The Meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on Tuesday, April 26, 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. – Eversource Pole Location Hearing – Claudia's Way

Moved by Mr. Silva to open the hearing for Eversource for a relocation of a pole on Claudia's Way at 5:37 p.m., seconded by Mr. DeBarge. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Mr. Sawabi from Eversource introduced himself and stated that Eversource is requesting permission to install a fully owned 35-2 pole to be placed on the Northeasterly side of the intersection of Sportsmen's Road and Claudia's Way with the purpose of providing street lighting.

Mr. Gennette asked if there are overhead wires or underground and where they are going?

Mr. Sawabi stated that these will be overhead and run along the soccer field where there are existing poles.

Mr. Goncalves asked why there is a paragraph on the petition that talks about underground wires?

Mr. Sawabi stated that there are some underground wires already there that feed the school and he believes that is what that is referring to.

Moved by Mr. DeBarge to approve the request by Eversource to install a fully owned 35-2 pole place on the Northeasterly side of the intersection of Sportsmen's Road and Claudia's Way as shown by the diagram given to the Board, which will be for the purpose of street lighting, seconded by Mr. Silva. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. Silva to close the public hearing for Eversource regarding the pole on Claudia's Way at 5:41 p.m., seconded by Mr. Gennette. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

5:45 p.m. – Dangerous Dog Hearing – 346 Holyoke Street

Moved by Mr. Gennette to open the Dangerous Dog Hearing for 346 Holyoke Street at 5:49 p.m., seconded by Mr. Rosenblum. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Mr. Goncalves asked everyone who is going to be testifying to raise their hands. He then swore them in.

Mr. Houle introduced himself as owners of the dog.

Ms. Fernandez introduced herself as owners of the dog.

ACO Anderson stated that these are the dog owners and explained that it was a pretty severe bite. One of the mother's friends was babysitting and brought the child over to Ms. Fernandez' house and the little girl was sitting on the enclosed front porch and the dog was at the little girls' feet. The dog, not sure if he was triggered by something but he jumped up and bit the little girl. The little girl was kicking her feet but never touched the dog, however, they were not sure if that triggered him or not. ACO Anderson met the dog and he was friendly, he went right up to her and she sat with him for about 30-40 minutes and the dog showed absolutely no aggression whatsoever. Most dogs have some level of aggression but this dog had none. Typically, she would ask to have the dog euthanized because of the severity of the bite but in this case, she would ask to have the dog deemed dangerous instead. The owners will need to have a kennel in the yard or a fenced in yard, no tethering and the dog must where a muzzle if it is out in public. The dog was raised around children so she is unsure what triggered it. It is a good size dog; a shepherd mix and the bite looks like a slash type bite.

Ms. Fernandez stated that she was only out there for about 5 minutes and the only thing she could think of is a car door slammed which startled him and he jumped up where he normally sits and that's where the

little girl was sitting. The little girl is tiny too and it was dark on the porch and Ms. Fernandez did not even see her at first either.

ACO Anderson stated that this could definitely have happened because sometimes an older dog gets startled easier, especially if he was in a deep sleep. The mother of the child wanted the dangerous dog hearing. Ms. Anderson probably would not have pressed for this had it not been for the mother. However, as a mother herself, she completely understands this. She feels that if the dog owners follow the Mass General Laws for a dangerous dog and she will also follow up every couple of months to be sure they are doing what they are supposed to do then she believes this should be enough.

Mr. Gennette asked if the dog bit her twice because according to the report the dog bit her in the face and then came back and bit her in the arm?

ACO Anderson stated that it is hard to say. The mother told Ms. Anderson that the dog bit her daughter in the arm and leg but from what she can see on the medical record the bite on the face was the only one.

Mr. Gennette stated that he understands if the dog was startled and bit her once but three times is a game changer for him.

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Mr. Goncalves sworn in Ms. Schunk and asked her to introduce herself.

Ms. Schunk stated her name, she is the mother of the child that was bit.

ACO Anderson asked Ms. Schunk how her daughter is doing?

Ms. Schunk stated that she is getting better.

ACO Anderson asked if the stitches were removed and whether or not she had any further surgery?

Ms. Schunk stated that the stitches were removed but they will not know if she will need surgery for another year.

ACO Anderson asked why that is?

