Meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on Tuesday, October 4, 2022 beginning at 5:30 pm in the Selectmen's Conference Room, Town Hall.

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

First Order of Business: The Pledge of Allegiance

Town Administrator's Report:

Mr. Strange: We were notified late last week that we received two grants through the states Community Compact Program. One is a $50,000 grant for succession planning which is hiring a consultant to structure our town departments so that if somebody leaves we're not left scrambling. I think up to this point if a department head leaves there is really no succession planning for systems and for personnel to make a smooth transition. That was one of the grants. The other grant was a $45,000 grant for downtown economic development planning. It's an economic development guide for the areas. Obviously, we have the Ludlow Mills which is kind of the centerpiece of our development efforts, but what's next and how can we leverage the development at the Mills on State Street, on East Street and every place downtown. So that's what that would be used for. We're also in conversations with PVPC on a CDBG grant application. The focus of that application will be infrastructure planning for the downtown area as well. Often times utility pipes, sewer pipes, water, stormwater is very old and insufficient so this grant would go a long way in terms of figuring out what we have down there in terms of infrastructure and what we need. It also would set us up for future construction grants. It's kind of a 3-pronged application right now. The second prong is improvements for Whitney Park and the last one is support for senior center/senior services. That application is due early 2023. PVPC also reached out to us about sharing a Conservation Agent with Longmeadow and Hampden. So, Longmeadow, Hampden and Monson have an agreement where they would share one Conservation Agent, probably funded through the Community Compact in year one through a grant and then thereafter the 3 communities would split the cost of the agent. So, Monson backed out because their personnel situation had changed and PVPC I just happened to just have a meeting with them and they mentioned it. So right now, in our Conservation Department, we have one part timer and then we have 3 commissioners and I think in the next year or two we are going to be turning over the personnel in that department. So, a Conservation Agent part-time or a third of the time, whatever it is, I think could help us with succession planning for Conservation. We also had our first website reveal. Civic Plus revealed the design of the website. The functionality of the colors looks great. Chief Pease was on. Paulina Matusik from the Health Department and Leslie Ward were on the call too. It looks great. It really does. It's super, super user friendly. All the buttons are there. If you want to check agendas and minutes, if you want to notify the town of a pot hole or an issue, everything is right there on the front page. We also had our first meeting with Tighe & Bond, Corcoran and Leslie Ward, the Building Commissioner, on our Town Hall HVAC study. They came in and took a look at what we have. Tighe & Bond consulted with Corcoran on the history and where we are with the HVAC in Town Hall. So now both the Town Hall HVAC study and the public safety complex are both in full swing. Lastly, I was at an all-day training last week with fellow new town managers and administrators and it was great. They covered topics like ethics, working with boards, communications and just general best practices. I brought back a few ideas that we might be able to implement in the future.

Mr. Gennette: As far as the Community Compact grants go, who sought these out?

Mr. Strange: Me.

Mr. Goncalves: Good job.

Mr. Gennette: Nice and the CDBG grant application that could possibly assist Whitney Park, we really have no idea where all that's going right? We don't know how much money.

Mr. Strange: We've been active in Agawam. So, we were pretty successful with CDBG in Agawam. It just so happens that some of the areas that might qualify in Ludlow are down by the mills and we were awarded an infrastructure planning grant. In Agawam, it was great. It paid for an engineer to look subsurface, see the size of the pipes, how old they were and come up with a

prioritization plan as to what streets needed to be prioritized and replaced. It also sets you up so once you have a plan through CDBG you can then chip away at it through future CDBG grants for construction. That was the starting point and then we just started brainstorming about Whitney Park, how Whitney Park could use some new playground equipment and things of that nature and then the senior center.

Mr. Goncalves: For the viewing audience, PVPC, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, and CDBG, Community Development Block Grants.

Mr. Strange: Correct.

Mr. Goncalves: That shared Conservation Agent, maybe we could look at maybe putting a CPA in, preservation act, and have that person concentrate because I don't know that Conservation has been all that busy lately. I'm not sure they've had a meeting in a while.

Mr. Strange: They're not. I think they've been meeting once a month so I feel like a part time, or third time person might fit the bill.

Visitations:

5:35 pm – Nuisance Dog Hearing Revisit from 8/9

Mr. Gennette moved that we open this nuisance dog hearing at 5:37 pm, seconded by Mr. DeBarge. All in favor. Vote 5-0.

