Meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on Tuesday, August 9, 2022 beginning at 5:30 pm in the Selectmen's Conference Room, Town Hall.

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

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First Order of Business: The Pledge of Allegiance

VISITATIONS:

5:35 p.m. Verizon Pole Hearing – Fuller Street

Moved by Mr. Gennette to open this Verizon Pole Hearing at 5:40 pm, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum. Vote 5-0

Mr. Boehner: John Boehner with Verizon. I'm here to present this pole as being put on Fuller Road. It's being placed as a mid-span pole between the two existing poles; the main purpose of supporting the solar farm going across the street. I just checked the measurements. I was just out there in the field. They're a little off than what they are on the map by about ten feet either direction. I believe the reason is to put it right between the property lines so that the homeowner that would be facing the pole where the measurement has a little less sight of the pole, and still has a good line for the existing poles as they are heading towards the solar farm.

Mr. Silva: The residents there know where it's going. They are obviously not here complaining about it so they're good with it.

Mr. Goncalves: Can I comment on that? Our pole expert went out there and spoke to the residents, maybe a lot of those questions can be answered. Mr. Gennette?

Mr. Gennette: I did. I went out and spoke to the residents. The poles that they are taking out and I just want to make sure that you are removing two poles that are there to put in the new pole and that's going to be on the line?

Mr. Boehner: To my knowledge, the two poles that are there are going to stay, and the new pole is the mid-span to support the amount of service that is going to or coming out. Those other two poles to my knowledge are to stay.

Mr. Gennette: So that means that those poles would be 10, 15 feet; I mean if they're about 30 feet right now, if you put another pole?

Mr. Boehner: What it's going to be is 44 feet from the one that is in front of 519 Fuller. So it's a little closer than the 55 foot measurement and the other one is going to be actually further away from over a 103 feet from the pole that's on 3 feet from the pole that is on 515 Fuller. It's going to be right on the property line. The line of site is not going to change from what they have had in the past. It's just the new one is going over at the property line right near where the stake is.

Mr. Gennette: The residents were nonchalant about it. The only concern that I have now is if you put this other pole in there now they are going to have three poles lined up across their properties and it's going to look like a picket fence. They may not have a problem now, but I'm worried that once it goes in they're going to have a little bit of an issue. The pole, if you are looking at the house, it's the one to the left; that is 515, right?

Mr. Boehner: Yes.

Mr. Gennette: The pole to the left, you said that is 45 feet down.

Mr. Boehner: It was going to be about 45 feet. It's basically where it is now in front of the house, right to the property line which is only about 45 feet. I have pictures if you'd like to see them.

Mr. Gennette: Sure.

Mr. Goncalves: The two existing are staying where they are?

Mr. Boehner: Yes.

Mr. Goncalves: Which way does this travel? You are servicing the solar farm, so you are bringing service out. Is it going back to the center of town or going out towards Granby?

Mr. Boehner: I can't speak for that. I don't know where it's going to go after that. I assume there will be some substation where it will be headed to disperse the energy.

Mr. Goncalves: I've got to believe it will probably go west, probably. Why don't you put it on the opposite side? There's an empty lot here.

Mr. Boehner: Inline poles are generally stronger and safer and more taut when you leave them on the same side of the street. If you start moving them across the road, you can get droopy lines, you worry about something falling down. It's better to put them in line on the same side of the street.

Mr. Gennette: See this one here, the next pole down, it doesn't look like it's that far. What's your range for poles? The max range is like under 20 feet or something like that.

Mr. Boehner: Yeah, give or take yes.

Mr. Gennette: The next one down is only 45, 50 feet from the existing pole that's there now on the left. Does that pole need to stay there? That's literally in their front yard and so is this one. This one is a little further down. I think this one up here I think would make 120 there.

Mr. Boehner: Here are the pictures you can scroll, hopefully you don't get some of the personal ones, but if you scroll right through the first picture there is a picture from the stake to the 515 and it shows roughly the 45-foot distance. Then I took one across the street to the new solar farm poles and then one to the other poles and one of the stake, the property line stake and the stake for the poles.

Mr. Gennette: Like I said I talked to the residents, and they had no care or concern. They've been notified. They both knew and they were notified so.

Mr. DeBarge: Is there a number for this?

Mr. Boehner: There is a number, the petition number is 4A0PF8G.

Moved by Mr. DeBarge to approve Verizon pole 4A0PF8G to be located on Fuller Street as mentioned in the meeting, seconded by Mr. Gennette. Vote 5-0

Moved by Mr. DeBarge to close the hearing at 5:48pm, seconded by Mr. Gennette. Vote 5-0

6:00 p.m. Nuisance Dog Hearing

Moved. By Mr. Rosenblum to open the Nuisance Dog Hearing at 6:00 pm, seconded by Mr. Gennette. Vote 5-0

Mr. Goncalves: I guess you know why we are here. I think it's something that we need to discuss and bring out in the open and let everybody talk about what's happening here. We'll start with our Animal Control Office. Before you speak if you can identify yourselves.

Jennifer Ruggiero, Jonathan Ruggiero, Liza Larose, Christopher Banas

Ms. Anderson: This is a Nuisance Dog Hearing for barking. The dog in question is a Great Pyrenees. It's a guardian breed dog. They are used in protecting livestock and they have a tender personality as far as protection goes. They are great with small animals, sheep, chickens, but they are guard dogs, and they bark. Their job is to protect against wildlife. This has been going on, we first started to get calls in April about the barking dog. The dog has lived on the property for 4

years without any complaints. When they first started the complaints in April, I went out or an officer would go out and we heard absolutely nothing. This went on for a good month or so. At one point, one of the neighbors went over in the middle of a snowstorm/rainstorm, took a video of the dog in front of the dog kennel of the dog barking in the rain and posted it on Facebook. Facebook blew up with people threatening to come and unleash the dog and it was cruel and inhumane, etc., etc. One of the dispatchers called me at home and said you need to watch this. So, we solved that problem. The dog is living in a kennel that is completely in compliance with what Mass General Laws state for dog kennels, probably even beyond that. A lot of these dogs, especially these guardian bread dogs, live their lives as guardians. They hate being inside. They get depressed. They're happy when it's 10 degrees outside. Their heavy, big coats actually insulate them instead of making them really hot. Most breeders recommend not shaving them down because it will expose them to the heat which the heavy coat keeps them cool. My dogs are inside dogs. They couldn't deal with being outside, but some dogs prefer to be outside. I take all that into consideration that is why I'm bringing up breeds. After the incident with the film, she filed trespassing charges to try and make this all go away. It settled down for a while and then the barking complaints came in again. That's when Jennifer approached me via my Facebook page and from there we've been going back and forth. The dog does bark. I've heard the dog bark. I was trapping cats a couple houses down and heard him. It was not a 10–15-minute thing, a couple barks and silence. I was there most of the day and I've heard her maybe two or three times. At night, I've never heard her. I'm not saying it doesn't happen. I've just never been able to catch it. Liza has done everything I've asked her to do. The dog is registered with the town, currently licensed. She's talked to trainers. She's tried a bark collar. The dog now has chickens to protect. I think part of the dog's problem is she wasn't doing anything. She no longer had her flock to guard. So, she now has her chickens that are in compliance with our chicken rules. I know that sounds ridiculous, but she is in compliance with the chicken rules. That's where we left it. I've printed up a map of where the property is on Moore Street. It's fairly woody. One resident is 127 feet from the kennel and going the other way it's roughly 182 feet. She's not nose to nose on the properties. One of the main reasons we're here is because I don't know what to do at this point. She's complied with everything, but the dog is still barking on some levels, not as bad as she was according to them, but still barking. She sees something in the woods that can potentially eat her chickens and she's going to bark. That's what they do. She also has the right to the farm community. Most right to farm laws do mention guardian breeds. They're not necessarily exempt from the laws, but they do fall into that grey area. There's a case in California in a similar situation as the one here. The dog case ended up in District Court and the dog owner ended up winning the case. There have been some legal findings that mostly rule in favor of the dog. We've talked about rehoming the dog, but she doesn't want to get rid of the dog. She loves the dog. They also need to sleep. I have a letter from her roommate at the house for you.

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Mr. Goncalves: "I am Liza Larose's roommate. I've lived with her for about 5 months. I do not have any issues with her dog Bella. Liza always takes care of her attentively. Bella is a happy dog. Bella does not disturb me with any barking. My bedroom is not far from her kennel. She does not disturb me with any barking. Bella's barking if she sees or hears something is not any different, is no different from any other dog in the neighborhood starts barking."

Ms. Anderson: Going back to my map, the kennel was part of the problem. Where the kennel ended up having to be placed is the driveway, the house is over there, and the dog can clearly see people walking by. What she has done to fix that problem is I suggested she put a fence or blockage in front of the kennel, but not to block the wind or air or anything like that. It's about 6 to 7 feet away from the kennel that blocks the view to help as far as her seeing anyone. She has a doghouse. It's raised off the ground and follows the Mass Codes. I think bringing this dog inside is going to make it pretty miserable. Bark Collars didn't seem to faze her. Some dogs react to them, and some dogs don't. She has that big heavy coat. Unless they shave her neck, I think it's a little bit extreme, but we haven't tried that yet. I took the dog in when it got really hot a couple weeks ago. I brought the dog to the shelter for about 3 to 4 days just so I wouldn't have any more complaints. Her kennel itself is much cooler than my kennel is. While she was there, I didn't hear a word from her. I'd walked by with dogs and cats; I was outside, and she just wagged her tail. A nice dog you know unfortunately she's living in an urban setting that doesn't necessarily appreciate her dog barking. Jennifer and her husband have been patient through all this. They are being woken at all different times of the night. I mean she does have a loud bark. It's not a quiet little dog. The dog is 100 pounds. She's not a little dog.

Mr. Banas: She's 112 pounds. I'm not going to lie she's loud, she's a big girl, but we are also right outside the reservoir. There's bears, moose, deer, fisher cats, other things beside people just walking by. It's a 3-acre piece pf property and that's where we stand.

Ms. Anderson: Another thing I discovered about this particular breed of dog is they are night dogs. They sleep during the day, and they are awake all night long. Most dogs are asleep 20 hours a day and if you break it down how long your dog is actually awake, these dogs are awake all night long and usually settle during the day. It's just built into their genetic makeup. So that's where we are.

Mr. Goncalves: Comments.

Mr. Ruggiero: I think the main thing we've just realized now is this has been starting since the end of March, early April when the barking really started. We waited a couple weeks. The barking didn't get any better. We really didn't know what to do. We called the cops. They really didn't give us much information as far as where this would lead to or where we would go from there. We just kept calling and calling whether it was midnight, 2:00 o'clock, 3:00 o'clock, 4:00 o'clock. It didn't matter. It was every hour on the hour. In April/May it was the worst, more calls came in as this started to progress and little things started to be done. That's when my wife started talking to the dog officer. She said, "I'll speak with the owner. We're going to try a bark collar and this and that." A month went by, and nothing happened, the dog kept barking every day. We were like I guess that didn't happen and seemed like we were getting farther and farther and waiting more and more. Now here we are six months later, and it seems like everything got done like right that second. What I'm upset about is we had to wait so long for some type of answer on what we're supposed to do. It's not like we are trying to take the dog away or anything. We are just trying to sleep at night. We have jobs. I've had to call out of work 2, 3 times in the past 6 months because I haven't gotten any sleep. Now I'm losing money and I can't support my family because I have a dog next door barking 6 to 8 times a night all night. I don't know what else to do but just keep calling the cops; that just progressed to calling more and more. Then we started talking to the dog officer. She didn't know if calling the cops was really doing anything. After calling 4 or 5 times, we finally spoke to the dispatch officer, and she said just to keep track and a record of it. If you want to pursue this, you need to get in contact with the dog officer. Once we started pursuing that, we tried working back and forth with the owner and the dog officer to try and figure something out. It seemed like it just continued and continued, and we were being told something and we weren't seeing it get done. We were told that they were going to try a bark collar. We didn't see that happening. Then we were told they were going to try some other things and it didn't seem like anything was getting better. So, we thought we should pursue a hearing and see what would happen.

Mr. Goncalves: Has anything been getting better?

Mr. Ruggiero: It's has been getting better, but we still hear it through the day and stuff which is fine. Throughout the night it has been getting better. I still hear it once in a while at night and everything.

Mrs. Ruggiero: Thank you by the way first off for being here today. I appreciate it. I also appreciate you as well. I have been able to reach out to her and things are progressing, starting to happen which is great. Yes, the barking is there and it's crazy and I'm not going to lie. I'm a dog lover. We have a dog also. I don't want anything to happen to the dog, but it is hard because we do get woken up at all crazy hours of the night. She's right it is mostly at night. During the day, I don't hear her. Last month, every time I'd walk my dog by because I walk our dog in the neighborhood she would go nuts. I had a neighbor who came to me and said, "is your dog being good?" I'm like yes, my dog is good. He said she needs to teach her some manners. That's why this is so hard. I don't even know what to do at this point. I feel for this dog, I do, but I also realize that hearing that barking and waking you up in the middle of the night you get this broken sleep. I know my husband's broken sleep after broken sleep after broken sleep; it starts to get to you a little bit. It's difficult it really is. I work with kids. I have to be on the top of my game. I have to be there and completely attentive, and he works on cars, so he definitely has to be on top of his game. This is so tricky and honestly I don't know what the solution would be at this point. I appreciate everything that has immediately been done. I'm the one that suggested putting a tarp over it. Then there was music and that was a great idea, but it constantly kept barking and she's right it's not a constant 20 minutes and that's what makes it so difficult. It's like barking, barking

really loud and stops and barking, barking really loud and stops. I'd say that within an hour I've seen it like between 5 times maybe 4. It's definitely gotten less I will say especially during the day. Recently I haven't heard it during the night though, at night there are times. He says in the morning he can hear it and that's tough.

Mr. Banas: When a bear walks by, living in the woods.

Ms. Larose: There's a bear in the yard. My issue is that person across the street that I had to get a trespass order. He started all that. I literally had people in my yard and that's why she was barking all the time. There were people coming into my yard going to see the "abused dog". This was happening at all hours of the night, and this was for months on end they kept coming. They were threatening to kill my dog, hamburger, and glass. I have her under lock and key. You can't have access to her. I have signs now that say caution livestock herding dog on premises working, don't come on the property without escort. I have no trespassing signs everywhere. Bella is in the back corner of my property. There are woods behind my house. There is a bear I get every year. I have a moose in my yard that stands there and looks at me and she's protecting her stuff. Before she had goats, chickens, rabbits, all that stuff was there for her and all that went away. We tried to put her in the house and Bella doesn't do houses, she'd get depression and would not get up. She would be whining and howling at the door. We went through the process of building her this enormous 16 x 16 enclosure, put the bark collar on her, went and put tarps around it, put wood fencing and then it has actual caging in the front and put tarps over that covering everything. Now that she doesn't see the road we're better. Now that people are not coming into my yard we are better. She had to get acclimated back outside. I didn't get her chickens right away. I just got her the chickens now and she's content with her chickens. The people that were coming because it was put on Facebook it was so bad. I wish I had screen shot the comments that were said about this dog. It was horrifying. Especially when you have people in your house and they're going in your yard, at least 300 feet plus, in your yard right behind your house. What do you do?

Mr. Banas: The dog is set back about a 100 feet. The neighbors right here are probably 500 feet away.

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Ms. Larose: She's quite a bit off the street. There are trees blocking it.

Mr. Banas: There's plenty of trees. She's in the shade. She's a good dog. She's not a nuisance dog. She is doing her job.

Ms. Larose: This all started when this kid got hammered on Easter and decided to drive his car down my driveway up to her kennel, flashed his high beams, got her to come out saturated and then all of a sudden started the video. Since he did that, I've had so many people in my yard fishing around at night. That's why she's barking. She's barking heavily because these people were coming into my yard. Now we are mellowing out. We're going to put the divider in the front, so she doesn't see the road. We're going to do the fencing in the front. Plus, I take her out. Last July, she was in Texas. We went on vacation. It's not like she's left in this kennel to do absolutely nothing. She is my dog. She goes with me. That was my issue when he did that all hell broke loose. People were threatening me that they were going to kill me. You should have seen Facebook. It was horrible. Then people started showing up and didn't stop for a long time.

Ms. Anderson: This person had the address actually posted.

Ms. Larose: My address, my phone number, everything.

Ms. Anderson: It was a little bit scary how everything escalated. When dispatch called me at 11:00, heads up, just watching these threats. It was...

Mr. DeBarge: If the dog had been quiet for 4 years is that the incident that triggered the dog to do this or was she barking before that?

Mrs. Ruggiero: This all started in March.

Mr. DeBarge: If nothing before that was there something that caused her to start doing this in March?

Mr. Banas: Yes, what happened is one of her other dogs had just recently passed away, Munchy. These two dogs were besties. You couldn't separate these two. The dogs were in the house and once Munchy passed on due to old age Bella had this question "where's my friend, now what do I do?" So, we did some more homework on the dog and found out this is what has to happen. It needs a companion. It needs to be working. It needs something to do if it's bored, Dogs just don't twiddle their thumbs.

Ms. Larose: That was part of it too. Boredom was my fault. That was my fault. I take responsibility for that. She did have livestock before. She was herding before. That was all gone, and I wanted to figure out how to make her comfortable back there. She did have an enclosure that was round., an enormous, huge enclosure that was round. I took it all down and cleaned it all out and made her this nice enclosure thinking it would be okay.

Mr. DeBarge: Would you guys say that there was a change after the chickens?

Ms. Anderson: Something to do, you know dogs get bored. When their house dogs, they chew up things. When they are outside dogs, they bark and howl, they dig especially if the dog is a working dog.

Mr. DeBarge: Nobody likes neighbor disputes in any form and peace of mind is hard to come by these days. I also appreciate your report too because having the description of what kind of dog it is and what kind of attitude they have helps me get into the report a little bit. I've been a dog owner all my life and it sounds to me like the fence might be something. Sounds like a stimulus for Bella. Once that's done if it doesn't change, then what?

Ms. Anderson: Dogs don't get fixed immediately. Dogs just don't say I have chickens now everything is good. Just so you know I'm the only one here I can say I'm going to do this tomorrow and then something else blows up over here and that tomorrow doesn't happen until next week. It's a slow process. Slowly I think we are getting Bella under control. I would still like to visit training a little bit. I know that the trainer that we had here a few hearings ago I think could be leaving Ludlow, which is unfortunate because I do use her a lot. She does do quiet dog training, but I don't know if that would really work in this particular situation because of the type of dog she is. She's in the woods. There are bears, fishers, bobcats, all sorts of things that Bella is instinctively going to stay in the first mode of attack, and they bark. They chase if the barking doesn't go, and eventually they will actually go and get something. This particular breed doesn't necessarily just go off, but this breed warns, won't just go off like other breeds would. She lunges but doesn't necessarily hurt unless she's pushed to the absolute point. So quiet training might work, but I don't know. She doesn't fall into the category as a regular house dog. It would be the only thing I can think of at this point. We've given her companionship. She now has her four chickens.

Mr. Silva: If we could, one at a time because I missed a couple things. We should go one at a time. My question is they hear the dog at night so you must hear the dog at night? You must hear the same thing, or do you sleep right through it?

Ms. Larose: We don't hear Bella like that. It's muffled and we're in the house, have the air conditioners going and everything so how do you hear anything?

Mr. Silva: It hasn't affected your peace of mind or your sleep? They might be light sleepers too. To me it sounds like both of you know that there's an issue. You are trying to resolve it in many different ways. I think we are probably going to have to do a process, keep trying different things and then come back. If nothing is working, then obviously something is going to have to be done because they have to get some sleep.

Ms. Anderson: Have you tried sound machines?

Mrs. Ruggiero: I don't know if she's living there. I'm going to be dead honest with you because we hear it, we see the lights go on automatically at the same time every night, then we see her car coming in at 7:00 o'clock in the morning.

Ms. Larose: I have three cars just to let you know and I have a roommate. What I do in my house is none of your concern.

Mr. Goncalves: Can we please go through the chair....

Mrs. Ruggiero: Yes, thank you absolutely.

Mr. Gennette: Just to follow up on some of that conversation, do you live at the house full time?

Ms. Larose: Yes.

Mr. Gennette: You're there full time?

Ms. Larose: Yes, with my roommate.

Mr. Gennette: If the dog is having some issues and they contact the Animal Control Officer, and the Animal Control Officer tries to get a hold of you because you can't hear the animal could you go silence the animal?

Ms. Larose: What do you mean?

Mr. Gennette: Have you been out there in the middle of the night to silence her?

Ms. Larose: We've been there in the middle of the night. We met the police officer there and he said he went there, and she came out of her enclosure stretching and yawning like he woke her up. You can only do so much and if there's an animal back there I can't stop her from doing her job.

Mr. Gennette: You said before Munchy passed away. Munchy and Bella were in the house together?

Ms. Larose: No, they were in the house for a year before Munchy died. Munchy has been gone for a little while. Bella ended up back outside.

Mr. Gennette: I guess my issue is that if the dog barking is creating this much controversy, for me I would want to bring the dog in and I'm sure I don't want anything to happen to the dog, but what goes on with your dog is not their responsibility. I understand their right to peaceful enjoyment. I have to say I don't know what I would recommend here. I think that we would have to figure out what would make Bella more comfortable, but it has to be sooner rather than later. At the same time, you kind of must understand that they have the dog that they have to kind of work with.

Ms. Larose: Excuse me, like I said, if it wasn't for those people and the Facebook thing, I don't think she'd be paranoid like she is.

Mr. Gennette: That was a bad situation. That was the past situation, and we must worry about Bella now. For me, I think the onus here goes with the dog's owner. I would hate anyone in my yard, so I agree with you. You were contacting the police the whole time?

Ms. Larose: Yes. It wasn't nice. Every night it was a different car, a different person every night of the week. I had to put her under lock and key because they were threatening to steal her. It was just horrible.

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Mr. Rosenblum: How long have you had the dog there?

Ms. Larose: I've had her for four years.

Mr. Rosenblum: How long have you been renting that house?

Mrs. Ruggiero: Since 2015.

Mr. Rosenblum: This just really started in March. It's almost to the sense all the information put together here kind of hit the perfect storm between the Facebook post, companion dying. It's

traumatic for humans and it's also traumatic for animals. My recommendation is to just keep doing the things that you're doing. You have the chickens now and the dog is now back in kind of a natural habitat of what she's used to doing. As time goes on, the experience of losing the friendship with the other dog. I have a dog and every time he hears a truck go by he lifts the shade up to see what's going on. When he sees people going by, he starts barking. When he hears the beeping of the Amazon truck, he starts barking. Thank God for peanut butter. Given more the timeline, it's been four years, but in the same sense you need your rest. That was my recommendation to keep doing what you are doing, keeping a barrier up at night, whatever if you're blocking the view of the street.

Ms. Larose: Around the sides of it to create a noise buffer or whatever it's called.

Ms. Anderson: There are extreme measures that could happen; getting rid of the dog, they don't want to do that; debarking the dog, we don't want to do that either. A lot of dogs end up with a lot more behavior than just barking when you take away their voice. Going back to bringing the dog inside or not, we actually have another Bernese Mountain dog which also falls into guardian breed that lives on his front porch. The dog is now eight or nine years old. They cannot bring the dog inside. When the dog goes inside, it flings itself at their picture window and screams nonstop. In the winter, I get all kinds of complaints. The owner tries to open the garage and the dog refuses to go in the garage. It's part of the breed, that type of behavior happens. What would Bella do if you were to put her in the garage at night?

Ms. Larose: She'd howl all night. I've tried and she didn't like it.

Mr. Goncalves: Is there a reason why you don't get a companion dog like she's had before?

Ms. Larose: She won't accept it.

Mr. Goncalves: You've tried?

Ms. Larose: Yes. She won't accept it. Dog fights were bad.

Mr. Goncalves: In the progress of the last year, would you say there are good things that are happening?

Mrs. Ruggiero: Yes. I will say that I do appreciate everything that has been happening for the daytime. It's mostly just the night. I didn't even know we had bears and I live right next to them.

Mr. Goncalves: You have bears and moose. I know exactly where you live.

Mrs. Ruggiero: That is good to know. So that is hard, so what do you do? You can't talk to the bear and tell him not to go over there. So that's really tough. It just stinks because we keep getting woken up in the middle of the night.

Mr. Goncalves: My idea would be for us to come back in 45 days and see what the progress is. I know that you are not excited about shaving the dog's neck to put this on but that will be a strong suggestion of mine before they lose any more sleep, or we have to go somewhere else.

Ms. Anderson: We might be able to try that. I also think trying to get a hold of Sherry and get some quiet training just to see if that would work can't hurt at this point. Within 24 hours, she came to me twice telling me I can't do this anymore. We need to find a home for it. Then she'll come back and say I can't get rid of my dog. I love my dog. No one should have to, but seriously they need to sleep too. I've lived next door to a Beagle and completely and utterly understand being woken up by barking dogs. It's awful.

Mr. Goncalves: What's the ordinance of daytime barking?

Mr. DeBarge: There isn't. It's just nuisance barking. There's no time. Is this visual barrier, this fence, is that under construction now, is it done, is it going to be done?

Ms. Anderson: The poles are up and there's a tarp attached yeah.

Mr. DeBarge: Ok, so the work is being done. I was just going to say that I don't want to do another hearing unless that's done, and we know that it's either working or not working.

Mr. Goncalves: Do you want to go out for 60 days?

Mr. DeBarge: Well, what's the timeframe if the work is being done?

Ms. Anderson: I don't think it's going to be making that much of a difference whether it's a tarp or a solid fence. If she can't see out, she can't see out. The way the kennel is set up three sides have stockade fencing. So, it's not like she's looking out and seeing. These animals are probably literally coming up to the house.

Mr. Goncalves: Are you all okay going for 45 days and seeing what's going to happen?

Mrs. Ruggiero: Yes. Thank you.

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Mr. Gennette: I was just going to make a recommendation to let the Animal Control Officer decide if we need to come back…

Ms. Anderson: I mean hopefully we won't. I feel kind of awkward because I think we actually haven't solved anything.

Mr. Gennette: You know I think at the end of the day no one wants anything to happen to this dog. Everyone is really concerned about the dog. We just want to find the best possible solution.

Ms. Larose: I get that, but I don't know how to keep the wildlife out of my yard. If it wasn't for her, literally when I went to bring her out the back door there was a moose there and if it wasn't for her I would have been hurt. She literally backed me up, backed up towards the door, wouldn't let me go, barking, barking and I looked up and there was the big moose. Bears too I can't help that and plus they were cutting all the trees on the power lines which is making the animals rotate up. I have way more animals.

Mr. Goncalves: That would be more of an argument for us to remove the dog from the property than if you had a million animals the dog can't bark 24/7.

Ms. Anderson: Why don't you try shaving, the bark collar and I will get a hold of Sherri and bring her into it which she has offered to do; teaching the dog a signal, a light or something to make the dog be quiet. Dogs work on cues. There are options that we can try that are extreme but on the other hand getting rid of the dog is extreme, but they need to sleep, and I realize that.

Moved by Mr. Silva to continue this hearing in 45 days unless the ACO and owner work out some logistics for quieting the dog down and we'll see what happens then, seconded by Mr. Gennette Vote 5-0.

Mr. Gennette: Are you guys ok with that?

Mrs. Ruggiero: Yes. I appreciate that you are taking this seriously and that you are trying to find a way to do this because I'm a dog lover too and I do not want to put a dog down. That's the last thing I want. I also want to make sure that I don't have broken sleep because you know I work obviously.

6:30 p.m. - Chile Salazar, Randall Boys and Girls Club to discuss upcoming capital projects at the club.

Ms. Salazar: Thank you for allowing us to be here this evening. I'm here with Diana Roy, who is our Board Chair, and Deb Basher who is the Senior Account Executive over at Eversource. We are here on behalf of the Boys and Girls Club to present a list of exciting projects. We are thrilled and confident that they will bring a lot of benefit to the community at large, well above and beyond the children and adults that we serve at the club. First, I want to start off and give a foundation point of how we got to the list of projects. You can imagine the club is not short of wishes and

needs, so we started from a pretty exhausted list. I think it's important to share that the projects that are outlined in front of you all ultimately came down to our incredible team and the time that we vetted. Also thinking about what the latest craze our staff wants us to execute as far as programming. We really put in a lot of thought to the focus group that the club held a couple of months ago where we have a variety of different stakeholders from town that come together and share thoughts. What are the current assets we have in town? What are the gaps? What are the needs? What are some of the improvements? A concrete example that I take away from that focus group is that there was a lot of talk of growing food shortage or access to food in town for some of our residents. So that quickly led our team to believe that we want to make a commitment to address that. Beyond our identity as the Boys and Girls Club, more so we are also a community center. So, part of the project that we'd like your blessing on is to reconfigure our current space inside the building and build out a commercial grade kitchen. That way there would be an opportunity for us to partner with an organization like the survival center to help distribute resources to residents that may not be able to get across the bridge but get to the club for easier access. Also, we talked about our former club kids who are now adults and some of their favorite memories are the life skill cooking classes that we used to offer as the former boys' club. The reality is our lives are so hurried and distracted right now that a lot of young people don't have the opportunity to learn these life skills. The project of putting a kitchen in would allow us to post all sorts of nutrition programs, cooking classes for our members, etc. That is project one. Some space for extra offices too because if we want to hire an extra person to help out with our programing. So that's one of the projects outlined here. Project four, I will move the project list back up to the top of the list, which is the home run baseball field project. In the back of the building, there is a small baseball field that we utilize for T-ball and coach pitch. The club has a restricted grant that has been specifically granted for the purpose of enhancing this baseball field. We have gotten a little bit creative in addition to our families that love baseball how can our larger community at large benefit from this project. In addition to converting it to a regulation size softball field and laying down clay for longer better maintenance, installing bleachers and building out two dugouts, we're also proposing to build a concession stand with two ADA compliant restrooms. If any of you have driven to the back of the building especially on weekends, especially at soccer season, it is packed. A lot of families use that space. We have been paying for a port a potty to give folks access during the weekends when we are not there. I think the community can benefit from having real actual bathrooms. Then the concession stands, so regardless of what will happen out there that will be a resource and we will also be feeding light into the pavilion. Families can then utilize it more during the year for family barbecues, if families would love and come to have birthday parties there. I'll have Deb speak a few words because she has donated a lot of her time in consulting us on this project, specifically regarding the lighting. Part of our project is that we want our young people to experience more access, usability of the field and say how cool it is to play a night game under lights whether it's soccer, baseball, or softball.

Ms. Basher: What we are looking to do is on the poles that are new out there where you got that new lighting that's being put in by Eversource. Taking down those old ones, those will be gone those decorative lights. On the back side of those poles towards the field we're going to put flood lights there. It will probably be dual floods on each of those three poles which will light up that field pretty sweet. Then of course energizing the concessions stand that Chile talked about that will go along with it. I think it will be a pretty good place where people can spend some time and playing under the lights will be very cool.

Mr. Goncalves: Eversource, will it be a donation standpoint or part of the Mass Save or something like that, part of a grant?

Ms. Basher: No, unfortunately it would be a rent charge just like a regular light and a pole charge and the cost every month for the light.

Ms. Salazar: That would be absorbed and built into our project costs covered by a restricted capital grant. That specific project we are estimating the club will be investing approximately $160 for that plus or minus depending on the day and prices.

Mr. Goncalves: Your estimate for project number four, for $60,000, are you getting help from somewhere on that or is that what you're actually thinking you're going to spend for a kitchen?

Ms. Salazar: Great question. The $60,000 is to just blow out one of the walls of the existing conference room. Fortunately, Dino D'Angelo who is an engineer at TJ Conway who actually played a huge role in building the facility and has been a huge role in this project as well has been able to guide us on this piece where there's no structural integrity that will be compromised. We believe the $60,000 will cover the framework. We are also working with a private foundation for another $45,000 to $50,000 dollars to outfit the kitchen itself with a commercial size fridge/refrigerator, dishwasher and open space counter, cabinets.

Ms. Roy: As Chile mentioned Dino was a big help with the baseball project also in addition to Ricky Andre. I don't know if you know these guys, Tony Forzano.

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Ms. Salazar: Tony Forzano has been integral, really shaping this project and all the physical stuff. We have a contract with Berkshire Design. So, once we get an approval from the Select Board then we'll be able to loop back with them and they will put together a formal design plan.

Mr. Gennette: Is that all of it?

Ms. Salazar: No there is more. So, we're looking to invest another $45,000 of again a restricted ARPA grant that we received to replace the floor in several parts of the building. All three preschool classrooms, that was a high priority because as we know our youngest learners in town spend a lot of time on the floor. They're really rough on it and safety is always number one. After 20 years we've done a pretty good job of maintaining it, but the floors really need to be replaced so we'll be doing that. We have our whole administrative office area which has 20-year-old carpets that we will be completely replacing. A couple of office spaces where we welcome families and members will be replaced as well. Project number three comes with the visual aid that we currently put before you. This one is very interesting because it came about through a couple of different avenues. One of the learnings from the pandemic was it forced all of us to realize how much better it is for people to spend time outdoors. I think you know we hear a lot of desires from residents to see more outdoor usable space; space that they feel safe in, more comfortable, monitored, etc. We again consulted Dino, who's familiar with the engineering of the building, to figure out how we can make our space more functional. What are some dead areas that we can leverage for community use and maximize the number of people who can enjoy it? There is about 5200 square feet of grassy area in the rear part of our building. That's right behind the building in front of the back parking lot. We are proposing that we spend another hundred thousand dollars of our ARPA grant to create a multi court sports court. A sample is in front of you. It would include a basketball hoop, basketball court, a pickleball court, and a four-square court. That way it meets all ages. It would include a gated fence with a doorway so that it would be protected. We are investing in additional security cameras and all that fun jazz. It also allows us to have all our activity spaces in close proximity for better management and monitoring. The second sample is a project from another neighboring boys and girls club. I chose this example, they do work all across the country, but this one just happens to look very similar to the set up that we're looking to go after. It's a tight space. It's right up against the building. It has a gate to separate it from the parking lot. So, it is possible and right now the space isn't really used for anything. Ultimately, we would have a mini complex at the back of the building. It's the soccer field. It's the brand-new redone softball/mini baseball field. We're going to have a concession stand with bathroom and a multipurpose sports court all right there. That's about a one hundred-thousand-dollar project. The last project is a water bottle filling station. We have the old school bubblers. They've been covered up with garbage bags since the pandemic just for sanitary reasons. I've seen a 5-year-old try to drink out of it, dive into the whole thing and lick around it. Not what we prefer. It just doesn't work for us. We'd like to try to keep everyone as healthy as possible. So, we're looking to invest in replacing all of those with water bottle fillers. So, it's mainly for plumbing costs. They would have to access the existing plumbing to the building and reconfigure it slightly.

Mr. Silva: It seems like this is going to bring in a lot of traffic. I'm hoping it will; that's the ultimate goal. The parking lot, the parking over there is terrible. Is there anything in the plans to configure it or add? It might be difficult, but I think there will be a lot of traffic coming in.

Ms. Roy: Yes. Parking is not easy.

Mr. Goncalves: The smallest parking spaces in town.

Ms. Salazar: The lines are gone also. I think we've been waiting for supplies to arrive or something. Back when Ellie was here, we were already experiencing the shortage.

Ms. Roy: I think we should look at that maybe we can put in some suggestions.

Mr. Silva: As far as I'm concerned, it sounds like a great idea. It's really nice to have different functions for people to do things.

Mr. Rosenblum: Who operates the concession? Do you do it through your organizations or say if Ludlow youth baseball or softball or whoever is using it or is it something that you will have to staff?

Ms. Salazar: I think it gives us the opportunity to explore both. One of our key priorities as we're wrapping up our new strategic plan is to offer more opportunities for the middle school and high school age youth. An entrepreneurial program would be perfect for a group of high school students who want to run it as a part of torch club or keystone club.

Mr. DeBarge: I was able to meet up with Chile and Dino and walk through the building and outside and get a good visual of all of this. To say I'm for every one of these projects is an understatement. An investment into this club, the outside and inside, I think if I had one negative thing to say about our Boys and Girls Club is I don't think the square footage was maximized or used well enough for a growing town and growing kids. So, I think these upgrades are not only good for them, but it's gotten to a point that it's a necessity. The outside every time we go there is packed. If the club can give this to them, I'm all for it. There's nothing negative that I can say about any of it.

Mr. Gennette: I have a question, I already know the answer, but I'm going to ask it anyway. How much is this going to cost the town?

Ms. Salazar: ZERO!

Mr. Gennette: Zero. That's what I'm looking for right there. That's what I'm talking about. How can anybody argue with this? If you can say you'd get it done in 90 days now you're cooking. You guys do a great job.

Mr. Silva: So, what exactly do you need from us?

Ms. Salazar: Because you own the building, we need to get your authorizations to go forward.

Moved by Mr. Silva to authorize the Ludlow Boys and Girls Club to move forward with the renovations and move on with the projects as stated and relayed to us this evening, seconded by Mr. DeBarge. Vote 5-0.

6:45 p.m. Chief Valadas – Celebrate Ludlow event logistics.

Chief Valadas: Good evening, I called for this meeting at the behest of DPW concerns brought to my attention by Mr. Santos. I put him in contact with Chief Pease and some of the organizing staff of Celebrate Ludlow. There are some questions about the venue being down at Memorial Park. We did have a meeting, but Mr. Santos was not present. The physical site meeting that we had with some of the committee members and as mentioned prior by Mr. Goncalves there is another event at the same location the last weekend of September which is the Market Fest. So, I guess we are here to talk about the logistics of these types of things. We are in the planning phase and will come up with an operational plan. You know there are some considerations about where you are going to stage things, what roads are going to be blocked off, staffing? I'm going to implore to all of you there will be an onus on the town. This is a cost. Everyone there is overtime. So, there is a cost sustained by the town. It's not on any other entity so just know that up front. We'll go forward and talk about what we talked about on site.

Ms. Smith: Okay we can go over some additional pieces to it. So, what we are proposing is having the beer garden up on top of the hill up against the Ludlow Housing Authority property and having it fenced in. So, that is it just at the top of the stairs with one entry and fenced in all around. We'll

have the local beer vendors in town who are going to be the vendors at it. Looking primarily down the hill at the gazebo, most of the activities will be on the right-hand side just because the ground is flatter there as opposed to the incline of the hill on the Chestnut Street side. We are looking to keep Chestnut Street completely open and have Park Place closed from the last house to the library parking lot. That section would be closed down having the food vendors in the street right down that path. Having the inflatables and we're considering rides, two or three rides, we're not sure that's going to be feasible after some extra conversation, but the inflatables will be either on the right or left-hand side of Park Place. The parking lot that is closer to the library would have handicap parking and Sani cans and it would have a handwashing station. We also have the parking lot at the top of the hill next to the Ludlow Housing Authority that can also be handicap parking at the top. We are looking to have an area on Chestnut Street for emergency vehicles to be parked, whichever ones are there, or if they need to come, they have the area blocked, not allowing other parking other than emergency vehicles on that side. Then parking we're kind of working from different private owners of parking lots and definitely using a lot of on-street parking. Letting people choose where they go. Maybe directing them down State Street for additional parking. Food vendors will be on Park Place. There will be other vendors as well who will not be selling food in other areas of the grass. They are aware that there are no stakes in the ground in the park. Other vendors would be in the grass area, but food vendors will be right down the street so there will be a generator for anyone that needs power. We're discussing water because there's no water available. So, we'll have washing stations. They will be the kind we would get from the porta potty company. Any of the vendors that need water would have to supply their own water.

Mr. Goncalves: The beer vendor is in a confined area. So, you'll need bracelets on the way in and IDs are checked there, and they can't wander, one entry only.

Ms. Smith: Right only one entry point at the top of the stairs, straight up from the gazebo that set of stairs will be the one entry point and it will be fenced in all around. 12:00 to 8:00, we're looking to end the music at 7:00 because the Exit Seven players have a play at 8:00. It's going to be on October 15th. It'll start getting dark at that point anyway so we will start deflating the inflatables more like 6:45. At that point, some people can grab their last food and beer and start heading out. The food vendors and beer vendors are open until 8:00, but the music will be done, and people will start moving out to clear up some parking spaces for those who are coming in for Exit Seven.

Mr. Gennette: We are not closing Chestnut Street, right?

Ms. Smith: No, we are not.

Mr. Silva: We had discussed using Memorial Field that whole area. We have now concentrated now down to, is that big enough? I mean looking at Celebrate Ludlow it looked like there was a lot of people there. That small area doesn't seem like it will hold that kind of people.

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Ms. Smith: We're hoping that it has an even flow through the day whereas people come and go, stay for a couple of hours. Celebrate Ludlow with fireworks would have a very large influx of people later afternoon, late evening for the fireworks and pile up with people for the fireworks and then everyone leaving at the same time. With this time frame 12:00 to 8:00, we're hoping that people come, stay for 2-3 hours, buy some food, support the vendors and enjoy the music, a 7 hour event.

Mr. Goncalves: Is there a reason that Chestnut Street is staying open?

Chief Valadas: It was initially proposed by the committee to keep the vendors within the park so it's an operation for us, it's an operation for the town. If we block Chestnut Street, it's 2 officers on Chestnut, officers on Park Place, officers crossing at East Street at two locations. You're looking at a contingent here of about 8 to 10 officers with a supervisor for a 10-hour operational period.

Mr. Goncalves: Let's go back to Chestnut, what about putting up some Jersey barriers for the day?

Chief Valadas: Or DPW trucks could be used… I just attended the New Bedford Festival, and they used 8 tracks to block the public ways. They just allowed people to go around. I still have

officers. I mean it could certainly help any type of consideration as far as somebody falling through a crowd that spreads out.

Chief Pease: My only concern is having emergency vehicle access through Chestnut Street. If anything happens, we will need to get to the front of those buildings 12 Chestnut and 32. You have an elderly housing complex there.

Mr. Goncalves: Either side of the rec.

Chief Pease: Still if something happens, we will need to get in front of those buildings at 12 Chestnut and 32 Chestnut. You have an elderly housing complex there.

Mr. Goncalves: I was thinking aloud. I was saying Chestnut let's say from…Center down to East Street. You still have the parking lot for the old Ludlow Hospital.

Chief Pease: We would still need to get in front of 12 Chestnut. You have a large elderly population there. God forbid for some reason we would need to evacuate that place. We would need access to every side of the building.

Mr. DeBarge: I would see that yes there has got to be access to emergency vehicles obviously, but there's no access to parking for that event, no through traffic and actually right now it was said it's for emergency vehicles only.

Mr. Goncalves: I was looking for a way for us to save 4 officers, time and a half, 10 officers, do the math.

Mr. Gennette: I mean instead of the orange sawhorses, the DPW sawhorses, is that across, the people are not going to go driving through that especially if it's full of police cruisers there at the very least.

Chief Valadas: Mr. Santos can certainly address your concerns.

Mr. Goncalves: What are you worried about the dump trucks getting hit?

Mr. Santos: We didn't find out that this was even discussed until an emergency management meeting, so we were just all thrown back. A couple of questions that my Board had moving forward was what was going on with the trash. Do we supply cans, but we need to know where. We're going to get them in the time period that we're going to get them. The disposal I had anticipated they were bringing it over to the transfer station which Laurie had told me in discussion that they were going to rent a dumpster, put it over there and pick it up which is fine. Then it was electricity. With this Board in what they decide on what they do, the Board of Public Works and the new director would like some input because there's very limited electricity down there. There are probably three outlets on two 20-amp breakers that run the gazebo which are about 36 years old. As far as the electricity draws, you have nothing down there. Water is pretty nonexistent. You have yard hydrants that are there to water the flowers that do not work any longer. Washing hands for vendors serving food and stuff like that. You don't know what you don't have until it's not there. At the other venue if you need an outlet to plug this refrigerator in, you go over to the pavilion and plug it in. You need to wash your hands you run over to an outside faucet or a house or something that's over there. Down there we don't have anything. Then with these guys about traffic flow, Putts Bridge you know what we've got coming into town. We do have some signs for other events in Ludlow, but we want to make sure that we have enough signs. Supply chain issues we would've liked to know what we needed for signs, no parking signs, handicap parking signs. We do have some for the other venue but most of the no parking signs they are on stakes, and they go in the yard. Depending on what these two gentlemen need, we've got to order signs. Same thing about the infrastructure underground. At the other venue, you could drive stakes to hold tents and bounce houses and tents we can drive stuff in the ground. There's no infrastructure down there. We don't know where it is. The power that comes in from Park Place to the gazebo, even if we dig safe, we are not going to know where it is. There's a sprinkler system down there, can't start driving stakes in the ground not knowing where the sprinkler system is and come the beginning of October we won't know until spring when we go to turn it on and there's holes all over the place. The odds of hitting one of them are probably 1 in 500 but it's just something that

we have to take into account. Tables, we can probably bring some tables down from Whitney Street Park. Like Danny said someone has to pay that overtime. The DPW will have to help Celebrate Ludlow move things around and stuff, move tables, move chairs, get signs so obviously there will be a little extra on our overtime also. The same with Cultural Event Center and I know it's not a discussion for tonight, but it's the same thing the DPW is in charge of parks. We would like to know what's going on. As far as Memorial Park, we try to oversee that and fertilize that in September, October so we also have to know what's going on with that so we can plan our fertilization and our overseeding, so it's not trampled, so it's not wasted. As far as shutting the sprinklers off, as far as we are aware the sprinklers are coming on twice a day and somebody is going to get soaked and being on a holiday weekend, we kind of a have to know these things. We're going to meet with Laurie onsite to try to adjust things and try to fit everything in. Those are just some of our concerns as a Board, we would like to know what is going on so we can be as helpful as possible.

Chief Valadas: Theres a potential to cross a lot of people. The traffic on East Street, there's four lanes so that's very critical for us. I have to have several officers there. There will be a lot of places to park. The existing parking will be the industrial complex, River Road. There will be a lot of pedestrian traffic.

Mr. Gennette: Does Walgreen's Plaza know that this is happening?

Ms. Smith: Yes.

Mr. Silva: They're probably happy that it's happening.

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Chief Pease: My only concern and I talked to Laurie earlier about it is the roads being accessible and she had a decent plan for that. I guess it all depends how many people come, that's the X factor. We just don't know right now because we've never done it at this time of year. The time of year being October you may see a little less people, but you get a 70-degree day in October people are going to want to come out. It will also depend on who you have for bands obviously. Certain bands draw larger crowds. The hours of operation I think are a saving grace here that you are shutting things down at 7:00, sometimes problems happen after dark. Like Laurie said we're looking for families to come and enjoy this event and donate to a nonprofit. It's just the place where we are having it, the location is different, the time of year is different, and you just don't know how many people to expect. So, I guess we will learn a lot this year, but I guess it's our job to prepare for the worst. The most amount of people in the city, but like you said historically speaking with Celebrate Ludlow it's been a huge influx at the time of the fireworks.

Chief Valadas: Will you have an ambulance also?

Chief Pease: More than likely. We've always had one at Celebrate Ludlow. I would think we should just in case it develops into one of those events. We used to always have a fire detail too with the fireworks, but we won't need that this time. So, it would be limited to an ambulance, yes.

Mr. Gennette: So, is this insurmountable I mean can we get this done?

Chief Pease: Yeah, I think a few more meetings with Laurie. Between just us offline and at the site, it probably will have everything worked out to an accommodating level to look at what is going to go on down there. I mean you see other events in other communities that have a relatively small amount of real estate and don't have really big parking lots and they get it done and it's a one-day event. We're not doing this several times. If she was getting a large name band that would turn into a different story, but I don't think that would be the case, something like the Bon Jovi tribute band that goes to Festa. They bring in a lot of people.

Chief Valadas: Two examples; you look at Amherst, Belchertown on state roads the common has a venue like this. Belchertown has a venue like this off state roads. They are a little bit larger, but they would have the same existing… the crossing, the open-air event, you just walk in, there's no screens.

Mr. Gennette: Would it be worth stopping traffic at the bottom of Sewall going towards the bridge? Send people up Sewall and people coming off the bridge have to stay in the right lane. They can go to parking, stay out of that, would that help the police department?

Chief Valadas: Well, it's a DOT project I think blocking roads. It's announcements. It's Mr. Santos' particulars as well. There's a lot to that. We bought conveyance. We can block small roads, but when you start blocking the big roads, the logistics.

Mr. Gennette: It seems it would have been easier if we took them right off the bridge and we sent them right down to where the parking area was going to be.

Chief Valadas: There's an element of people not knowing where they are and it's just a lot of intervention there, trying to get people, the confusion and there's potential for some traffic delays and access and what not. We eliminate it by keeping the… No alcohol on the sidewalks by the way, the alcohol should stay in that area. The Veteran's Memorial is very well kept so you know you kind of have to keep an eye on that area.

Ms. Smith: They have a lot of volunteers that we can station in spots needed and even not for the main roads, but for the secondary spots with volunteers with bright yellow vests on you can scatter them if needed.

Mr. Rosenblum: I would probably reach out to Belchertown. They have it up on the common right up there in the center of town. Maybe try them because your points were very good about the electricity and the water. Bringing over a generator or people bringing their own power somehow small generators. I mean you might not need a ton of electricity if someone's cooking burgers or something they're using propane. If Ludlow Youth Hokey has a table, it's not there going to need a ton of electricity. It all depends on the vendors you get there.

Mr. Silva: A lot of these issues have been brought out and things are moving forward and we're right on the ball and they'll be able to get these things done so great.

Mr. Goncalves: And we'll figure out a way to pay you, I guess.

Chief Valadas: I'll try to figure out a way to staff it.

Ms. Smith: I think it just comes down to us meeting and doing another on site visit.

7:00 p.m. Thomas Caproni – Requesting permission to install library boxes in town.

Mr. Goncalves: So, what are we doing today?

Mr. Caproni: I've been working with the Friends of Public Library and Hubbard Library the past few months about potentially opening up library boxes around the town. So, we see them. There's some in Chicopee and some in other neighboring towns. It's like a small box where there's books there from the library that people can swap, and kids will read them because a lot of kids can't go to the library itself because you need a car to get there. There's one at a nearby park and you can go immediately and swap something out, so it's worked well in a lot of other towns. I printed out some pictures.

Mr. Silva: Are you doing this as part of one of your things that you have to do for your Eagle Scouts, your projects?

Mr. Caproni: Yes.

Mr. Goncalves: We already have these in town. There's one on Rosewood Road.

Mr. Caproni: I think they're private streets. These will be by parks and the Senior Center. The Ludlow Library will be donating books. That design right there, it's going to be a little different from that, it's from little libraries site. It's going to be more colorful for the kids.

Mr. Silva: Where are these boxes coming from?

Mr. Caproni: They're going to be assembled. It's part of our project, Home Depot and some other places.

Mr. Silva: I don't see any problem with this. I think this is a nice idea. Do you have the locations that you want to list?

Mr. Goncalves: Yes, right here, Electric Park, Whitney Park, the Senior Center, and East Street School.

Mr. Silva: So, you need approval from us to actually do what they want.

Mr. Gennette: Are you worried about vandalism at all?

Mr. Caproni: No, in fact one of the people from the library, Kristen Santos, is going to occasionally take a drive around and look at all of them to make sure nothing is leaking. It's all about maintaining everything. Also, if there's any vandalism, make sure everything's ok. We're hoping that will be perfect.

Mr. Gennette: Is the Lending Library supporting that or is this just kind of you doing your own thing?

Mr. Caproni: The Little Free Libraries are giving me the funding and I'll also be getting some donations from Home Depot and the Hubbard Library is donating the books.

Moved by Mr. Silva to allow Mr. Thomas Caproni to put library boxes into the parks that we have listed before us, seconded by Mr. Gennette. Vote 5-0.

7:15 p.m. Pat McGowan/Melissa Rickson – requesting permission to use 0 Park Place for emergency evacuation.

Mr. Gennette: Is this a change from the procedure from before?

Mr. McGowan: It's actually establishing a procedure. There really hasn't been a formalized emergency evacuation plan in place, so part of our strategic plan. That's one of the objectives so we're tackling that. I spoke to Melissa on it, and she did a good job. She's been coordinating with the police and fire, and she did a good job in creating the final work product and we are just here to formalize it if we can as far as the use of town property.

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Mr. DeBarge: Simple, to the point.

Mr. Gennette: The fact that you didn't have one before and you got one now.

Mr. McGowan: Yes, it's been long overdue. That's one of the goals. I've been trying to bring the department up to speed as far as the procedures and practices, time sheets and formalize forms for vacation and stuff. We got audited a couple years ago and they asked to see a copy of payroll from March of 2017 before I started so I sent them a picture of the calendar that what it was.

Moved by Mr. Gennette to approve the emergency procedures for the Hubbard Library and to utilize the town property as their meeting space, seconded by Mr. Silva. Vote 5-0.

7:30 p.m. Mott MacDonald – Ludlow High School sports complex proposal.

Mr. Bujak: John Bujak for Mott MacDonald I have a few handouts. John Sables is the landscape architect. I'm going to get him on the phone. He couldn't be here in person. I'm going to hand out the site plans and our proposal. Just a little background, John Sables has been involved since day one. I stepped in just over the last couple months to help coordinate. I'm local out of the West Springfield office. I'm going to talk at a high level and then John will step through some of the details. There were two handouts. One was the site plan, and the other is the proposal. If you are interested, we can go over the site plans just to confirm what is a part of the project or we can jump right into the proposal to talk about the additional services.

Mr. Goncalves: Let's go over the site plans.

Mr. Bujak: Okay. John politely reminded me that he's going to start in the lower left, is that correct John? Why don't you go ahead John.

Mr. Sables: I'm going to start off as you enter the site you cross over the bridge you go down the gravel driveway that's the baseball field. From the bridge going up to the stadium, we're proposing an asphalt pathway. That will make the stadium ADA accessible. The way it is right now the gravel pathway is not an accessible material. That would be the first improvement. Then along the baseball field we're proposing sports netting that will be 20 feet tall, two reasons one to prevent the baseball from going into the stream, and then on the third base line we're proposing the netting to protect patrons that are at the concession stand from getting hit by side balls. As you go along the pathway and head towards the stadium, the next change or improvement that you would see would be the shot-put area. We shifted it over a little bit to accommodate a larger track. We have the concrete ring for the shot put. As you enter the track, the biggest changes on the site is the track is going to be a more traditional shaped track. Right now, we have a nontraditional shaped track that was designed to accommodate the field itself. The new track is going to be more of a traditional one that you would see at pretty much any high school. It's going to be a 400-meter track, 8 lanes, two D Zones, with track activities, regulation high school size football and soccer synthetic field, turf field in the middle. We'll also, if the school wants, put markings out there for lacrosse or any other sport that they wish. Going out into the grandstands, we are proposing an ADA accessible ramp. This will make your press box at the top of the stadium ADA accessible. There's already a gravel pathway up there, but that will require a lot of grading. We felt that putting in a concrete ramp would be a better solution. We have a concrete ramp going up the pathway going to the press box and a small ramp, an aluminum ramp prefabricated aluminum ramp that would get you into the press box. As you go down the stairway in front of the grandstand, we are proposing just a gravel area at the end of the run out and the storage shed that the school requested to store their track equipment. As you go around the track on the southern side of the track, we have the two long jump pits. We moved those out of the field so that they're not in the way of the baseball field bringing them up in as part of the track and field bringing in most of the events into the stadium area. Two new requests that we have gotten from the school were to put netting on both sides of the field that way when they are playing lacrosse, soccer or anything like that it will stop the ball from going all the way across the track. We are also proposing sports netting by the long jump pits because soccer balls have a tendency to go over that fence and go towards the stream, so they requested we put one there. So, we're including a 20-foot-high net there to stop the any balls from going there and that would be all of your improvements.

Mr. Gennette: The path that is coming up entering the track before you get to the bleachers, do you have to walk on the track to get to the bleachers?

Mr. Sables: No. There's an existing ramp that goes up to the bleachers already. Our new path is going to connect to that.

Mr. Gennette: My other question is on the football field where the teams stand is, is there any barriers from where the team stands and the track?

Mr. Sables: No there's no barriers.

Mr. Gennette: My concern is you get a lot of football players who get excited, a good play happens and then they're running with the cleats all over the track and it doesn't keep them in their field of play. I'm wondering if that might be a concern.

Mr. Goncalves: There's not enough room between the soccer field and the track.

Mr. Brillo: No, not between the soccer field and the track, but between the football field and the track there's plenty of room.

Mr. Goncalves: The soccer field there isn't, teams are going to be up on the bleachers side, back to the bleachers. On the other side you put up a fence or anything like that, then someone's going to get hurt.

Mr. Sables: Yes, the soccer field I believe only has 4 feet and the football field I believe is 15.

Mr. Goncalves: Keep in mind that you are using a different type of shoe on this versus grass.

Mr. Sables: Right, it's a rubber spike you would use on this. Typically, you would not use metal cleats.

Mr. Brillo: There's a protection almost like a rug that you can put over your track even when they enter. You see a lot of facilities that will have this carpeting that will go from the track, and it covers it selectively until they get on the field, the same thing particularly for soccer, again those types of carpeting down right where the bench is.

Mr. Gennette: I'm really concerned that we're going to put this track in and it's just going to get torn up and we're going to be chasing it again. If there's mats we can put down, I would be happy with that.

Mr. Rosenblum: I saw online several places selling these used rolls of turf at least 60 x 80 for like $200 bucks because you can't get rid of those.

Mr. Brillo: I think a lot of times when they put the turf in there's extra and you could end up using that as well.

Mr. Sables: You could just ask the turf manufacturer if they would give you a piece so that you can protect the track.

Mr. Goncalves: John going back, how much have we paid on this already for your services?

Mr. Bujak: $98,800.

Mr. Goncalves: That we've paid? We had $175,000 is that right? I think this Board had given him $75,000 and we were able to get that $100,000 from the grant. So even at the $175,000 with your additional $68,000, we're still not going for any additional money at this point.

Mr. DeBarge: So, is this project in its entirety the whole, everything dual score boards on both sides and all that?

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Mr. Brillo: I believe John it included retrofitting the lighting as well.

Mr. Sables: We weren't updating the lighting at all.

Mr. Brillo: That is on one of the estimates I thought the last time.

Mr. Sables: Last time the lighting was adequate.

Mr. Goncalves: The boys' club is changing them all out and putting in new lighting. They're going to be rented.

Mr. Sables: I don't recall if there's lighting out there.

Mr. Brillo: We currently have lighting, and we will.

Mr. Sables: I know that wasn't part of the first project. I can remember there are existing sports lights out there.

Mr. Brillo: We had an estimate from Musco to retro fit them with the LED.

Mr. Silva: Is there anything happening with the baseball field?

Mr. Sables: The only thing happening with the baseball field that I forgot to mention today is we are going to put a new double-sided scoreboard. So, it will be basically more towards the stadium

and a scoreboard for the baseball field. So, we would take that old scoreboard off the baseball field that's located close to the concession stand and that would leave one score board.

Mr. Silva: There is talk about the baseball field being small, the balls going into wetlands and all that.

Mr. DeBarge: That's where they propose the netting.

Mr. Silva: How about pushing it back and giving them a little more room?

Mr. DeBarge: I thought the entire project included doing that field over.

Mr. Sables: We did explore that option of moving the baseball field, but the cost estimate was way outside of budget.

Mr. Goncalves: Didn't we talk about flipping home base?

Mr. Brillo: One of the proposals was to put it down where the current long jump pits are. The issue with that is now you're hitting foul balls into the football/soccer stadium.

Mr. Sables: The baseball field has to be angled in a certain way. You never want the batter looking directly at the sun. The baseball player can't ever face south, so we couldn't put the baseball field up by the entrance of where the shot put is. We couldn't put it up there the batter would be facing the sun and that's the worst thing for the batter.

Mr. Brillo: What we did do for the improvements was to increase the height with netting above the backstop and then left field and right field putting the netting up to help alleviate some of those foul balls.

Mr. DeBarge: But the field is trash. I mean we only have one other diamond and that's that size. We all know that we lost Chapin Street, and this field is terrible. I'd go so far to say it's not playable. If we're going to do this like I said, I know where my vote is going to go for this project. When we got the ARPA funds, I said if we are going to do this let's do this right the first time. I don't want to go play a baseball game on a field the way it looks now while I'm looking out at this pristine everything else. That's kind of why I think we're losing so many baseball players in this town. That's where my goal is with these funds if you are going to do it right the first time.

Mr. Goncalves: So when you say do it right tell me.

Mr. DeBarge: You've got to do the field over. If the cost is too great to move it where it should be because in my opinion, it should be behind where concessions is. I understand the cost of moving concessions and all that is just too great, but you can't leave the field the way that it is. You have to redo it, redo the mix. The pitcher's mound isn't even correct. You have to make sure that it's mathematically correct to play a baseball game. It's got to play better if you're going to do field turf which I see on this which I am in agreement with. You can't do one thing and go on and then look at the other and go yes look at that it wouldn't be right.

Mr. Sables: We can give you a cost of what it would be to replace the clay and redo the façade in the infield and then take a look at a new backstop. We can give you a cost at how much that would be that way at least you know and then if you want to explore that further we can definitely.

Mr. DeBarge: Sure, thank you.

Mr. Brillo: John, in left field you mentioned that going out to the stadium it would not be asphalt until you hit left field of the baseball field.

Mr. Sables: The existing gravel path we're pushing that further towards the hill as much as we can to give us as much space to left field as we can.

Mr. Brillo: So that would remain gravel?

Mr. Sables: Yeah, we're probably grabbing an extra ten feet out there, not a great amount, but we're pushed back as far as we could. I could look at the grades, maybe. I know when we did this we were keeping the score board out there so we can only push it back so far, but now if we remove that score board and put the new score board in, we might be able to grab an extra 5 feet.

Mr. Brillo: Looking at adjusting left field back a little bit how exactly, that's the warning track. The other thing is we use that area for handicap parking for soccer and football.

Mr. Gennette: Do we already have an existing long jump there or is this something that we are adding?

Mr. Brillo: There is a current long jump and triple jump down in this area, then shot put is up here and the discus is in this area.

Mr. Goncalves: Thank you.

Mr. Bujak: Well then just to review the letter proposals we submitted last month. You know that the background was started back in 2019. We proceeded and then it was placed on hold due to funding. All of the background just provides the original scope of work and on page two, it talks about the reinvigoration of the project, the meetings that we've had in May and June and some of the highlighted design changes which were in the original designs which is proposed now. One of the key items is the wetlands delineation because it was done 3 years ago. You are going to have to go out there and do a full-blown re-delineation just to validate the location of the wetlands. Those are the additional designs and permitting scope items that are included in this proposal. We broke it out with task A which is the additional design and permitting. The big phase services, so to procure the contractor it's the standard, going on the street. We did a conference, attending bid openings, evaluation of the bids and post bid updating the documents to make sure you have a conformed set of documents. Part of task C which is construction administration, provide part time field observation and the work going on and administer the contract all the way through. I don't know John is there anything major that I missed in tasks A, B, and C.

Mr. Sables: No, I think you covered it all.

Mr. Bujak: Permit fees are not included in this. On the last page is the fee breakdown of what the prices are for A, B, and C. Total is $68,500. Assuming the notice to proceed is about early September, we laid out the schedule with permitting taking us through February of next year. When permitting is done, we would finalize the documents, go out to bid in April to May, and award in June with construction six months July through December of next year. Do any of you have any questions on the fee proposal, which would be an amendment to our existing contract?

Moved by Mr. DeBarge to accept the proposal in front of us submitted by Mott MacDonald regarding the high school track and field sports complex with the understanding that we will have an adjusted estimate on work to the baseball field, seconded by Mr. Gennette. Vote 5-0.

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8:00 p.m. - Police Officer Interviews

Chief Valadas: Our first candidate off of our Civil Service list is Mr. Tim Goodchild.

Mr. Goncalves: What we're going to do is give you an opportunity to give us an opening statement and then we'll go around and ask you a couple of questions each and give you an opportunity to make a closing statement.

Mr. Goodchild: I was born in Springfield. I grew up in East Longmeadow and played against Ludlow in soccer. I joined the Navy after graduating from Western New England. I was active-duty Navy from 2012 to 2018 doing intelligence work, one humanitarian aid deployment. In 2018, I moved back home and did a bit of counterterrorism contracting work. It wasn't for me, so I got out of that. I got a list for the state police academy and also applied with you at that time as well. Worked at Big Y in Wilbraham, food service assistant manager, until going to the academy trying to make the decision between Ludlow and the state. Ultimately, I chose the state police academy. I graduated in 85th crew training troops in May of 2020. Broke in in Northampton so I did a bit of patrolling in Holyoke in the 91 corridor. Then I went to the Lee barracks that's where I was until

just after Veteran's Day 2021. Ran into some differences with the state police and ended up resigning from there under duress. Went to work for the Lee Police Department which is where I'm currently working. I was out of work for maybe a week between the state police and Lee Police. I've been basically doing that police work on and off for the last three years. I got my master's degree when I was on active duty in the military at the University of Cincinnati in criminal behavior. I have a wife and two dogs at home and that's pretty much it about me.

Mr. DeBarge: It's good to see you again. I remember your interview from a couple of years ago. I remember saying to you after looking through your resume, your background, the things that you've seen, the things that you've done, why here, why are you not interviewing for the NSA or anything else? Your answer was perfect. It's good to see you back. I think I understand your resignation and I admire you more for that. I have two questions for you. What do you do if a civilian refuses to speak to you in your interaction as a law enforcement officer?

Mr. Goodchild: Context kind of matters but I've had this occur. It depends on the situation. Typically, if we're out in public and we're not in a vehicle or let's just say we're in a parking lot they continue, they don't want to speak to me, I continue to talk to them. Obviously if there' s no threat to someone's safety, their own safety, the public, my safety then I can usually keep it at a conversational tone. I'm not really a big yeller. Sometimes it helps to have somebody else talking too. So, if I have the option to bring another guy or another girl or somebody that might speak a different language maybe we're having a communication block. Maybe try to work around it it's happened to me in less than five times, but if it happens usually you're able to get through it. Explain that this is what's going on, this is why I need you to talk to me and if you talk to me, I'm going to be out of here a lot quicker so help me help you then that will be that. Those are just a couple of strategies that I would use.

Mr. DeBarge: What factors influence you as a police officer and the use in your discretion?

Mr. Goodchild: First and foremost, that we're there to help people right. So, my job is if somebody's driving recklessly and they're younger for example, they have a long driving history, maybe that it's the first-time speeding. It really depends on the individual. Sometimes, what is that expression, the hammer isn't always the right tool for every job. If you don't have a lot of speeding tickets or maybe you've never been stopped by the police maybe I won't give you a ticket right now. Maybe I'll tell you why what you're doing is so dangerous and maybe it'll prevent you from doing it in the future. Then on the other side of that coin if I see that you've been getting speeding tickets every day for the last three years obviously it's not sticking and we're going to have another discussion but you're probably going to get another citation type deal. Discrepancy is probably the most important thing. You don't always have to do the maximum you have a lot of leeway to effect the change in that individual. I think it's a very important a very useful tool.

Mr. Gennette: Mr. Goodchild, thank you for applying and coming back in. I want to go back to your school a little bit. You have a master's degree and everything in criminal behavior. Why did you drift away from that path? I mean you're looking to be a patrolman now.

Mr. Goodchild: I've always wanted to be in law enforcement, so I wanted to do the military thing. First I felt I had a pull there and while I was in, I was like I have a GI bill I'm going to get a master's degree. So, I always had a plan that this is what I want and by the time I get out, so I stuck to that. In terms of like desk jobs and office jobs, I kind of knew right when I got out of the military doing that counterterrorism thing sitting at a desk and doing excel spreadsheets and I was like this is not it. Even working in food service at Big Y running around that's what I enjoy. I like to be active. I like to be out and involved. So, the whole educational side of things I never really considered myself to be a good student because sitting in a classroom and staring at pages isn't really what I enjoy. I wanted to be in law enforcement for a long time so it's kind of just rungs on a ladder to kind of get where I want to be. I found the material interesting, so it wasn't so bad for me.

Mr. Gennette: I doubt having a master's degree is going to hurt you in doing anything. I think that was all Mr. Chairman I'm all set.

Mr. Rosenblum: Mr. Goodchild, good to see you back. When I saw your name come up, I remembered you made a great impression on us back then and it's good to see you back in town

and hopefully see you becoming part of our force. I'm going to ask my stock question first and then I'll save a new one for a second. What would you consider to be your personal weakness?

Mr. Goodchild: I think sometimes personal weakness can just maybe be stubborn at times. We work with a lot of different people in different agencies in this career and I think sometimes we're prone to get stuck in what we do it this way and we've been taught that this is the proper way to do it. There is more than one way to properly do it but sometimes when you're there it's important that somebody kind of takes charge and we all join in on that one cause. I think sometimes I can be a bit stubborn because if I see something one way it might take a couple extra moments of communication to kind of understand you want to do it this way. I want to know what you're thinking. I consider that a bit of a weakness in terms of being taught a certain way to do it and done things in the past you kind of revert back to how you handled it in the past and it worked. So, I would consider that a bit of a weakness.

Mr. Rosenblum: What makes you most satisfied in your job?

Mr. Goodchild: I enjoy positive interactions with the community. It's a tough time right now for law enforcement on the whole but, you know still 95% of the interactions with people are nice, talking to people, getting to know their story, they like talking to you. I really enjoy going to most of the calls and talking to the people and learning, meeting new people. I have a lot of fun doing that.

Mr. Silva: Welcome back. As you said, you came before us, and I believe we appointed you and you decided to move on to the state police and now you're in the system. Why back to Ludlow?

Mr. Goodchild: I'll explain the exact thought process on the whole thing. Me and my wife were discussing the future, what's best for the family, how do we see this going? Obviously, these last few years have not been normal for anybody. My thinking was if I do the state academy and change my mind down the road, I have the academy, I have the experience so then I can transfer to local departments whereas if I go in the reverse order I would have to go to another academy. So, in my mind the efficiency was I'll do this one first and then I can decide later if I'd rather be in a local environment. Obviously, I reached a moral impasse with the state police which led to my resignation, which was nothing I could have predicted anyways. So that's just a little bit of the thought process that went into that. You know not for nothing, but our state police I wanted to do that for a long time. I've heard their academy is second to none really in the country so if I had an opportunity like that I would try to jump on it.

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Mr. Silva: Can you give us three advantages you bring to the Town of Ludlow?

Mr. Goodchild: I'm a team player. I cover shifts for guys all the time. When I went to Lee, they were very short. I'm willing to help out the department and work extra shifts. I think I'm a good communicator. I can have a conversation with just about everyone I meet. I'm also good at connecting certain people that might need a resource. I can get them to the resource. I try to talk to everybody and try to understand where the different parts are. So, you meet people out on the street and sometimes they need help with something. I've communicated with these people so I know where I can send you. I'm a dedicated worker. If I take a job, I finish it, do it well, don't miss work, don't call out sick. I just think I'd be a good addition to your team.

Mr. Goncalves: Thank you for your service. So, first of all we are fortunate because a lot of times we have candidates that don't have any experience whatsoever and tonight we have candidates with experience. So, tell me about the most stressful arrest that you have ever made. What was the offense, what was the outcome, and did it keep you up at night?

Mr. Goodchild: So, we got called to a fight in progress at a gas station. It was a male and female party just wailing on each other, so the clerk called it in. As we pulled up there were still fists flying and everything else. Me and my partner got there about the same time, it was stressful, we were immediately able to separate them. The guy was passive once we showed up, she was still agitated, and we were able to bring her outside and calm her down. Then this kind of escalated, we were able to secure handcuffs, double lock it in the back of the cruiser and then it kind of turned into head smashing on the cruiser, kicking, spitting, the whole thing. We had EMS come out. But the most stressful part I think is getting the cuffs on and getting them in the cruiser. Once they're

there at least they're secure and then you can deal with him on his own. It's a bit stressful, we had the ambulance there. It never hurts to call them when there's a physical confrontation, just to have on standby even if no one ends up needing it. So, we're pretty generous when we call them and we were able to make the effect, the arrests. It didn't really bother me. She ended up going to the hospital and I pulled the short straw and ended up going to the hospital as well for the next 4 to 5 hours. I think by the third hour she'd calmed down and we were able to have a normal conversation and what not. I always tell people we're seeing you at your worst time ever I get it. The sooner you talk to us this will go a lot easier. That was one of the most stressful ones because of how she was acting.

Mr. Goncalves: That's all I've got. Would you like a closing statement?

Mr. Goodchild: I would like to thank you for your time again. I know I've been here, and you offered it to me so some of you might be thinking why am I going to be offering it to you again. I spoke with a sergeant and had a good conversation with the chief. I really would like an opportunity to affect this community and really put some roots down. We've lived here for a little while now, four years. I've got to that stage in life, it would be nice if a could be a real part of the community and work where I live and again thanks.

Chief Valadas: With Mr. Goodchild just sort of understand there is a cost when officers go to the hospital so keep that same pattern going but... Mr. Goodchild going forward as a procedural he come to us with his candidacy again through a new Civil Service list. He is the number one ranked of the candidates who are presented themselves through the Civil Service. He comes with a different type of process, in that still process, in that physical and drug screen. A psychological exam has already been conducted so he has met the standard that he has to meet. He also comes with time in service and grade based upon him being already a certified police officer which we have encountered in the past which that would be honored again. So, he comes to us as already and there is no recruit period, no FTO program. It is greatly abbreviated. I'm just notifying him that he has a screening that we have to do procedurally but this candidate presents himself as an anomaly to other candidates. Just understand there's a difference. We've spoken several times and I'll give you my comments when we can deliver it afterwards.

Mr. Goncalves: Welcome. What we are going to do is we are going to allow you the opportunity for an introduction and then we are going to go around and everyone on the Board will ask you a question or two and then give you an opportunity for a closing statement.

Mr. Blair: I'm Austin Blair, I'm a 25-year resident of Ludlow. I come from a very minimalist law enforcement background through family. I did have a family member on this department quite some time ago, they did enjoy their time in this department, and I figured it's my time to shine here. I do have some experience in law enforcement. I was a corrections officer for just under a year with the sheriff's summer program. I do have some time on the Monson PD, just over a year. I have been going on two years now with the Law Enforcement Division of the Sheriff's Department. Just to backtrack a little, I'm super excited to be here, a little nerve wracking but I'm hoping my excitement prevails over my nervousness as we move forward tonight. Thanks for having me.

Mr. Rosenblum: Mr. Blair congratulations, thank you for coming in this evening. I'm going to start off with my stock question. What do you see is your personnel weakness?

Mr. Blair: I would say I take on too many tasks at once instead of focusing on one specific thing. I like running, going to the gym, or playing basketball in my free time. I try to do all three instead of focusing on one major thing. I am working on that to this day. I would definitely say that.

Mr. Rosenblum: What makes you most satisfied in your job?

Mr. Blair: I think the selflessness that comes with this career path in general. The whole job is a commitment. You have to be reliable to your partners. You have to be reliable to your department. Honesty is a big part of all of it. I think that everything that ties into this job is like a big network, a big spiderweb and all these different moving parts are important to this job.

Mr. Gennette: Welcome Mr. Blair, thank you for applying. I'm going to talk about your school a little bit. You've got your high school diploma. It doesn't look like you finished your degree, what happened?

Mr. Blair: My high school.

Mr. Gennette: I know you finished high school. I'm just saying you started college what happened?

Mr. Blair: When I was in college, I was unsatisfied where I was at the time. I was more eager to work. At the same time, I had a break in school. I applied for the Airforce. I met with a recruiter and right next to that I put in for the summer program at the jail. This first call back I got was the jail, so I took that ultimately. I wanted to kickstart my career in the right direction. Since that job in 2018, I have not had a break in service yet with this career path. I don't want to say that I haven't found the time to go back. I do plan on going back and finishing that degree. I only have I believe two more classes left, but I really have put most of my focus towards the actual job. It's a very hands on and one of those jobs that you have to actually do is to learn it versus just looking at a textbook and going over maybe the history of the career itself. So, I'll just say yes. I do plan on going back, but I was more focused at the time on getting myself on the right track for my job to continue further in that direction.

Mr. Silva: Welcome. Can you tell me what you like about Ludlow?

Mr. Blair: Ludlow is a very tight-knit community. I'm sure all of us have probably heard it referred to as the bubble. Everybody here is tight knit. We do have different cultures in town, and I think that's super neat. Some people also refer to this town as little Portugal. It's cool having friends growing up with different families and different heritages and climates within their households as far as how to run things. I do think there's a lot of opportunity as well. I've met a majority of the people I network with where I am today from this town, so it's cool to know that a lot of people have made a name for themselves through Ludlow.

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Mr. Silva: Give me three advantages that you would bring to the town.

Mr. Blair: Commitment to the job. I understand from a previous standpoint of doing patrol work and serving on a department every part of it matters from what you put into your body, how you stay in shape for the job to how you express or escalate outside of the job. Reduce stress outside of the job, who you associate with outside of the job all finds its way to inside the job if that makes sense. This job follows you around. I think it's important for a candidate or police officer in general to understand that. It is a job you do take home regardless of what we all say. I think that's one. Loyalty I think is super important, that you can become a reliable person. Being loyal to a department what I've heard from the guys for 20-30 years, is if you provide loyalty to a department all the advancement opportunities are there as long as you put in the time and effort for that job. Again, to jump back it is a dedicated job. You do have to dedicate yourself for this job. From my time at the jail, I've learned what it is to be able to be temperamental. There was a question they asked me in the department interview, saying how would you deal with somebody being hostile towards you. I believe my answer was somewhere along the lines of if you just take a step back and listen to what somebody's problems are 90% of the time the reasoning will come out and the de-escalation point in itself. This is the time in law enforcement where people want to point fingers at us and people want to keep us accountable for everything, which I can totally appreciate. When you are going to be in the public eye like that, you do have to be able to make decisions and I do hold myself to a high standard for that in and outside of the department.