Ms. Schunk stated they want to see how it heals because she still has teeth marks down her face and a scar that goes all the way up the side of her face. So, they won't know for a year how it will heal.

Mr. Goncalves asked if that was because of the tear?

ACO Anderson stated that yes because of the slash. She asked Ms. Schunk about the bites on the arm and leg?

Ms. Schunk explained that the bite on the face was very deep and aggressive bite. The bite on the arm had 4 teeth punctures and on the leg. She did not take pictures of the bite on the leg because of the position but she does have pictures of the arm.

ACO Anderson stated that the fact that there are three different bites on the little girl does change the dynamics of things. She did explain that she met the dog and he did not show any type of aggression with her and usually she can see that in a dog. She is not picking up on any body language or anything. They are just trying to determine if the dog will possibly bite again.

Ms. Schunk explained that her daughter was just sitting in a chair and the dog immediately came around and bit her in the face, the arm and the leg. She did not provoke it and that's scary because you don't know what is going to set a dog like that off. She also stated that she is a dangerous dog mom and her dog has 24/7 care. He has to be watched and separated and it's not easy. Her dog has triggers, like he does not like to be pet in a certain way so she has to keep him away from certain situations that could trigger him. However, this was an unprovoked act so you don't know what that dog is going to do in the future.

Mr. Gennette asked if the other bites were recorded by the doctor?

Ms. Schunk stated that the one on the arm was documented but the one on the leg they did not see until they got home because the hospital did not take all of her clothing off. Her daughter had to be sedated to

put the stitches in because she was under a lot of distress. She spoke to her attorney about the bites and he told her not to take pictures of the one on the leg because of the position.

Mr. DeBarge stated that this is very difficult especially when it is a child. He grew up with dogs and his own dog bit him so he understands it's difficult to know what provokes dogs to bite. He is glad that this is not a discussion about the dog being euthanized and understands how everyone feels. He hopes that Ms. Schunk's daughter is not traumatized by other animals now. He thanked Ms. Anderson for all of her information.

Mr. Rosenblum is also a dog owner but understands that this is a child and it is a tough decision.

ACO Anderson explained to Ms. Schunk that she suggests the dog be deemed dangerous and the owners will have to follow the Mass General Laws which includes the fence line of the kennel being underground and a roof top and visits by her to the owners to be sure they are following the order. She does not want to euthanize the dog but she doesn't want to take a chance of the dog biting again either. She would also have the owners work with a behavioralist as well.

Ms. Schunk understands that it is a big task to be a dangerous dog owner and it's a lot of responsibility. She explained that what bothers her is that no one called the Police or an ambulance after her daughter was bit. They put a towel on her face and her friend drove the little girl to her job. That is a lack of responsibility. She stated that she thinks they need more than a kennel in the backyard and a muzzle if the dog is out in public.

ACO Anderson asked what Ms. Schunk would like to see happen here?

Ms. Schunk explained that this is Ms. Anderson's area of expertise but she does believe it needs to be a little bit more than a kennel in the back yard and a muzzle while out in public as she said.

Mr. Silva asked the dog owners what they would like done? He explained that he is also a dog owner and he feels that if dog were to bite anyone, the dog would be gone.

Ms. Fernandez stated that they have already started keeping the dog away from any kids so this will never happen again. He will be muzzled if he goes out in public and they will work with the trainer.

ACO Anderson believes the trainer will help considerably. She will also take the dog in for intense training if needed as well.

Mr. Silva asked if the training will actually help because of the fact that Ms. Anderson did not witness any aggression?

ACO Anderson stated that trainers will see more things because they are spending a lot more time with the dog. If she had the dog for a week, she would see triggers and things like that. Usually with dog bites, 99% of the time the dog will bite again. It normally a dog's instinct not to bite because they see people as their caretakers but children they sometime see as a playmate, on the same level as them.

Mr. Silva asked if Ms. Fernandez has small children at her house?

Ms. Fernandez stated that her children are 11 and 13 years old.

Mr. Goncalves asked if Ms. Fernandez has a day care at her home?

Ms. Fernandez said she does not and the reason the child was there is because Ms. Schunk's friend brought the child over to Ms. Fernandez' home. She was there for 5 minutes before this all went down.

Mr. Houle stated that she was there, it happened and then she was gone.

Ms. Fernandez explained that her friend took her and left so they didn't have time to call 911. She explained that they have never been in this type of situation before and were not sure what to do but the friend had already left with the child.

Mr. Goncalves asked how long they were there before the bite?

Mr. Houle stated it was only about 3 minutes.

Mr. Goncalves asked if that was the first time the dog bit anyone and has it happened again since then?

Ms. Fernandez stated the dog never bit before this and never showed any aggression toward anyone since.

Mr. Goncalves asked if the dog was sleeping at the child's feet or the dog came around the corner?

Mr. Houle stated that the dog was at his feet because the dog sits next to him all of the time.

Ms. Fernandez explained that there is a table and Mr. Houle's chair was to the side of the table and the dog was in front of Mr. Houle and the little girl was to the right of Mr. Houle.

Mr. Goncalves stated that Ms. Schunk was under the impression that the dog came around the corner.

Ms. Fernandez stated that the dog was laying down if front of the child.

Mr. Goncalves asked if that was the first time the child had ever been to Ms. Fernandez' house?

Ms. Fernandez stated that it was the first time she had ever met the child or been in her house.

ACO Anderson stated that they could get the trainer involved with this dog and he could go to her house for two weeks, which the owners would be responsible for the cost of that and they would also need to get insurance rider on the dog as well. No tethers at all. The dog will need to wear the muzzle even going in and out of the kennel. The trainer will help the owners be able to read the dog better. The dog should not be around people until the dog and the owners have the proper training tools.

Mr. Silva stated that with the recommendations that Ms. Anderson is giving, the owners have to consider these costs as well.

Ms. Fernandez stated they are.

ACO Anderson stated that the kennel will need to be built within two weeks. The Mass General Laws does have specific requirements of the kennel which she will get for them. With the dog being deemed dangerous, if the owners ever move to a new town in Massachusetts, they would need to be notified before moving and they have the right to deny the dog living there.

Mr. Gennette said he is confused because it was Ms. Schunk's friend who actually brought the little girl to Ms. Fernandez' house. Therefore, the dog owners were completely surprised by this as well and Mr. Gennette is confused as to which way to go with this issue now.

ACO Anderson stated that taking this from that point Mr. Gennette brought up, that there are strangers in the dog's house and it was late at night, it was 8:30 at night and these are not normal circumstances for the dog to be in.

Mr. Goncalves asked how long they were there before the dog bit her?

Ms. Fernandez stated they were there maybe 5-10 minutes.

Mr. Goncalves stated that they didn't come in and the dog bit her, they were there for about 5-10 minutes?

Mr. Houle explained that he was smoking a cigarette out on the porch and told them to bring the little girl inside but the friend said that she was shy. Mr. Houle then explained that he didn't want any kids on the porch and then that's when it happened.

ACO Anderson stated that the dog can pick up on that also, the body language of the owners.

Ms. Schunk agreed that her daughter should not have been there, however, this still happened and they allowed her friend and her daughter to go into their home. Whether or not they were there for 5-10 minutes before the bite, should not matter. The dog still bit her daughter in three places and she received 12 stitches in her lip. Ms. Schunk had to remove her own dogs because her daughter is now traumatized. A dangerous dog owner is a huge commitment and she needs to know that the owners can commit to that.

Ms. Fernandez stated that they are ready to commit to that.

Ms. Schunk asked about Ms. Fernandez' own children and if she was concerned about them?

Ms. Fernandez stated that the dog has been around them for 6 years and has never shown any aggression but agrees that you never know.

Mr. Goncalves asked if Ms. Schunk has a dangerous dog in her home?

Ms. Schunk said she does and he is not around her children. He has his own entrance and exit and a kennel that is sunk 1 foot into the ground with a roof as Mass General Law requires. Her children do not come into contact with him. She will never take that risk.

Mr. DeBarge explained that he would like to give Ms. Fernandez and Mr. Houle the chance to rectify the situation because there wasn't an incident prior to this dog bite or since. However, he does feel for Ms. Schunk and understand where she is coming from.

Ms. Schunk stated that she is fine with that and she is not asking for the dog to be euthanized.

ACO Anderson stated that she is good at her job and she does monitor these things. She will not put up with a dangerous dog. She told Ms. Schunk that she is more than welcome to keep in touch with her and she understands why she is concerned about this. She will follow through with this and make sure the owners are doing what is asked of them.

Ms. Schunk explained that as long as they are willing to try and there are precautions set in place to protect everyone else.