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Mr. Goncalves: Are we going to be introducing anything new today?

Ms. Anderson: No.

Mr. Goncalves: This is just an update.

Ms. Anderson: Just an update. The dog does bark. They have video of it. The dog doesn't bark nonstop constantly, but she does bark because once again that's what dogs do. She's tried a bark collar. She's tried chickens. Her whole property where the dog stays has been closed in basically. She's a big dog and she does bark. One thing I did find just 5 minutes ago that I'm slightly excited about it, which I didn't know they made, is you can get an ultrasonic bark buster that goes up in a tree or on property or on a porch or whatever and it releases a high-pitched noise that people can't hear, but dogs can. From all the reviews, it works. A couple of companies make different ones. They range in price from $35 to $250. From what I understand, and I've never used one of these before, I don't know if they work. I do know dog's hear high pitched noises that we cannot hear, and it doesn't actually hurt the dogs it just makes them stop. That is literally my only suggestion. I don't know what else to do at this point. I wish I could come up with something wonderful, but they're not doing necessarily anything horrible. I think just the way the property is arranged sound travels. I'm not going to ask for the dog to be debarked. That's inhumane and I don't even know if I could find a vet that would agree to something like that. They do have that surgery, but they're really frowned upon. I don't think it's fair for her to have to get rid of her dog. You have neighborhoods full of barking dogs. I still haven't received any other complaints from any other people via the police department at all. I've looked up and down the whole street actually, been up and down the whole street, and I'm just not hearing it. Their video definitely clearly shows, 25 or 30 videos between 11:00 pm and 7:00 am, the same dog barking and then it's quiet and 10 minutes later there's barking which falls in the same category where the dog sees something or hears something, gives a couple of warning barks because that's what she is supposed to do, that's what she's wired to do and then it's silent. It's not a constant 15 minute, 20 minute barking, but it's loud enough and its frequent enough that I'm sure if you're just falling asleep and then there goes that dog again. At this point, I'm sure a pin drop could send you guys off. I sympathize on both sides. I honestly don't know what to do and I am rarely in this position. My suggestion would be to try this whether you guys split the cost. I don't even know who would be responsible for that, but the reviews on it are really good. They have over 5000 reviews all over 4 stars. The cheaper ones not so much. One or two say they're great, but the other ones are like this is a waste of time. This particular one is called the Dog Silencer Max. It has a remote control. You can order it with a mounting bracket. It comes with an extension cord, or it does solar panel or

batteries, and it could go on either their porch or between the tree line. I don't know. It would probably make all the dogs in the neighborhood be a little bit more quiet. I think it's worth a try.

Mr. Gennette: What do you guys have to say?

Ms. Ruggiero: Like she said they certainly tried the bark collar, and she told me to give it a few days, so I did, but it just went back to the same thing and now we hear it at the same times all the time and it's just so loud. We feel at this point we are losing so much sleep that it's just unbearable. We're just trying to make it through. I definitely do not want to do anything like debark. That just sounds inhumane. I don't want to put the dog down or anything like that. I can't take this anymore. At this point, we are at a point where it just needs to be rehomed or something.

Mr. Gennette: I guess my question is what would you expect us to do? So, you guys are split and your trying to have us let you know what to do, but we're not in this situation. You're the dog officer. You don't want the dog debarked or anything bad to happen to the dog and neither do they. I don't know what you expect us to do.

Ms. Anderson: I don't know. I don't know if the next step would be for them to go to the legal side of it, small claims court or district court. Everybody has done everything they possibly can besides getting rid of the dog, and I personally don't think that's fair.

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Mr. Gennette: Are you willing to try that?

Ms. Larose: If I can afford it. I have no idea. I don't know what it is.

Ms. Anderson: This one here is $149.

Ms. Larose: That's a lot of money.

Ms. Anderson: And you can make payments, 4 monthly payments or something like that. The company is called Good Life. I think that it's worth a try.

Mr. Goncalves: How does this work exactly?

Ms. Anderson: When it hears a sound, the dog barking, it sends out a blast of ultrasonic sound which dogs react to. We grew up with silent whistles that we could hardly hear. It's based on the same premise. It's an automatic sound and dogs do not like that sound. It's too high pitched. From what I've seen of ultrasonic sound, they do work. Whether or not dogs get used to them or not, I think that's what happens with the bark collar is a dog gets used to certain settings. The problem with bark collars is they shock the dog. They can hurt the dog especially if the dog doesn't respond right away too. Most of them have a safety feature that shuts off, but it can still really irritate and hurt the dog.