Mr. Silva: Thank you.

Mr. Blair: Thank you sir.

Mr. Goncalves: Are you saying that because once you become a police officer, you're not going to be Austin one shift and police officer another, you're going to be Austin the cop forever. There's no going back.

Mr. Blair: You never go back to being a civilian anymore.

Mr. Goncalves: It's good to recognize that. Tell me about your most stressful arrest whether in Monson or the jail system. How did you handle it? What happened exactly? When you went home that night what happened?

Mr. Blair: That's a tough question because I have a tough answer. When I was in Monson, I stopped a vehicle one night that a close relative was driving. He had a warrant for something out of Holyoke. I won't mention it now.

Mr. Goncalves: That's usually a Bill question I think you didn't get that one tonight.

Mr. Blair: The textbook definition of an ethical question. I was put on the spot in which I did have to arrest a very close family member, the kind that you break bread with on holidays to put it in to that perspective. Going home my first thoughts after that was how it is going to affect my family, which it sure did for some time. So that was a little tough to deal with. Like I said, not everybody understands this job. There's things that are hard to understand and being put in a position like that is one of them. It was really odd making the whole arrest and booking, calling the clerk, and waiting for somebody else in my family to come pick that person up and now there's two people involved in the family. It was odd. Eventually we all sat down as a family and came to an agreement without crossing certain T's and dotting certain I's, but it was tough and definitely my hardest arrest. There were other incidents involved with this individual, but this was like the big one.

Mr. DeBarge: Mr. Blair welcome and I appreciate your interest in our police department. I'd like to ask you two questions. Working as a police officer, this makes this question easy. What do you do if a civilian refuses to speak to you in your interaction as a sworn law enforcement officer?

Mr. Blair: Would this be in the context that they're just civilians, they're not?

Mr. DeBarge: Yes.

Mr. Blair: Considering they are just a civilian if they don't want to talk to me, they have their whole right not to talk to me if they don't want to. It would only look bad if I tried forcing a conversation upon somebody that didn't want to have one with me. Unless it was in a criminal matter, then obviously I'm going to address it the way I need to address, but as far as somebody just not willing to talk to me I won't take it personal. It's the job.

Mr. DeBarge: What factors influence a police officer's discretion or your discretion as a police officer?

Mr. Blair: I think a lot of things. If you want to go down the bare route, I think how you're raised affects your discretion. What you've seen growing up affects your discretion. It depends on a case-by-case basis what you're dealing with, how you move forward with that. If you're talking strictly district discretion, let's say you stop three cars for going 60 in a 30 right, two of them have never been stopped before and this one has five priors for speeding. Who are you going to give the citation to? The person that's done it for the first time or maybe from out of town or something or the person that's a long-time resident and they have an outstanding driving history, just to give you a simple example. To be fair, discretion I think is all about being fair, firm, and friendly when you break it down.

Mr. Goncalves: Closing statement.

Mr. Blair: I just want to say I'm sure that you guys can tell I'm pretty nervous. I've planned on sitting at this seat for the past three years. I've watched some friends go through this interview; some family go through this interview. I have been a part of these electronically just watching them from afar. It is a little weird being in the hotseat finally. I can totally appreciate being here. I appreciate you being here late. I'm sure you have awesome things to do outside of here. But again, I really appreciate you having me here tonight and that means a lot. Thank you, thank you Chief.

Chief Valadas: Mr. Blair's candidacy comes to us as the third ranked candidate. He would go through the same process as I mentioned before with Mr. Goodchild. He would list slightly different. We will look at a psychological evaluation, drug screening, physical exam and he would progress forward, but he also progresses forward as starting day being the first day of his ROC academy. He would have to complete ROC academy. In regard to the fact that he was a law enforcement officer with two other agencies, he still has to be an ROC recruit regardless of any brigs that he's done, any type of training he's done. When we met, I told him it's a predicate that he still has to complete either an ROC or an RTT to be certified. He agreed to that so that's how he would progress forward.

Mr. Goncalves: Ok we're good. Thank you.

Chief Valadas: I do have statements before you start your deliberation. I just want to give you some statements that were outside of the questions. I'd want a witness if they wanted to come into the room. I think that's where Ms. Ribeiro comes in, not that it matters. Okay so we conducted, you have a panel review board in front of you, a little explanation Detective Lieutenant Kornacki provided. Explanation of the number two candidate. First time that I'm ever aware we have a candidate that signed, met the Civil Service standard to receive notification to proceed forward and then that stopped. We basically stopped contact. We proceeded with the candidates that we had. That is why you see the second place being open. Mr. Goodchild scored with a very high score. Mr. Blair was the second scoring candidate. Both were very good interviews. As far as going forward, one candidate has certainly more characteristics or attributes, a better resume, just with the military service level, level of education. It's just two different candidates. Also, you have a difference between the candidates. That one I mentioned to you is a standing law enforcement officer, one that was gaining bridge academy certification, but would have to start recruit all over again. Understand that I would continue on as my tenure as Chief. I will continue with the practice that I've done before, which is a certified police officer that comes from another agency, he's given time and grade; it's a military thing given time and grade for service. If it's Mr. Goodchild, he would be given time and grade. Okay understand that's where he would start. In my opinion as an executive, I would ask for that. I would also ask the Board to please consider appointing an alternate. You might ask why, that's very strange we only have two candidates. The alternates are very important, you never know what emergencies. I would ask that you continue the same pattern that you've exhibited before and please consider that, appointing an alternate. Any other than specific questions that you have for me or Ms. Ribeiro as well because we work together as far as the process is going forward.

Mr. Silva: Am I mistaken, or do we not have more positions available? I've seen several retirements and I know we've added patrolmen to this budget, but are we all set or are we going to have another interview coming up shortly? If that's the case, why don't we fill that other position? Is it timing?

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Chief Valadas: It is timing. So, by Civil Service standard and Ms. Ribeiro can also address this, you go by the work orders based upon the number of vacancies. As we spoke, Ms. Ribeiro, we only have one vacancy regardless of what our budget is. We only have one vacancy, and she can assert that.

Ms. Ribeiro: There are no vacancies right now. So, the longer we wait the less likely you are to get the candidates that are on the list. The list came out in July, so if we wait say like until October to fill some of these positions of people that are leaving, there's less chance we have of securing the prime candidates we are looking for. It is just a matter of time unfortunately. That's why the alternate will come into play too because in the past most alternates that are appointed are eventually hired into permanent positions. Even in the case when Mr. Goodchild was appointed back in 2019, he ended up withdrawing from the process. We had two alternates that came in so it's very important we have those. They help fill some of the vacancies.

Mr. Goncalves: So, we are looking to hire one of these two and you are suggesting that the other one be an alternate. What are we going to be looking at in September?

Chief Valadas: As it stands now you have 4 recruits in the Boylston ROC Academy in week two, still in good standing as student officers. Their first day of employment with the Town of Ludlow was last Monday. The remaining two alternates that you have they are also in student officer

candidate status, but there may be developments in both of those, possibly unfortunate developments. We are waiting for possibly withdrawals. Those can only be vacancies upon withdrawals because you appointed them. The Civil Service appointments would have to withdraw them from the process that continues as student officers. We have two positions right now held for the October Western Mass ROC Academy. I was just there today, and I spoke to the director. We have those two positions held for our two candidates that are standing. If one of those candidates was to falter, Ms. Ribeiro has gotten decisions on this that an appointed alternate could slide into that, it's my understanding. From our civil service liaison, I understand that would stay and that would also continue forward. We could anticipate that would be accepted.

Ms. Ribeiro: Yes, we would have to revise the requisition to something more.... It gets a little messy as far as administration because we keep having requisition after requisition, hire after hire. The academy has 4 individuals that just started in July. We interviewed those individuals back in December. So, it's taken six months to get them into the academy. It's a long process.

Chief Valadas: Just to answer your question, there will be further requisitions that Ms. Ribeiro makes for the lead candidates that you've given to two former police officers on lead, those that we anticipate if they stay and hold, they will be the next two requisitions which means a whole another batch of notifications have to go out through civil service and the same process be conducted. Except for if you appoint an alternate, they do not have to repeat that because you already appointed them an alternate. It has some standing. It does expedite the process so there's a reason why I ask.

Mr. Goncalves: Does it put them ahead of anybody else?

Chief Valadas: No, they're appointed. They're appointed by the executive body, off Civil Service list by rank.

Mr. Gennette: What was Mr. Goodchild's first name?

Chief Valadas: Timothy.

Moved by Mr. Gennette to approve the hiring of Timothy Goodchild for the full-time patrolman's position within the police department and an alternate position for Mr. Austin Blair effective midnight August 10th, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum. Vote 5-0

Mr. DeBarge: Let me say this I am impressed with both as I said before. I interviewed Mr. Goodchild when he was here before and Mr. Blair was an incredible interview. Cador from both of them, honesty from both of them. You cannot get past Mr. Goodchild's resume and I actually agree with Mr. Blair in talking about how he's focused on his job and he's not saying he didn't have time to go back to school, it's just that he put his focus into work, and I respect that. But on paper without knowing anybody, when you look at this and you see the background, Navy intelligence, the degree, the state police academy and all of that I'd be hard pressed to choose myself over this. Even if I was being biased in choosing myself, I'm sure you four would as well believe me. But my point is I'd be hard pressed in choosing anyone over Mr. Goodchild with his return in wanting to settle roots here in town. I would without a doubt add Mr. Blair to our alternate list and hope that we end up getting to him if we need to. I concur with your motion, Mr. Gennette, I just wanted to say why.

Mr. Rosenblum: To Mr. DeBarge's point, I think we'd be remiss if we didn't have some kind of discussion on it even though I think we all agree with the choices. When I saw the name come up, I remember the person. He made an impression on me back then when I started, but also as Mr. DeBarge says it's the resume itself. He has a masters, military background which the education and the military are two large components of a police officer when we look at anyone that we've hired in the past. For Mr. Blair, you can tell that he was nervous, but you can tell his answers were heartfelt instead of just that stock answer that you would hear someone say. He kind of reached down within himself and that was good to see. I have no problem with the motion and with Mr. Blair as an alternate.

Mr. Goncalves: Ok, so I guess we are here to talk about the Exit Seven lease and what's going on.

Ms. Carvide: Our Board met with Exit Seven at our last Board meeting. They voted to make a lease agreement with Exit Seven. Exit Seven told us all the propositions that they wanted and all that kind of stuff. All the details are not out yet, but they did do an actual vote that got that unanimously approved. They will make them a contract. They have their own furnace and air conditioning unit on the roof so we can figure out who's paying for the utility now. It shouldn't be connected with that big boiler. I don't know if you guys get two sets of bills for that address. I know that I don't get any. So, we'll need to figure that out.

Mr. Goncalves: We'll figure that one out. Who's going to prepare the lease?

Ms. Carvide: The Board will do all the details and stuff and then we will send it to our attorney to make sure that it's viable and to everybody's agreement. They had a lot of good ideas.

Mr. Silva: We've waited all this time; we kept them all this time here for that?

Mr. Goncalves: I wanted to do them before the police interviews, but I was told no.

Ms. Carvide: What I'm understanding is you guys have a lease with them until September 30th?

Mr. Silva: Yes, we extended it.

Ms. Carvide: So, I don't know if you are willing to vote that September 30th we'll take over Exit Seven because that'll give us more than enough time to work out a lease and all the details. We are going to give them, I don't know the exact amount of years, but it's not going to be like 2 or 3. It will be 25 or something like that.

Mr. Goncalves: I would like our Town Counsel to see the lease before you get into that. Is that okay?

Ms. Carvide: I don't see why not. I don't know if they'll let you have any input.

Mr. Gennette: Then you can just start the lease the next day. We wouldn't have to end our lease. The lease will expire on its own.

Ms. Carvide: Right, I'm thinking that we would start our lease on October 1st.

Mr. Goncalves: We'll be off it completely?

Mr. Strange: We still have our lease with Ludlow Housing Authority.

Ms. Carvide: Right, that has to be, I kind of want that in the same vote to get your lease for September 30th and then it will end with Exit Seven and us and then we'll start with Exit Seven on October 1st.

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Ms. Stanek: We can't start our lease with them until you terminate your lease with us.

Ms. Carvide: Because if you don't terminate your lease with us according to the lease, you're in charge of Exit Seven. The other thing is that there is still inventory in the building. I don't know what you guys are planning to do with some of the inventory. The tables and chairs in the cafeteria can stay because I'm sure Exit Seven is going to use them. There is some miscellaneous desks and this and that. I can get you an inventory. The kitchen stuff I thought the golf course was going to take, but there's still quite a bit left. It can be used there in the future if Exit Seven wants to have a fundraiser or activity. They have to get the proper licenses for food.

Mr. Gennette: They should probably decide what they want to keep and what they're going to throw. I mean nobody else can make that decision for them if they're going to hang on to some of that stuff.

Ms. Carvide: Right but it's all your property. I can't tell them what they want and rest to throw away.

Mr. Gennette: I get it. We should tell them to figure it out. I got you.

Ms. Carvide: So that's what we are hoping for. The heat has been disconnected from the two buildings to the third building. There was this big valve that got disconnected. Once we have the basement done, I have some funds that are waiting to be approved by the state which shouldn't be a problem. We're going to switch out that whole furnace and just have a separate furnace for the basement, more economical. So, I guess we are requesting from you to…

Mr. Gennette: Get out of the way.

Ms. Carvide: I wouldn't put it that rash. To relinquish the lease as of September 30th and the same with Exit Seven so it all coincides. This way it's a clean break. We went every direction. The Housing Authority or state is not going to sell the building so that kind of is a mix.

Mr. Silva: So, we're terminating two leases.

Moved by Mr. Rosenblum to terminate the lease with the Exit Seven and Ludlow Housing Authority effective September 30th of this year, seconded by Mr. Gennette. Vote 5-0.

Ms. Carvide: Do you want me to do an inventory and show it to Exit Seven to see what they want? Do you want the beginning list.

Mr. Goncalves: Yes, just what's there.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

Fall Special Town Meeting - Articles must be submitted by the close of business Monday, August 22nd. The warrant is shaping up to be a busy one.

Guilfoil Public Relations - Municipal public relations and crisis management with over 300 clients. Town plans to work with them beginning in the fall and all departments, both school and town-side, will have access to their services which includes 12+ press releases per month along with on-call public relations and crisis management support. This service will allow the town and schools to coordinate our communication strategy and, more importantly, increase the flow of information from the town to the public.

Tea with the TA – The new School Superintendent, Frank Tiano, and I met with residents at the Senior Center on Wednesday, August 3rd. This is a regularly scheduled event, and we would encourage people to stop by the Senior Center the first Wednesday of each month at 10:00 am to hear what's going on in town and ask any questions they may have. The next session is Wednesday, September 7th at 10:00 am and Representative Jake Oliveira will be joining me.

CDBG Grant Opportunities - Doug Stefancik and I met with PVPC last week to discuss possible projects that could be funded through a competitive CDBG grant. We talked about a few really great projects that could qualify, including Whitney Park, for an infrastructure planning study for areas just north of the Ludlow Mills including Oak Ridge/Laconia/Fairway/State/Stevens, no stormwater infrastructure, public services for seniors, and housing rehab.

Town Signs - There are several signs around town that are in need of repair or replacement, those green wooden signs. We met with Chuck's Signs last week to talk about designing new signs including what type of materials, color schemes and the like. We expect to receive proposals and cost estimates in the coming few weeks. We will reach back out to the ERC5 and see if any businesses would be interested in sponsoring sign purchases.

Facilities Condition Assessment - Colliers will be here tomorrow for a kickoff meeting. The town hired them to do a full evaluation of the town-owned buildings and provide a priority list of projects along with cost estimates.

Vets Park - This week we received the asbestos survey from OTO, which we will need to put the building demolition out to bid. Later this week or next week, we are expecting to receive more information related to bid documents and the like.

IT Update - We continue to work closely with CMD Technology Group on everyday operational help desk items along with program and system upgrades. In the next 2-3 weeks, we are hoping to have all town-side users (excluding police and fire) migrated onto MS 365 suite, which should cure the legacy email issues, allow departments to communicate with each other more easily (think Building and Health Inspectors sharing information and calendars), provide access to Microsoft Teams and a PDF editor.

CORRESPONDENCE:

139. Kim M. Batista, CMMC, Town Clerk – requesting the Board to appoint Leslie Ward, Town Building Inspector, as Records Access Officer for the Building Department.

Moved by Mr. DeBarge to appoint Leslie Ward, Town Building Inspector, as Records Access Officer for the Building Department, seconded by Mr. Gennette. Vote 5-0.

140. Sean R. Auclair, - informing the Board of Selectmen of his letter of resignation from the Ludlow Police Department effective as of July 25, 2022.

Moved by Mr. DeBarge to accept the letter of resignation from Sean R. Auclair from the Ludlow Police Department effective July 25, 2022. Thank you I worked with him for a short period of time, a stellar young man. Wherever he'll go, he'll bring integrity to that job. Great family and great kid. Congratulations on moving on. I wish you luck. Seconded by Mr. Silva. Vote 4-0.

141. Fernando Barroso – notifying the Board of his interest in the vacancy on the Council on Aging.

Moved by Mr. Silva to appoint Fernando Barroso to the Council on Aging, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum. Vote 5-0.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Board to sign Selectmen's Minutes of March 23, 2022.

Moved by Mr. DeBarge to sign Selectmen's Meeting Minutes of March 23, 2022 with Mr. Rosenblum absent, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum. Vote 5-0.

Ludlow Housing Authority – 37-39 Chestnut Street lease status of Town's lease agreement and Exit 7 lease agreement (Tabled from 7/26/22).

Board to approve contract with CMD Technology Group (Tabled from 7/26/2022)

Moved by Mr. Rosenblum to approve and sign contract with CMD Technology Group, seconded by Mr. DeBarge. Vote 5-0.

Mr. Gennette: Marc, did we get a timeline on that with CMD. Is there an expiration date?

Mr. Strange: I don't believe so. I have to get the other contract for you. The discussion was that the contract was originally procured through a collaborative and CPA which expires in two years. With the current contract, there's no expiration after a year as of June 30, 2023. The question is whether or not we want to add a finite end date to the contract.

Mr. Gennette: My thing is I feel we kind of need an end date to kind of review the contract, see that we like CMD, see if we want to go forward with CMD. I think it's kind of a failsafe and I think it's a big mistake if we don't have that. I mean if you want to keep renewing the contract with CMD because they're doing great then we renew. That was my only concern.

Mr. Goncalves: We've got to look at it to see if it does have a time on there. Did he say there was a timeline?

Mr. Gennette: There was not. It's kind of a pay as you go situation.

Mr. Goncalves: There's got to be something there that says a 30-day notice.

Mr. Silva: It is very easy that we have the contract before us, but we'll just make the vote to whatever the Board feels the contract should be for a year, two years whatever.

Mr. Gennette: You can do that too.

Mr. Goncalves: Unless there's something in the contract that says upon either parties given 60-day notice, or 90 days' notice the contract would end. Then we have the ability to end it when we want.

Mr. Gennette: We have to see the contract. I would've liked to have seen a little more legalese to the whole thing. I thought it was a little, not as detailed as it could've been.

Mr. DeBarge: Sometimes that's a good thing. I'll only say that I agree with Mr. Gennette and Mr. Silva to just put a timeline on this. Let's just say a two-year review would keep us in a place, they both said review what has been done. I think we are in a position that we should be that cautious and at least have no more in my opinion than a two-year review. We can say are we better off than we were before and where are we going forward. It's our basic diligence for everyone in town.

Mr. Gennette: Absolutely. I think the situation that we had as far as this went I think two years may be a little long. I wouldn't mind seeing a year review of the contract and decide from there. Two years is better than none. So, for me as long as we have an expiration day or a day to review, I would be happy with that. I'm a big supporter of CMD and I think they are going to do a good job, but at the end of the day we are here to protect the town.

Mr. Strange: So, we used MCCA as a Collaborative Procurement Service. What happens is the vendor that qualifies will answer a request for proposals, submit a bid instead of going to the town. They submit it to the collaborative and that particular contract through the collaborative expires in two years. So, we have a cover sheet on it as you can see. This starts July 1, 2022, and it will end when the collaborative contract ends.

Mr. Goncalves: Or it ends if we stop calling them for service. No obligation. There's nothing here that says that we have to use them exclusively. We can walk away from this at any time.

Mr. Strange: We could.

Mr. Goncalves: Does that make you feel better? We can walk away at any time. We're not tied into a time specific. We're just saying that we agreed to when we use their services these are going to be the rates, and this is how we're going to do it. So, we're not exclusive to them.

Mr. Gennette: That's fine as long as we have the…

Mr. Goncalves: Wiggle room.

Mr. Gennette: Yes, that's fine.

Board to approve and Chairman to sign Change Order #39 and #40 for the Harris Brook Elementary/Chapin Street School project.

Mr. Goncalves: Is this GSA one or is this part of the other one?

Mr. Strange: There's six of them in total.

Mr. Goncalves: I'm seeing one for a total of $57992, another one for a total of $6592 that makes sense. It's for handicapped door assist openers. It's all stuff that had no choice, probably something that had no choice and just came later on, the bids came in later. Install exhaust fan in the I.T. closet, $6000.

Moved by Mr. DeBarge to approve and Chairman to sign Change Order #39 and #40 for Harris Brook Elementary/Chapin Street School project, seconded by Mr. Gennette. Vote 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

Board perused Selectmen's Minutes of February 1, 2022.

Board perused Selectmen's Minutes of February 15, 2022.

Board perused Selectmen's Minutes of March 8, 2022.

Board perused Selectmen's Minutes of April 12,2022.

Board perused Selectmen's Minutes of April 19, 2022.

Board perused Selectmen's Minutes of April 26, 2022.

Board perused Selectmen's Minutes of July 12, 2022.

Board perused Executive Session Minutes of May 24, 2022.

Board perused Executive Session Minutes of June 7, 2022.

Board to discuss and vote on dissolving the Computer Advisory Committee.

Mr. Gennette: I'm the chair for the Computer Advisory Committee. The Computer Advisory Committee hasn't met. We're down on staff and the people that were on it really aren't IT people. At this point, with everything that we have going on with the third-party service, with the contract that we signed earlier, I think at this time it probably doesn't warrant us having a Computer Advisory Committee.

Mr. Silva: If it doesn't warrant then there's no reason, we shouldn't dissolve it. If we ever need it back, we just bring it back.

Moved by Mr. Silva to dissolve the Computer Advisory Committee, seconded by Mr. DeBarge. Vote 5-0.

Board to appoint Lauren Nolan as an unenrolled election officer as part of annual appointments.

Moved by Mr. Silva to appoint Lauren Nolan as an unenrolled election officer, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum. Vote5-0.

Board to vote to designate Marc Strange to approve and sign payroll and/or bills.

Moved by Mr. Gennette to designate Marc Strange to approve and sign payroll and/or bills, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum. Vote 5-0.

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Board to approve and sign Point Software Contract.

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

BOARD UPDATES/MISC.:

Mr. Goncalves: Next week, a week from today, there is an important event, Tuesday, August 16, at 6:00 at the Ludlow High School. We are very fortunate to have a preventing accidental poisoning seminar, educational seminar going on. It's in collaboration with the Ludlow PD, the Board of Health, Fire Department, Sheriff's Department, Anthony Gulluni our DA, the Hampden County Addiction Task Force, and Ludlow CARES very supportive from Ludlow CARES. It's a great program on what's happening out there in the drug marketplace and how it's affecting families locally. Very briefly from what I understand, the social media world right now kids, adults, anybody can very easily obtain illegal drugs and what's happening is they are counterfeit drugs. Fentanyl is a lot cheaper than a lot of these other drugs, heroin and what not. We had a young man here in Ludlow pass away not too long ago. It was an accidental death because it was Fentanyl poising disguised as something else. I think it will be a great opportunity for parents,

kids, high school kids and anybody else in town to get educated in this. It's a tremendous opportunity that they chose to do it here and I think there's a lot of good stuff to be learned. At the high school, next Tuesday, a week from today, at 6:00pm and everybody's invited to attend.

CLOSING COMMENTS:

Mr. DeBarge: Go check out the Civil War Memorial on Center. The pillars are up, those boulders are moved out and the only thing that has to be put on is the chain. It's really come along well. Thank you to Ludlow Monument.

Mr. Gennette: I am all set Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

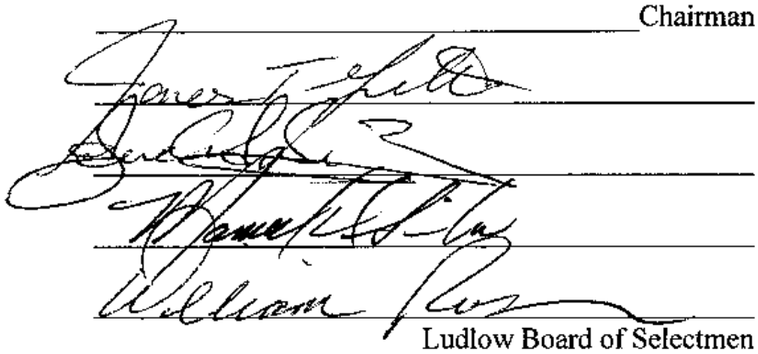
Mr. Rosenblum: I am good this evening.

Mr. Silva: Same good.

Mr. Goncalves: Just a reminder next Tuesday, the high school, 6:00 o'clock the opioid meeting there with the DA's office, our Board of Health, the PD and everybody else that's really trying hard to curb what's going on with the drugs in town and everywhere.

Board to enter into Executive Session for the following purpose: To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel.

Chairman



Ludlow Board of Selectmen