Mr. Rosenblum would recommend that the dog be placed with the trainer for at least two weeks also.

ACO Anderson stated that she spoke with the trainer also and she has no problem with that.

Moved by Mr. Silva to deem the dog owned by Mr. Houle and Ms. Fernandez as a dangerous dog by the name of Harley and follow all Animal Control Officer's stipulations and orders, which are as follows: two weeks at the trainer's home at the owner's expense, the pen to be built to Mass General Laws specifications, muzzled any time away from the kennel or home and insurance as required by Mass General Law, seconded by Mr. DeBarge. Vote 4-1-0. One Opposed.

Moved by Mr. Rosenblum to close the dangerous dog hearing at 6:28 p.m., seconded by Mr. Silva. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE:

90. Board Reorganizations – Ludlow Planning Board, Hubbard Memorial Library.

Moved by Mr. Silva to accept those as read and file, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

91. Brian Shameklis, Safety Chairman – recommending to the Board of Mount Vernon Group Architects to place the new school zone flashing signage on the northbound side of Fuller Street.

Moved by Mr. Silva to approve the Safety Committee's recommendations for the Mount Vernon Group Architects to place a new school zone flashing signage on the northbound side of Fuller Street as long as the cost is coming from the school building funds and is not a cost to the Town, seconded by Mr. Gennette. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

92. Brian Shameklis, Safety Chairman – recommending to the Board a temporary trial period of removing two (2) parking spaces in front of 271 East Street to create a better line of sight for vehicles.

Moved by Mr. Rosenblum to approve a temporary trial period of removing two (2) parking spaces in front on 271 East Street to create a better line of sight for vehicles, seconded by Mr. DeBarge. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

93. Louis Gilli, EH&S Engineer – informing the Board that MMWEC will be conducting the 2022 2nd quarter inspection on its natural gas pipeline during the calendar quarter.

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

94. Anthony Alves – informing the Board of his resignation from the Finance Committee, Bylaw Review Committee and Capital Planning Improvement Committee.

Moved by Mr. Gennette to accept the resignation of Anthony Alves from the Finance Committee, Bylaw Review Committee and Capital Planning Improvement Committee, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

UNFINISHED BUINESS

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

Board to discuss and accept ARPA funding allocations as revenue loss and create a Special Revenue Fund to house the ARPA funds.

Ms. Collis, Town Accountant, explained that the Government is allowing municipalities to use up to $10 million dollars in ARPA funding as revenue loss if you want to and because Ludlow was awarded $6.3 million, we are able to use all of that as revenue loss if you want to. The Board of Selectmen will still have to vote on each item and the money will stay in a separate account, which can be an interest-bearing account.

Moved by Mr. Silva to accept the ARPA funding allocations as revenue loss and create a Special Revenue Fund to house these funds, seconded by Mr. DeBarge. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Board to discuss and vote to set the FY23 Operating Budget amount.

Mr. Strange explained that this item was originally put on the agenda for the Board to talk about the final budget number due to unresolved issues with the school. Since then, there has been a few unexpected items which presented themselves. The first one was the DPW trash collection bids for FY 2023-2025 and those bids came in for FY 23 $375,000 more then what was budgeted. This is an issue the Board needs to discuss tonight. The town also received their proposed insurance increase from MIIA, which is 7% with a 2 1/2% discount if we pay before August 1st leaving us with a 4 1/2% increase and there is currently a 1% increase in the budget.

Ms. Collins explained that the first estimate from MIIA was 3% and we added 3% to the budget, then 1% was added as a buffer. Then, in addition to that, the Town will be going to 78/22 on July 1st and will be saving 3%. Therefore, on the school's insurance there will be an increase of $101,070 and on the Town's side, it will be a $41,580 for a total of approximately $140,000. This will leave a levy of $41,524. Ms. Collins did not include the trash with this budget because she believes it is going to come down to Town Meeting. One of the issues with the trash is that no one wants to do manual trash anymore, most of them are automated and therefore, no one wants to do a 3-year contract. $400,000 per year will be added to the contract over the next 3 years for the bins for a total of $1.2 million. Automated trash will be cheaper in the future though.

Mr. Goncalves asked if the trash bill is going to be $1,282,000 minimally and up to $1,640,000 this coming year depending on if we go automated or not?