Mr. Goncalves: If shocks aren't working, what makes you think this is going to work?

Ms. Anderson: I don't know. From what I've spent the afternoon looking at, what different towns have recommended, most of them either end up in legal court which means you take her to small claims court for a nuisance and the other ones the police department does noise ordinances not dog officers.

Mr. Silva: Can you remind me again why we can't put the dog in the house for the evening?

Ms. Larose: She does the same thing. She's not an indoor dog is the whole problem.

Mr. Silva: Understood, but.

Ms. Larose: I've put her in the house before and she got depressed. She wouldn't eat. She started barking. She started crying and then she went outside, and she was happy.

Mr. Goncalves: With all do, their depressed and their crying it seems like.

Ms. Larose: Oh, I get it, I get it. My issue is I sent her all the pictures. I can show you pictures on my phone how my layout of my property is, where Bella is, where their house is. There's a path now directly from their house to my dog's enclosure that's never been there. I found human feces behind my dog's enclosure, took pictures of it and sent it to her. My SD card out of my trail cam that's down my second driveway, the camera itself is wide open, SD card is out, and you've got footprints underneath it. Why is that? Of course, the dog's going to bark. I have people with quads, I sent her the picture, going right through my front yard.

Mr. Goncalves: I understand, but that's not their problem.

Ms. Larose: But where's the landlord is my question. The landlord should be here. If they had a problem, they should have went to the homeowner. The homeowner should be here. He hasn't been here yet.

Mr. Goncalves: The landlord doesn't own the house. He doesn't hear the barking.

Ms. Larose: He does own the house.

Mr. Goncalves: I mean he doesn't have the problem with the dog barking. It's the tenants.

Ms. Larose: He needs to compromise.

Mr. Goncalves: That's 20 excuses why the dog is barking and we're not addressing the problem.

Ms. Larose: I don't know why she's barking.

Mr. Goncalves: But that's what we've got to talk about, not trail cams, the owner of the property, or the trails or anything. We're talking about their inability to sleep because your dog is barking and your telling me the dog is going to get depressed if you put it in the house at night then you're not leaving us a lot of choices.

Ms. Larose: I don't know what to do. I've done the bark collar. I put the radio out there. I enclosed her fully and the neighbors that are closer to her don't even call. They have a pugadoodle that's out there barking from 3:00 am till 5:00, called and reported it to her. There's a cul-de-sac behind us. My property goes down and then there's another piece of property that goes down the hill that can't be built on, but there's a house right here and there's a house right here. Their dogs, because I sit there after I drop my boyfriend off at work at 2:30 in the morning, I sit in my driveway until 7:00 and you hear them all barking simultaneously, echoing up the hill like they're standing right next to me.

Ms. Anderson: I think that at this point in the game we need to address the fact that the bark collar isn't working.

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Ms. Larose: And I shaved her and everything and I put it on her. It's like a massage to her.

Ms. Anderson: Put her in the garage. At least it will be muffled then.

Mr. Silva: Quite honestly that's the only viable thing that we can try now other than telling you the dog must be removed and we don't want to do that.

Ms. Larose: It's going to have to. I can't put her in the garage. How's she going to be safe in a garage?

Mr. Silva: It's something that you're going to have to train her to stay in the house during the evening hours and at least give them some time to sleep. It's the only other option that we see. There is no other option. If there was, that would be great.

Ms. Anderson: We tried it. We tried bark collars.

Mr. Silva: So, I would suggest at least to try it for a week, two weeks and then if you see that it's not going to be feasible; you might have tried that a day or two days and certainly dogs when their environment's change, but then most dogs will adapt to it.

Ms. Anderson: I think we are now at the point as you said that I don't know what else to do besides recommending rehoming the dog which would not necessarily be an easy thing, euthanizing the dog which would be easy, but nobody wants to do that,

Ms. Larose: That's what is going to end up happening. Thank you.

Ms. Anderson: try locking her up, putting her in a crate. At this point, I am as frustrated as everybody because I don't know what else we can do.

Mr. DeBarge: It's difficult obviously. There's obviously a neighbor dispute that is involved with this as well which kind of boils the whole situation. Listen I don't even know as the Board of Selectmen if we have the authority to order somebody to take their dog in in the evening time. It's ironic that my situation at home now is similar. I have a new neighbor and their dog barks all the time and I live in a tight area, so we hear the dog all the time, but he's inside. I don't know if bringing the dog inside is going to stop anything or muffle anything. I think it should be tried. I know it was tried before.

Ms. Larose: It was, and she was louder and the howling was horrible.

Mr. DeBarge: And you know what mam if that's the case and it happens again I would probably if I were you I'd do the same thing and let her out. I don't know what to do here as well.

Ms. Larose: I'm the only one accommodating and that's what bothering me. I've spent so much money to accommodate, and I don't want my dog to bark, but you have all these people who just have no respect. There are 3 dogs across the street, 3 dogs next to me on the right, she's got dogs, her neighbors have dogs, people down the hill have dogs and they are all barking all hours of the night. How is that fair to my dog that I have to rehome my dog. Get rid of your dog and have them get rid of their dog and then I'll get rid of mine.

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Ms. Ruggiero: Our dog isn't outside.

Ms. Larose: That's not fair.

Mr. Rosenblum: I think this goes beyond the barking dog because obviously there are other things going on here. If you're seeing cameras being, there's paths to the cameras, there's things going on with that. Honestly, I wouldn't be able to make a decision on it unless I was sitting there myself at 2:00 in the morning because I think the two of you, both parties are like this. I'm going to hear one thing from this side and I'm going to hear one thing from this side and you're never going to jive on it. My suggestion would be if you all want to get together on this and make it work is maybe split the cost on this thing, work it out or at least try this one thing because then if this thing works then maybe we can get to the point. There's more to this than a barking dog.

Ms. Larose: As long as I've lived there, the only time these people ever spoke to me is when I had a rooster. I went and got baby chicks that weren't sexed and all of a sudden you heard, and that's the only time they ever spoke to me was about my rooster and I got rid of the problem. You have never come to me about my dog. You walk by my house, you waved at my roommate, sat there and my dog started barking and why would you do that.

Mr. Goncalves: We're getting a little off subject.

Ms. Larose: Don't instigate the dog. Don't come on my property. Don't throw your rotors, your tires and all your stuff on my property, sit there making noise like crazy instigating the dog to bark and then video.

Mr. Goncalves: I'm not sure who is instigating what and I'm not sure about the other dogs that are in the neighborhood barking. Right now, the complaint was in this case and if you have other things going on in the neighborhood then you need to deal with the police or whatever else. If

there are other dogs barking and they are bothering you, but unfortunately we have dogs that are bothering these neighbors. The Animal Control Officer has seen videos. She's been there. The police were there, and this didn't start last week. This has been going on since at least April.

Ms. Larose: The police officer showed up and Bella wasn't even barking. She came out yawning and stretching and started barking at him.

Mr. Goncalves: The collar is not working, not shocked. I'm not sure if that's going to work or not work if you guys want to give that a shot. The dog going inside, I'm sorry, only because I know somebody that was in the business there is psychiatric medication for dogs, maybe bring the dog in at night.

Ms. Larose: Benadryl her up.

Mr. Goncalves: I don't know what it is. All I know is they are available.

Ms. Anderson: That's not a bad suggestion actually.

Mr. Goncalves: Maybe sedate the dog so it can sleep at night. Get it into that routine so it won't make the noise at night and give that a shot. I don't think it is small claims. I'm going to guess maybe Housing Court. Marc you would know better.

Ms. Anderson: Housing Court.

Mr. Goncalves: Small claims is more if it is monetary, but something like a Housing Court dispute. I don't know where that's going to end up. If we can try to work this thing out here, either maybe split the cost on that thing somehow if you can or bring the dog in, talk to the vet about some kind of psychiatric meds to calm it down while it's in at night, but I think I've got one more of these nights in me on a dog. I'm not speaking for everybody, but maybe one more time to say it's working or it's not working and then we put it to sleep. Don't put the dog to sleep, put the issue to sleep.

Ms. Larose: It's going to be impossible to rehome her. I already talked to her about this.

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Ms. Anderson: It won't be easy, but.

Ms. Larose: And then what euthanize her.

Mr. Rosenblum: No.

Ms. Larose: Yeah watch. This is going to turn into a big thing. I'm serious. I'm going to have to euthanize my dog. I'm not getting rid of her. She didn't do anything wrong. I have the right to farm on my property. What are you going to do if I get a donkey, goats with all the proper paperwork. Are you going to come here every week? Are you going to call the cops because I have the right to do that. I am a homeowner. I've looked into this through the State of Mass.

Mr. Goncalves: What happens if other farm animals make noises at night?

Ms. Anderson: I haven't run into that yet.

Mr. Goncalves: Dogs barking and being a nuisance is different from farming.

Ms. Larose: Because of what she does.

Mr. Goncalves: It's not what she's doing. She doesn't have animals.

Ms. Larose: Yes she does.

Mr. Goncalves: You have animals?

Ms. Larose: Yes I have registered animals through the Town of Ludlow. She's a working dog.

Ms. Anderson: We gave her chickens for her to protect.

Mr. Silva: We're getting off topic.

Ms. Larose: But it's not though.

Mr. Silva: In a way it is and understood we are a farming community, but the problem is it doesn't look like we are going to solve it here and if we don't solve it here and make it amicable what's going to happen is they might file a suit which makes it even worse.

Ms. Larose: Doesn't make it worse on me. I've got proof of so much stuff it's unbelievable and police records too.

Mr. Silva: It's not up to us here to get into that stuff. The best thing you can do is try what we're suggesting and if that doesn't work.

Ms. Larose: How about they try something. There's no fence. My land is literally buffered by so many trees of how far away Bella is from them. When she does bark, it comes forward. The bark comes forward. It doesn't echo to the left or the right.

Ms. Anderson: But it does because I have video. I can clearly hear your dog barking.

Ms. Larose: What I am saying is if I was to put that tarp up like I wanted to it would be so much louder. We already tried it. We put it in the trees. It was so much louder. Okay got to take that down. So, then I go there and sit there every morning listening to all these dogs bark. It's not just my dog that's my point. How can you say it's just Bella when it's not.

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Mr. Goncalves: No and I'm not saying it's not your dog, not another dog, or your dog is not being bothered by whatever. What I'm saying is they filed a petition, and this is what we've got to deal with, not every other dog in the neighborhood.

Ms. Larose: I am supposed to call in every other dog in the neighborhood plus there's when they play with their dogs outside and it barks. I call the cops. That's what it's going to turn into.

Mr. Goncalves: If their dog is barking all night long, yes and again let's stay on point. If the dog's barking at night, somebody's not sleeping, that's why we're here and we've got to address that. Do you guys think you can come to an agreement on that thing there?

Mr. Ruggiero: I don't think so and to be honest we can't work with her at all. We can't even talk to her because since the last time we had the hearing it's gotten even worse. If we were just dealing with a dog nuisance, barking and everything, we were getting our evidence, now all of a sudden we have to deal with backlash from the owner which I have video recordings at 6:00 o'clock in the morning yelling and screaming at my wife and I calling us all sorts of swear words and everything else, blaming us for this and that. I can't work with her. If she wants to act childish like that, then I'm out.

Ms. Larose: I will go and buy this and if it doesn't work she will get euthanized because nobody will want her. She has bad hips. She's maybe going to make it another year. That's the only reason why I didn't euthanize her in the first place. If she's going to have a hard time or be in any type of pain whatsoever or be harassed by people, she will get put down. I am not going to put my dog through this any longer. She's been harassed. Why did they take the SD card because they don't want me to see what they're doing in my yard. Why is there human feces behind my dog's enclosure? Why is there a perfect path from their door to my dog that's never been there before? That's harassment as far as I'm concerned.

Mr. Goncalves: I have no clue. Can we talk about this? You'll get this and we will revisit in 30 days.

Ms. Larose: You're going to have to give me a little bit to get this because I'm not slipping out cash left and right.

Mr. Goncalves: Are we going to go 4 weeks or 6 weeks?

Ms. Anderson: 4 weeks.

Mr. DeBarge: Give her time.

Mr. Goncalves: Why don't we do 6 weeks?

Ms. Anderson: So, this will open up the opportunity for you guys to maybe work together and you take up half the cost and you take up half the cost.

Mr. Ruggiero: I would try, but things just get escalated worse.

Mr. Goncalves: If you end up going to court, it's going to cost you a lot more than that. You're not going to get an attorney to take this on a contingency. It's going to cost you thousands up front; $75 might be a little bit better and you will all feel better.

Ms. Larose: Or put up a fence, one of the two, so that it buffers it out.

Ms. Ruggiero: We can't. It's not our property.

Ms. Larose: I have done my part. They have done nothing.

Ms. Ruggiero: We don't need to Liza. It's not our dog.

Mr. Silva moved that we continue this hearing for 6 weeks and revisit this and see how things are going, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum. All in favor. Vote 5-0.

6:00 pm – Tin Cup Facilities Liquor License Transfer

Mr. Gennette made a motion that we open the Tin Cup Facilities Liquor License Transfer hearing at 6:04 pm, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum. All in favor. Vote 5-0.

Mr. DaCruz: Thank you for having us here tonight. This is an application for a liquor license transfer for the entity known as the Lighthouse. As you know, it has been a bar for quite some time and now we're going to have some new ownership and hopefully they are going to interject some new ideas there. My clients want to transfer the liquor license, do some updating eventually to the inside of the bar, some redecorating, add some golf simulators to the back and offer some food options for the clients that will be visiting the establishment. So hopefully it will improve the facility quite a bit, offer something to the community of Ludlow for the wintertime with the golf simulation and some food options. So, we're here for the transfer. If there are any questions that you have, please let us know. I think everything is complete.

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Mr. Silva: I believe there's probably a check too to the Town for advertising.

Mr. DaCruz: I have it right here.

Mr. Silva: You're all tip certified, right? You've gotten that.

Mr. Teixeira: We are getting it. Everybody that is going to be employed there will be tip certified, yes.

Mr. Silva: I always ask that to be sure. You are going to have the simulators; any bands, music, so on and so forth?

Mr. Teixeira: No bands, no music. The area where the bands and music used to be is now intended for our golf simulator area. We'll have 3 high-end simulator bays. It's going to exclude any music or anything because the backroom is a total renovation.

Mr. Gennette: Are you going to be allowing underage people in the bar area?

Mr. Teixeira: We are going to be making a subdivision. The back portion will be separate from the front portion so if people want to have a family atmosphere. We're going for the country club feel so kids are more than welcome, juniors. I am trying to do some outreach with the high school, keep their golf team going, stuff like that. There will be a separate entrance where they are allowed to come in and they don't have to intermingle with the bar people and for the most part we are trying to eliminate the bar feel anyways. We're trying to turn it into more of country club feel where it's more of a family atmosphere and go along those lines.

Mr. DeBarge: I for one think it's a great idea. I think it's a fantastic idea for the area. I know the establishment well, great owners. If it's not going to be a bar, what better thing than to add golf. Everything is in order. You guys asked the questions that I was going to ask anyways so I'm good.

Mr. Rosenblum: My only question was how many simulators. I know the cost of them all. Are you going to do anything with the parking area? I know it's a little beat up right now. Is there any plans to maybe clean that up a little?

Mr. Teixeira: We discussed with him about potentially paving it and bringing it up to curb height because of the dip on the way in. My partner and I have spoken about a landlock piece of property that we would eventually like to throw our hat in the ring and maybe make a little more additional parking over there to alleviate some of the street parking.

Mr. Rosenblum: With 3 bays, you'll be able to do tee times for like 2 hours.

Mr. Teixeira: You have 12 guys maximum playing at a time because you can do a maximum of 4.

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Mr. Rosenblum: It would actually probably bring in a little more traffic than it has been lately.

Mr. Teixeira: Most of our traffic will be daytime or early mornings.

Mr. Rosenblum: Like Friday, Saturday, Sunday.

Mr. Teixeira: I am trying to bring in a lot of the morning groups from the country club I belong to. A lot of the set-up things are ready, and we are trying to change the clientele. We're trying to bring in a little more high-end older people, just golf clientele.

Mr. Rosenblum: I think it's great because I know the numbers. During the winter, those things are sold out. You can't get spots in them. I think it's a great idea. Its unique to the area and obviously you have the clientele in town alone just with the people from the club.

Mr. Goncalves: You're probably going to be open in the morning now a little bit earlier or are you going to keep the same hours?

Mr. Teixeira: We are thinking of trying to get the morning group guys in there maybe 8:00 – 9:00 o'clock. That was one thing we had to check out was it okay with the town and what hours we would be able to.

Mr. Goncalves: I am asking about the total establishment not just because they are going to be able to open up probably the back without having the bar open and be able to accommodate just golf.

Mr. Silva: I believe even the bar hours were 8:00 too and our regular closing hours because you've got 1:00 and 2:00 o'clock.

Mr. Teixeira: We're definitely going to reduce the hours as far as the late schedule. We are going to try to reduce that. We don't really want the bar atmosphere with the late-night crowd. We want more of the upscale crowd.

Mr. Silva: So, the 8:00 o'clock, I think, if I'm not mistaken I had a license, and it was 8:00 a.m. So, I think that's going to work for you. If you want Sunday, you're probably going to have to apply for extended hours on a Sunday because it is 10:00 o'clock.

Mr. DaCruz: As an abutter, I think it makes a great addition to the area.

Mr. Silva made a motion that we approve the all-alcoholic beverage license located at 108 Sewall Street from Ark Enterprises, Inc. to Tin Cup Facilities, Inc., seconded by Mr. Rosenblum. All in favor. Vote 5-0.

Mr. Gennette made a motion to close the Tin Cup Facilities liquor license transfer hearing at 6:12 pm, seconded by Mr. DeBarge.

6:30 pm – Celebrate Ludlow Committee

Mrs. Smith: October 15th is coming up fast. This is a little bit better of a breakdown of the layout. I think also in the info that you have ahead of time is a list of food vendors and merchandise vendors. We have moved the food up onto the sidewalks between the gazebo out towards East Street, towards the bridge so they're a little more accessible for handicap access. So, you can use the sidewalk to get food on either side of the sidewalk. One side will have the vendors that need electricity because it will have the light tower up in the corner that will be providing electricity. The other side of the sidewalk will be the vendors that do not need electricity. The field with picnic tables we'll be doing a pumpkin decorating contest. The DPW will be bringing the 2 sets of bleachers in the corner between Chestnut and East. We'll have the pumpkins on display. We'll have a contest a little bit before dark and they'll have the glowsticks in them until they get picked up by 8:00 o'clock. Any of the pumpkins that don't get picked up we'll be sending to Lupa Zoo that are appropriate for the animals. We will have lights in the four corners so after dark for that last hour and a half it should be lit up well enough. I've walked the park a few times after dark with the police and we decided how to have the lights be directed. The beer garden up top next to the building will have temporary fencing around it. We will have some handicap parking up on Chestnut prior to where we close it off for emergency vehicles. There's a little bit of parking there too for the residents on Chestnut Street. Over on the other side of Park Place, the library or the town parking lot that's adjacent to the library will be handicapped parking and the field that's adjacent to the library will have three inflatables, two amusement rides, a couple of amusement type games and in the corner where the library has their story time we will have a kid's corner in that section too where the library will have some crafts and there will be people coming in and out for entertainment for the kids. It will be on the other side of the amusements and the reason for that is to get away from the loud music so that the kids can do story time and be able to hear properly for that. The speakers will be more directed toward the beer garden, towards Chestnut. Park Place will have Lupa Zoo, a couple of vendors that have kid novelty items. We have police. We have DPW dropping off lights, picnic tables, bleachers, handicap parking signs. Fire will have a couple of vehicles parked on Chestnut Street. It will be closed off to traffic just beyond Memorial Field. Park Place will be closed off just below the last resident's driveway.

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Mr. Goncalves: I like the idea that it's all our organizations here in town that are doing all the food. There's no restaurants, no outside vendors. So, it's all going to be fundraising for the cub scouts and the churches and everybody else here in town.

Ms. Smith: It will just be Vanished Valley and Iron Duke as far as Ludlow businesses taking care of the beer garden. The beer garden will have two access points. We are going to be doing wrist bands and the wrist bands will go on before they go into the beer garden. There will be an access point on Chestnut Street so that its handicap accessible, but also the top of the stairs from Memorial Park will be accessible too so that people don't necessarily have to go all the way around if they are heading down to get food.

Mr. Goncalves: And they'll only have beer in that designated area; they are not able to travel with alcohol?

Ms. Smith: Right, exactly, it stays in there. Between Nick and Mike with Vanished Valley and Iron Duke they are handling the carding and licenses.

Mr. Goncalves: So, October 15th from what time to what time?

Ms. Smith: 12:00 to 8:00. Music is going to stop at 6:45 and then we'll have the live mic for 15 minutes to announce the winners of pumpkins and to thank the people we need to thank and then the sound ends at 7:00, but everything else will stay running until 8:00.

Mr. Goncalves: We have no admission. We'll have hot dogs, hamburgers, popcorn, meatball grinders, baked potatoes, fried dough, chicken fingers, fries and chili, taco in a bag, pierogis, apple cider, apple crisp, candy apples, water, sports drinks, packaged snacks, candy bars, beef jerky, baked goods, raffles, novelties, packaged popcorn, information tables, raffles and merchandise.

Ms. Smith: If any other organizations want information booths or merchandise booths, they can, but as far as the food vendors we've already been working with the Board of Health so that's our menu for the prepared foods.

Mr. Silva: A lot of work, you've done a lot of work and I have only seen you How many committee members do you have? Hopefully, you have some help.

Ms. Smith: We do, yes. Each organization has a representative on our committee.

Mr. Silva: It's a big endeavor.

Ms. Smith: Changing from the Fish & Game had a lot of extra hurdles that I didn't anticipate, but a lot of lessons learned.

Mr. Silva: Good job.

Mr. Santos: We are going to supply them, support them as best we can. We'll have an extra guy coming in for any hiccups. We'll supply the bleachers, 16 trash barrels, the road closed signs. We are going to move the light towers for them and support them on whatever we can do.

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Mr. Goncalves: Beautiful, thank you.

6:45 pm – Library Director Pat McGowan re: Library Board of Trustee stipends.

Mr. Goncalves: We are here today to discuss the stipends.

Mr. McGowan: Working on an ongoing basis with the Library Board of Trustees, which is an elected board and they have been in place for a long time, and talking with the previous chairperson of the board, Christine Davis, they didn't meet as frequently and didn't have the same level of involvement which started to ramp up when I commenced my position here. Based on looking at the stipends that are allocated to other boards that are elected in town, I think it's appropriate given the level of work that the board does, especially the chairperson, Linda Collette, who does an excellent job that they be awarded or allocated a stipend for their services to the town.

Mr. Goncalves: Does anybody get anything now?

Mr. McGowan: No.

Mr. Goncalves: What are you suggesting?

Mr. McGowan: I don't know. Looking at the existing stipends in place, they seem to be in the range of $5000, $4000, $3000, whatever is most appropriate. I really don't know what would be the appropriate level. I would just be pulling a number out of a hat essentially, but I guess maybe five, four or four, three. That's kind of up to the town, I guess.

Mr. Goncalves: That's something that would have to go to town meeting.

Mr. Silva: Have you looked at other communities for their directors what their stipends are?

Mr. McGowan: No, I haven't looked at other boards. I was just looking at internally.

Mr. Silva: Those $4000 or $5000 are for boards that spend quite a considerable amount of time. The assessors are supposed to go out and do inspections. It's a lot of time and mind you I don't know what the library directors are doing, what kind of time they are putting in. The same with the selectmen that's what we have $3000, and I think we make 25 cents an hour.

Mr. Goncalves: We've got 7 to 8 subcommittees that we manage. It's just not the 2 hours every 2 weeks.

Mr. McGowan: Whatever would be appropriate. I would gather the level of work is less than what your referencing.

Mr. Silva: I think we need to research it and find out what other communities are doing and what is an appropriate stipend.

Mr. Goncalves: And maybe give us an idea of what kind of time is involved for each of these people.

Mr. McGowan: Sure, I can do so. Typically, I interact with the chairperson fairly frequently, but I would say on average it's probably about maybe a couple hours a week and then different board meetings that take place and special meetings. I would think it's no more than a couple of hours a week and I can certainly do some research and come up with those numbers for a frame of reference and I'd be glad to do that.

Mr. Goncalves: You'll have time before town meeting because something like that would have to be approved there obviously.

Mr. McGowan: I'll be glad to go ahead and do that and see what I can gather and report back to you to present that information. I'll get that together for you and schedule another meeting.

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Correspondence:

161. Application for a Common Victualler License for Boston Pizza, 862 East Street Mass Pike I-90, Ludlow.

Mr. Rosenblum made a motion that we approve the application for a common victualler license for Boston Pizza, 862 East Street, Mass Pike I-90, Ludlow, seconded by Mr. DeBarge. All in favor. Vote 5-0.

162. