seconded by Mr. Gennette. Vote 5-0

50. Ruth Saunders – letter of resignation from the Board of Registrars effective immediately.

Moved by Mr. Silva to approve resignation and send thank you letter to Ms. Saunders, seconded by Mr. Gennette. Vote 5-0

51. Ludlow Tennis Club, Inc. – request for a Change of Manager. Board to schedule a meeting.

Moved by Mr. Silva to schedule a hearing for the Change of Manager, seconded by Mr. DeBarge. Vote 5-0

52. Denise Tomlinson – request to be appointed as a democratic poll worker. Town Clerk recommends approval.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves to appoint Denise Tomlinson as a democratic poll worker, seconded by Mr. DeBarge. Vote 5-0

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Board to close the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Moved by Mr. Silva to close the Annual Town Meeting Warrant, seconded by Mr. Goncalves. Vote 5-0

Board to approve and sign the contract for the new Town Administrator.

Moved by Mr. Silva to table to next meeting, seconded by Mr. Gennette. Vote 5-0

Board to approve and sign Selectmen Meeting Minutes of November 23, 2021.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves to approve and sign Selectmen Meeting Minutes of November 23, 2021, seconded by Mr. Silva Vote 5-0

NEW BUSINESS:

Board to authorize Town Counsel to enter into Valenti v. Ludlow MHPRCB Agreement for Judgment.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves to allow our attorney, Rose Crowley to sign this agreement and any modifications to this agreement on behalf of the Board and the town, seconded by Mr. Gennette. Vote 5-0

Board to discuss disbanding Energy Research Committee due to inactivity and no action occurring in over 5 years.

Moved by Mr. Gennette to table until next meeting seconded by Mr. DeBarge. Vote 5-0

Board to appoint Kathy Demetrius, and Paulina Matusik, Board of Health to the Local Emergency Planning Committee.

Moved by Mr. Gennette to appoint Kathy Demetrius and Paulina Matusik of Board of Health for one year, seconded by Mr. Goncalves. Vote 5-0

Board to approve and sign ten copies of the call of the election for the March 28, 2022 Town Election.

Moved by Mr. Silva to approve and sign ten copies of the call of the election, seconded by Mr. Goncalves. Vote 5-0

Board to peruse Selectmen Meeting Minutes of December 14, 2021.

Board perused Selectmen Meeting Minutes of December 14, 2021.

BOARD UPDATES/MISC.:

Mr. DeBarge: I sat in on a meeting this morning with our Building Department, DPW Business Manager, Town Clerk, a member of our staff in the Board of Selectmen's office, and Doug Stefanik about a new software program for the town. Getting licensing, permitting, fees and making all that automated basically bringing us out of the dark age where we are, and into a much more streamline way of getting all of this stuff out. The DPW could use this as far as trash fees go and all kinds of stuff. I know that Gary our IT Director was there as well. We can use ARPA funds for this. I know without getting into a whole bunch of detail right know this was amazing to see how easy it was to set up. This was brought on by I believe Justin Larivee and Gary I'm very interested to see the proposal from this company and going forward with this. I don't see how we would not want to upgrade all of our software.

Mr. Gennette: That's really good to hear Mr. DeBarge I know from experience that mobile payment and online payments double all other activities going on. Mobile payments are the way of the future and what people prefer to do. I will be very interested to see what the contract has to offer.

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CLOSING COMMENTS:

Mr. Gennette: I just want to let everybody know elections are coming up. We have a pretty out spoken community. There's a lot of things to do in the town. The boards really try to do everything they can. They have the best interest at heart. It's really important to get out there and vote.

Mr. Silva: We do have quite a number of seats in the precincts as a precinct member. It's a shame that we don't really have people who are really interested in these things. This is where you vote for your budgets and practically everything that happens in town.

Mr. Goncalves: No one actually pulled papers for the Assessors' position yet it seems that's what people complain about the most is their taxes and people could've been a part of the process, but no one wanted to run for that. Secondly, right now is a horrible time to be clicking things on the computer that you don't know where there coming from or what they are about. World of confusion out there with everything going on internationally. Everybody is trying to get into everybody else's business now more than ever. The IRS fake emails are out there. You'll see an email where you get a small invoice. Somebody is going to send you an invoice for something that you purchased, an invoice for $18.22, not a biggie, going to tell you to click here to pay the bill or to see more about the bill. The minute you do that they take over your computer. Don't touch anything if you don't know where it's coming from. The minute you open a page it's going to lead to a virus to take over your computer. So be very careful.

Mr. DeBarge: Last night I attended the Ludlow 250th Quincentennial Committee open forum at the high school. This was set up with public speakers, had a little power point thing going on, a set up by Pat from the library with old photos from 1912, - from our town. Let me tell you having had experience with doing open forums, and things like that for the first meeting, I expected fifteen people would show up and then as word passed, we would get better as it went along. We had up to ninety people and they sat there for the presentation and then we had refreshments in the cafeteria with sign up sheets for a lot of different stuff that the committees wants to do, like parades, - and a golf tournament. So, after the presentation people came into the cafeteria and started signing up. It was a great thing to see and I was totally blown away by how many people came to listen to this. There was so much enthusiasm in the cafeteria about making this in 2024 the biggest celebration that we can. It was a great thing to see and I look forward to getting more and more volunteers that we need. Finally, today a friend of mine invited me to the Senior Center for lunch. Today is Fat Tuesday and they were serving Jambalaya, not only was that Jambalaya fantastic as the food at the Senior Center always is, and I know I've said this before but I'm going to tell you what and it wasn't just today that place is absolutely rocking at lunchtime. The cafeteria is totally full, they have some kind of entertainment going on. It's interactive. The building is gorgeous. Everyone is back to some semblance of normalcy. People are smiling. It was a great lunch. On Wednesdays when they don't do lunch inside, they are doing over 220 drive ups. It's the busiest lunch in town and not only that the café is always full. The best part is how interactive it always is and people are smiling. It was amazing to see today and glad to see more of it. I'm glad to see the kids in school being able to have a choice to wear a mask. All in all, beside the national atmosphere I want to say my thoughts and prayers are to the Ukraine people as well in the turmoil they have with this awful invasion. That is, it for me.

Mr. Rosenblum: I don't have much, but I do want to piggyback on a couple of things. First of all, being a precinct member is important because it's the people that vote on anything that we bring to the government and it's an important position. Also; to Mr. Goncalves point, I've seen many things even through the company that I work, but be on the lookout for fishing emails. Change your passwords every couple of months. Also, we have two more meetings before the election, so please get out and vote.

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Moved by Mr. Goncalves to adjourn meeting at 6:44pm, seconded by Mr. Silva. Vote 5-0

Chairman

Ludlow Board of Selectmen