Ms. Collins agreed with Mr. Goncalves and stated that this is only collections. That does not include disposal and transport. For example, in FY23, the DPW budgeted for $923,000 for collections, $600,000 for disposal and $35,000 for transport and that will not cover trash for FY23. The cost per unit is $307 and we are currently charging $100. So, 1/3 is being funded by the fee and the rest is by the tax rate. However, the tax rate is not supporting the cost of trash right now. If we decided to go automated, you could use free cash, or ARPA funds. There will still be a short-fall. If we use ARPA to fund the bins for automated, there will still be a $320,000 deficit. If we continue with manual, there will still be a deficit of $363,000.

Mr. Rosenblum asked if they would have to bring it to Town Meeting if they wanted a 5-year contract?

Ms. Collins said yes there would need to be an article at Town Meeting.

Mr. Silva asked when the current contract is up?

Ms. Collins stated July 1st.

Mr. Silva explained that he is frustrated that the DPW did not want to sit down with the Selectmen and discuss this much sooner. Now there is only a short time left to figure this out and the Selectmen will get blamed for it.

Mr. Rosenblum believes the town should just eliminate trash all together.

Ms. Collins explained that when this was first discussed the DPW wanted to subsidize the trash with the tax payer, however the $100 does not cover the trash removal.

Mr. Silva stated that he would prefer not to get rid of the trash removal but would like to see it on the Ballot for tax payers to decide.

Mr. DeBarge clarified that in order to fund it for FY23, the town would need $370,000?

Ms. Collins stated that would be for manual and automated would be $320,000 plus funding for the bins.

Mr. DeBarge is beyond frustrated with this. He agrees with Mr. Silva that the DPW should have come in front to the Selectmen much sooner than this. He asked what Ms. Collins suggests?

Ms. Collins stated that if they decide to go automated, she suggests putting it into the capital article and using either free cash or ARPA funds for the bins. If the Board decides to go manual again and use free cash, that would reduce the tax rate.

Mr. Goncalves suggested using the ARPA funds and leaving the free cash.

Mr. Gennette asked if any of the other bids included the bins?

Ms. Collins explained that they only received two bids and one of them was for 5-years and they can't use that one.

Mr. Strange explained that there is a grant to pay for these bins, that just opened two weeks ago. It was sent over to Jesse English at the DPW to look over. Mr. Strange was thinking of maybe doing a 1-year contract to give us some time to see if we qualify for the grant and then maybe we can reduce our costs in years two and three.

Ms. Collins asked if we are applying for the grant, could you technically enter the contract to fund with ARPA contingent upon not getting the grant?

Mr. Strange stated that it is going to depend on when the bins will need to be purchased.

Mr. Silva asked if the Town could ask the residents to pay for the bins? Mr. Silva also asked if the Board of Selectmen can handle the trash issue moving forward and not have the DPW involved?

Mr. Goncalves stated that this should be a joint effort between the DPW and the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Gennette stated that this town is always reactionary and that needs to stop and he believes a Grant Writer would be a great benefit to this town.

Ms. Collins explained that the bid they received for the automated trash removal was for $1,640,475 in year one, $1,706,094 for year two, $1,774,328 for year 3 and $400,000 of that would be for the bins each year. This is cheaper than the manual bid, and eventually the trash companies will do away with the manual. Ms. Collins also reiterated that the total cost for trash is $2.3 million to include removal, disposal and transportation.

Mr. Gennette asked where the $2.3 million would come from in the budget?

Ms. Collins explained that there is currently $1,555,000 in the budget and then you would have to fund the bins, which is $400,000 and the difference of $320,000 would come from $50,000 that the DPW has already in their budget from recycling and another $104,000 which can come from ARPA and the rest the DPW would have to figure out.

Mr. Strange suggests getting a one-year contract for manual and try to get the grant for the bins and then we can switch over to automated for year two and three.

Mr. Rosenblum stated that it takes at least a month to negotiate a trash contract so they still need to find the $320 or $360,000 they will need for FY23.

Ms. Collins stated that the town will need to fund $239,400 in addition to the $110,000 that ARPA would cover.

Mr. Gennette asked if we could fund it from free cash?

Mr. Strange stated that they could do that and still have $1 million in free cash and $5 million in stabilization which is not terrible. Mr. Strange also reminded the Board that they do not have to vote on this tonight because there is another meeting next week.

