The Meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on Tuesday, March 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:

5:30 p.m. – Carolyn (C.J.) Slifkin – Ludlow Tennis Club – Change of Manager

Ms. Slifkin explained that she is the new manager at the Ludlow Tennis Club and she has been a part of the club for 28 years and for the last 8 years she has been the assistant manager. Since the rise of COVID we were not serving alcohol so I was unaware of the change that needed to be made.

Mr. Gennette asked is Ms. Slifkin was coming in as manager or someone new was taking over?

Ms. Slifkin stated she will be the new manager; she was previously the assistant.

Mr. Goncalves asked if Ms. Slifkin has taken all of the proper training and is she up to date with everything?

Ms. Slifkin stated that she did not take any courses and is unaware if the current manager knows. She also asked where she can go for that?

Mr. Goncalves stated to just go online, the courses are all there and it will save you money on the insurance in the long wrong.

Mr. Rosenblum agreed that those classes will teach the signs of intoxicated people and things like that.

Mr. Silva asked if a Change of Manager requires a public hearing and the abutters to be notified?

Ms. Leecock said it does not.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves to approve the amendment to change the manager from John Hughes to Carolyn (C.J.) Slifkin at Ludlow Tennis Club, seconded by Mr. Gennette. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

5:45 p.m. – Eric Segundo, Veterans Services Director – Memorial Day Activities

Mr. Segundo asked for permission to resume their pre-covid Memorial Day Parade? In addition to this, he requested that on Sunday at 6 p.m. he is able to read the names of the fallen, have a gun salute and a candle light vigil. This will honor the fallen and then on Monday they will have the parade. On Friday they will do wreath laying as well.

Moved by Mr. Silva to approve the Memorial Day Events, to include the wreath laying ceremony on Friday, May 27, 2022 at 3 p.m., the candle light vigil on Sunday, May 29, 2022 at 6 p.m. and the Parade on Monday, May 30, 2022 at 10 a.m., seconded by Mr. Goncalves. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Mr. Segundo asked if can post a registration form on line and in the paper for parade participants.

Moved Mr. Goncalves to approve the 2022 Memorial Day Parade rules and regulations, instructions and parade registration form as submitted, seconded by Mr. DeBarge. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Mr. Segundo asked to begin the parade at 10 a.m. rather than 9 a.m.?

Mr. Goncalves stated that Mr. Silva put that in the original motion to approve the three different events.

Ludlow Housing Authority Tenant Board Member Interviews:

6:00 p.m. – Sharon D. Fry

Ms. Fry stated that she lives in Ludlow and she would like to be a part of this in order to do something for her community. It is very difficult for the elderly and disabled to afford the outrageous rent prices and she would like to try and help by being a part of this board.

Mr. Silva asked is Ms. Fry is aware of what this board actually does?

Ms. Fry stated that she does and she did attend one of the meetings as well.

Mr. Silva asked if there were any issues taking on these responsibilities?

Ms. Fry stated that no there was not.

Mr. Gennette asked if the apartments she lives in are part of the Housing Authority?

Ms. Fry said it is.

Mr. Goncalves asked if she is okay with doing additional training if need be?

Ms. Fry said that is fine.

Mr. Goncalves asked how long she has been a tenant? He also asked if she ever had any issues that she needed to go in front of the board for?

Ms. Fry said she has been there for 3 years and she has not had any issues personally.

Mr. DeBarge thanked her and asked what she would like to accomplish by taking on this role?

Ms. Fry stated that she would like to see things run smoothly.

Mr. Rosenblum asked if there is anything in particular that needs to be addressed?

Ms. Fry said she does not see anything at this point. However, she would like to see more seniors get involved.

Mr. Rosenblum thanked her for coming in.

6:10 p.m. Manuel F. Chaves, Jr.

Cancelled

6:20 p.m. – Raymond C. Anderson

Mr. Anderson explained that he has been a tenant for 15 years and employed as a maintenance man for 12 years. He knows a lot about housing and he gets a lot of feedback from tenants. He's excited about all of the changes being made.

Mr. Rosenblum asked if there is anything in particular that needs to be addressed?

Mr. Anderson stated that most of the tenants are afraid to ask for anything. He would like to encourage the tenants to come to the meetings and communicate what they want or need.

Mr. Goncalves asked why would someone be afraid to ask for something?

Mr. Anderson stated that elderly people just feel that everything bothers them and once they get settled then they don't want to leave.

Mr. Gennette asked what he thinks about rent increases amongst the elderly and is he seeing anyone having to move out because of it?

Mr. Anderson stated that every year there is an increase. If your social security increases then your rent increases as well. He has not seen anyone moving because of the rent increases. He lives on Wilson Street.

Mr. Silva asked if he understands the functionality of the Board?

Mr. Anderson stated that he does. He thinks Robin is doing a great job and would love the opportunity to help her.

Mr. DeBarge stated that he spoke to Mr. Anderson before about fire escapes in his building and he is concerned that the elderly do not want to ask for things because they get comfortable.

Mr. Anderson stated that these people like to get together and sit together and have meals together and COVID really hurt all of that.

Mr. Goncalves asked over the next 5 years what the biggest challenge will be and what is the biggest project that they will be able to accomplish?

Mr. Anderson stated that he believes developing Chestnut Street where Exit 7 is because the seniors are all involved with that and making it a better place to live.

Mr. Goncalves asked if there are any discussions about the land on Granville?

Mr. Anderson stated that discussion is in the works now.

Mr. Gennette asked if he every had a conflict with the Housing Authority?

Mr. Anderson said he has not had any conflict with them.

Mr. Rosenblum thanked Mr. Anderson for coming.

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TOWN OF LUDLOW

6:30 p.m. – Sandy Dutilly

Mr. Rosenblum thanked Ms. Dutilly for calling in and to give an opening statement.

Ms. Dutilly stated that she has lived in housing for 18 years and has not had any problems. Her mother was also a board member in the past.

Mr. DeBarge thanked Ms. Dutilly for getting involved and asked what she would like to bring to the board?

Ms. Dutilly stated that the safety and well being of the clients in housing and to keep things updated there.

Mr. Silva asked if Ms. Dutilly is aware of what this board does and when they meet?

Ms. Dutilly stated that she does to some extent but would like to know more.

Mr. Silva asked if she has ever sat in on a meeting?

Ms. Dutilly state she has.

Mr. Gennette asked if she was going to be able to make the meetings regularly?

Ms. Dutilly stated that if the meetings are held on Wilson Street, she can walk down but she does not have a vehicle.

Mr. Gennette asked which facility she lives in?

Ms. Dutilly states that she lives on Butler.

Mr. Gennette stated they are currently meeting on Chestnut Street and would she be able to attend those?

Ms. Dutilly stated it would depend on the weather.

Mr. Gennette asked if there are areas of concern with the current safety of the buildings?

Ms. Dutilly stated that she would like to be sure that things like gas meters and electrical boxes are up to date, etc. But there is nothing currently that needs to be addressed.

Mr. Goncalves asked Ms. Dutilly has if there were any big projects, she would like to see at the Housing Authority over the next 5 years?

Ms. Dutilly stated she would like to have better insulation put into the buildings. Water seeping through the walls and floors in the basements. Also, frost heaves in the driveways and sidewalks. Updates on the kitchens for less rodent infestations. Updates on bathrooms for less leaks.

Mr. Goncalves asked how Ms. Dutilly feels the current board is doing?

Ms. Dutilly stated that there has been a lot of changes done but not sure exactly where the changes were made. She would like to make a difference and help others.

Mr. Rosenblum thanked her for calling in and for her interest.

Mr. Gennette stated that there were three candidates that applied but unfortunately, they can only pick one. Mr. Anderson already participated for the position interim and has a leg up. He has a knowledge of the buildings and is well known in the community. Therefore, Mr. Anderson would be his recommendation.

Mr. Silva agreed with Mr. Gennette that Mr. Anderson knows the buildings and has already been to some of the meetings. He is thankful that the other two applied but does recommend Mr. Anderson.

Mr. Goncalves agreed with Mr. Gennette and Mr. Silva as well. He also recommended Mr. Anderson.

Mr. DeBarge agreed with the other Selectmen also and Mr. Anderson definitely has the experience and recommends him.

Mr. Rosenblum agrees also and believes that Mr. Anderson will help communicate with the residents and get them to open up more.

Moved by Mr. Gennette to approve Raymond C. Anderson to the Housing Authority Tenant Board for a five-year term, seconded by Mr. Goncalves. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE:

53. St. Elizabeth's Parish – request for One Day Wine and Malt Beverage permit for a Dinner Dance to be held on April 23, 2022. Board to waive the fee if approved.

    Moved by Mr. Goncalves to approve the One Day Wine and Malt Beverage permit for a Dinner Dance to be held on April 23, 2022 at St. Elizabeth's Parish and to waive the fee, seconded by Mr. DeBarge. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

54. 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 February 24, 2022.

    Moved by Mr. Gennette to approve the 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 February 24, 2022, seconded by Mr. Goncalves. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

55. Eversource – request to install a pole on Claudia's Way for street lighting – Board to schedule a public hearing.

    Moved by Mr. Goncalves to schedule a public hearing for Eversource on their request to install a pole on Claudia's Way for street lighting, seconded by Mr. Gennette. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

56. Lucy Obrzut – informing the Board she will be resigning as a Democratic Election Officer.

Moved by Mr. Silva to accept the resignation of Lucy Obrzut as a Democratic Election Officer, seconded by Mr. Gennette. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

57. Kerry Hotaling – informing the Board he will be resigning as a member of the Disability Commission.

Moved by Mr. Gennette to accept the resignation of Mr. Hotaling from the Commission on Disabilities, seconded by Mr. DeBarge. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

58. 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 March 2, 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 March 2, 2022, seconded by Mr. Silva. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

UNFINISHED BUINESS

Moved by Mr. Goncalves to approve and sign the contract for the Town Administrator effective March 14, 2022, seconded by Mr. Silva. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. Silva to approve and sign the Licensing Authority Certification for Ludlow Tennis Club, 40 Carmelina Circle for a Change of Manager, seconded by Mr. Goncalves. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. DeBarge to approve and sign the Selectmen Meeting Minutes of December 14, 2021 with all members present, seconded by Mr. Goncalves. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. DeBarge to sign the previously approved 2022 Class II License for Avid Auto Sales, Amy Fields reflecting the correct legal name of the owner, seconded by Mr. Goncalves. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. DeBarge to sign the previously approved 2022 Class II License for Deluxe Auto Sales, Manuel R. Coelho reflecting the correct legal name of the owner, seconded by Mr. Goncalves. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. DeBarge to sign the One Day Wine and Malt Beverage permit for the St. Elizabeth Parish Dinner Dance, seconded by Mr. Goncalves. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Moved by Mr. Gennette to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign Change Order Number 37 for the Harris Brook Elementary School, seconded by Mr. Goncalves. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Board to discuss HRS contract and delay of information for classification study.

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

Perused Selectmen Meeting Minutes of September 14, 2021.

BOARD UPDATES/MISC.

Mr. Gennette stated that there was a Capital Planning Meeting last night and over the next three Mondays' different departments will be brought in to discuss their requests.

Mr. DeBarge stated that the 250th Celebration is looking for volunteers for subcommittees and asked if anyone is interest to send a letter to the Board of Selectmen's Office.

Mr. Silva stated that the new Town Administrator is Marc Strange and he will be starting his position on March 14, 2022.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds Updates.

Mr. DeBarge wanted to let the Board know that there is a leak in the Town Hall and one of the Departments cannot work in their office currently. He believes a safety needs assessment needs to be

done on Town Hall. There have been talks about needing a new roof for over 5 years now. The HVAC system in Town Hall needs to be looked at. He would like to have the Building Inspector do a needs assessment of the building.

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.

Event Calendar:

March 28 Town Elections – 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
May 9 Annual Town Meeting

CLOSING COMMENTS

Mr. Silva wanted to let the residents know that there is a process for budgeting in Town. There is a subcommittee that looks over the budget and brings it to the Selectmen with recommendations. They also ask the Selectmen for parameters. The Board of Selectmen do not approve the budget, it is approved at Town Meeting. The subcommittee will find the best possible parameters and they recommend it with the budget and bring it to the Selectmen. Currently, we are $87,000 under the levy and if we go over that levy, it would require an override. The Finance Committee will now review what was sent back to them from the Selectmen. Reminds everyone that the election is on the 28th so get out and vote!

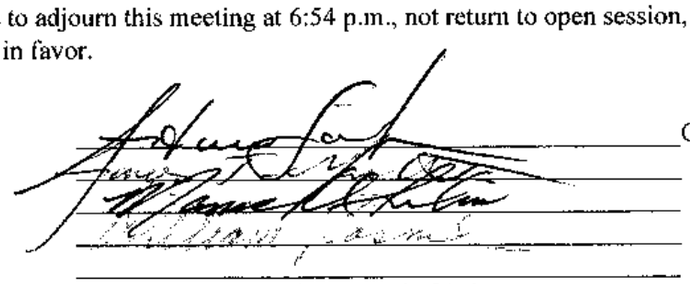
Mr. Rosenblum agreed with Mr. Silva that there is confusion with the process. It's approved only to be moved back to Finance to come up with more recommendations and then it will be sent to the Town Meeting for the final approval. Even though the Board of Selectmen are the gatekeepers of the Town, we don't do this alone.

Mr. Goncalves also agreed and stated that there are a lot of moving parts that go on right up until the Town Meeting is held. Recognized the Boy Scouts for going out and cleaning up some areas in town and thanked them for a great job! Mr. Goncalves let any candidates that are running for office that their signs have to be 10-12 feet from the blacktop on either side of the road, otherwise they will be removed. They cannot be on any town property either. The Building Inspector advised Mr. Goncalves today and emails will be going out to those candidates. Reminds residents that another scam is going around in regards to the census bureau and there was a handwritten envelope postmarked from Hartford stating that it is imperative that you call immediately otherwise you could be fined by the US Government. The phone number listed was a 413-330 number but then it transferred to a foreigner.

Mr. DeBarge stated that there is a disconnect between what the process is and a lot of times two different boards or committees can have different opinions. He believes everyone has the same goal and they need to come together and come to an understanding. Unless the government in our Town can be changed, it will remain this way. He reminded the precinct members that they have the ultimate decision and they actually run this town. There is a lack of progression in this Town as well because of this. He has been talking to Eric Segundo about a spring clean up in Town. Encourages residents to get out and clean up their own area and make our town look good!

Mr. Gennette stated that we are on the cusp of the budget going up significantly. Inflation and the cost of keeping people on the payroll is getting even more difficult. He is not sure how taxes are not going to go up in this town with these issues.

Moved by Mr. Goncalves to adjourn this meeting at 6:54 p.m., not return to open session, seconded by Mr. Silva. 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.