Meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on Monday, October 3, 2022 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Ludlow High School Cafeteria, 500 Chapin Street, Ludlow.

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

Board of Selectmen met before the Special Town Meeting to discuss the Selectmen's Articles.

First Order of Business: Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Strange: Article 1 is Tony's and it's unpaid bills from fiscal 23. One thing to note is that after Justin left after the last fiscal year we subcontracted with South Hadley to have their building commissioner fill in for Justin and we just got the invoice this week. So, we had to add it to the end of this article. So, the town meeting members do not have in their packet this last $7700, but we put out a revised background showing that just in case somebody says something. Article 2 is Derek's. It's a 10% match for the firefighters' grant. One thing to be aware of is we are asking for a 10% cash match for the grant which is $55,580; 10% of that would have been $5580, but the way the feds do their math it's a little bit different. So, somebody might ask a question about that. We're asking for 10% of the grant and the grant is $55,580 so why are we asking for $5052.

Mr. DeBarge: So the answer to that would be, if I answer it, is because the feds have a different math system.

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Mr. Strange: Yes, just say the feds take out fees and this and that. I asked Chief Pease who should be here, and he might be able to answer it.

Mr. DeBarge: He'll be able to; he'll take that.

Mr. Strange: Article 3 is James'. Article 3 would amend the Capital Improvement Planning Committee bylaw by replacing the Town Administrator with a member of the Board of Public Works and adding another private citizen and CIPC had voted on all these changes. Anything stick out there James?

Mr. Gennette: No, it looks pretty straightforward. The words are a little better.

Mr. Strange: James also has Article 4 which is also a Capital Improvement Planning Committee bylaw change and this is basically a clarification that if you're going to aggregate purchases totaling more than $20,000 they have to be for a single project at a single location.

Mr. Gennette: The concern with that is the last time we had all that money the School Department came in and they were packaging different things together to make it equal more than $20,000 even though they were not relative to each other. We figured we couldn't have the DPW coming in asking for twenty thousand $1.00 rakes.

Mr. Strange: Article 5 is the facilities director position. This is Bill's. It's pretty straightforward. Do you have any questions?

Mr. Rosenblum: No.

Mr. Strange: Article 6 is the Vets Center. One thing we changed in the motion; it says I move that the town raise and appropriate $33,500 to rent space for a Veterans Center and also note that any expenditures that we're asking for is basically two-thirds of the full year.

Ms. Collins: They just need the total prior year bills because I think it went up.

Mr. Goncalves: How much is it?

Mr. DeBarge: How does the new one read then?

Mr. Rosenblum: It was $16,000. What's the new one?

Mr. Strange: 24 and change. She has it.

Mr. Goncalves: I don't need that amount though.

Mr. Strange: You've got it right here.

Mr. DeBarge: Okay so the new article is on the desk because it's not going to say to rent space.

Mr. Strange: No, that article hasn't changed. I'm just saying if people ask about it. For example, the facilities director we're asking for $54,000 for this year, that's basically two-thirds of the salary that it would be in the fiscal 24 budget. Right, so we are assuming that if everything works out, we get to hire somebody November 1st and we get 8 months of that person in this fiscal year and that goes for all their other requests including the Vets Center.

Mr. DeBarge: That's why it's 32 and 45 next year.

Mr. Strange: Article 7 is Manny's. It's a 3-year property assessment recertification. I really don't know why this didn't make it into the budget. This was Joe's article. Article 8 is also Derek's and that's asking Town Meeting to accept Riverside Drive as a public way. BPW is meeting now, and we still need a letter from them, a signed letter, verifying that the road was built to spec. I'm assuming that's going to happen.

Mr. Goncalves: It's been complete for some time.

Mr. Strange: If that doesn't happen, then it's going to be a major issue, but I'm assuming they are going to provide the letter. Just something to be aware of. Article 9 is James' and that's the one we are going to take no action on. Article 10 is Bill's and that's the School Department increase.

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Mr. DeBarge: And they need that why again?

Mr. Rosenblum: It's the shortfall, the $150,000 that we wanted to give them earlier.

Mr. Gennette: Who was reading that one?

Mr. Strange: That's Bill's and Article 11 is the part time local building inspector.

Mr. Goncalves: That's mine. Questions, comments. Do we have our copies that we can sign?

Mr. Strange: They should be at the desk. I have extra copies here.

Mr. DeBarge made a motion to adjourn this meeting at 7:08 p.m., seconded by Mr. Gennette.

Mr. Gennette yes, Mr. DeBarge yes, Mr. Rosenblum yes, Mr. Silva yes, Mr. Goncalves yes. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

_____ Chairman

All related documents can be viewed at the Board of Selectmen's Office during regular business hours.