Mr. Goncalves asked if they could get the DPW in next week to discuss this more in depth?

Mr. Strange stated that Mr. Santos will be there for a visitation at 6 p.m. already.

Mr. Goncalves asked the School Committee if they still have $150,000 that could be brought to Town Meeting?

Mr. Harrington explained that their meeting is tomorrow night but the $150,000 was for two positions. He said the school committee will probably vote on their final budget tomorrow night.

Ms. Collins stated that this was somewhat expected because of COVID some of the insurance companies were giving one-month holidays and now the cost has gone up 7%, this has not happened in years.

Mr. Goncalves recommended that the Board of Selectmen meet with the different boards in town at least quarterly so things like this stop happening.

Mr. Gennette stated that the town government needs to change.

Mr. Rosenblum agreed with Mr. Gennette.

Mr. Goncalves reminded everyone that precinct members are needed.

Mr. Silva stated that he does not believe that employees of the town should be precinct members.

Moved by Mr. Rosenblum to table to vote and set the FY23 Operating Budget amount, seconded by Mr. Silva. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Board to discuss and make the Annual Appointments. Mr. Goncalves read the list.

Moved by Mr. Silva to appoint all to the Annual Appointments as read, seconded by Mr. Gennette. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Board to discuss and consider Town Building Facilities Conditions Assessment (FCA) Proposal from Colliers Project Leaders.

Moved by Mr. DeBarge to move forward with the Town Building Facilities Conditions Assessment (FCA) Proposal as proposed from the Colliers Project Leaders set forth by our Town Administrator at $.2042/square foot, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. Gennette to approve the expenditures of the Colliers' study at $.2042/square foot out of ARPA funds, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum. Vote 4-0-1. One Opposed.

Board to declare 54 Winsor and 63 Chestnut as surplus town property.

Moved by Mr. Silva to declare 54 Winsor and 63 Chestnut as surplus town property, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. DeBarge to terminate the Town Administrator Search Committee, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

BOARD UPDATES/MISC.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds Updates.

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:

April 30	Sgt. Joshua D. Desforges Challenge
May 7	Town of Ludlow Clean Up Day
May 9	Annual Town Meeting
May 30	Memorial Day – Veteran's Day Activities and Parade

CLOSING COMMENTS

Mr. Rosenblum stated that the Town needs growth, they need to work with WestMass and get the mills going and projects going in there for tax revenue. The town needs to seriously think about cannabis, cultivation and retail. Without growth, the tax payers are going to get hammered every year. The Board knew it was going to be tough coming out of COVID. He believes they should also start looking at a split tax rate. The town needs growth and revenue.

Mr. Silva agrees with Mr. Rosenblum. He reminded residents to stay safe, COVID is still here. He also thanked all of the committee members, he is grateful that we have people that volunteer out there.

Mr. DeBarge wanted to remind everyone that Friday, the 29th at the Portuguese Club is the Sgt. Joshua D. Desforges scholarship pasta dinner. This is a great cause. The next day is the challenge itself at the high school at 9 a.m. Clean up day is May 7th and Eric Segundo and Mr. DeBarge went to several businesses on Center Street and East Street to let them know about this and try to get these businesses on board with this. Mr. DeBarge would like to see this done every year. He spoke with Lydia from East Street Coffee and she was excited about this and will have some type of discount for those volunteering on May 7th. Mr. DeBarge wanted to mention Bishop Evans, the National Guard Soldier who tried to save two migrants from drowning and drowned himself. His sympathies go out to his family.

Mr. Gennette stated that growth projects in a glutenous system, is a fool's errand. The only thing that does is bring in more money to feed the monster, you have to fix the problem and get to the root of it. The problem is our Town is too spread out and there's not enough transparency. We have to take care of that first and build the fundamentals, organize ourselves better and issues like this trash shortfall would not happen. We need to be more proactive, not reactive to things. We need to focus on the cleanup first and then growth. Mr. Gennette believes that the Board will need to research the effects of the cannabis industry on a town like ours before jumping into that.

Mr. Goncalves reminded everyone to be careful with all of the scams out there. He also reminded everyone about the upcoming events. He thanked Angela Kramer and Big Y for the COVDI clinic today where 215 people were vaccinated.

Moved by Mr. Gennette, to adjourn this meeting at 8:00 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.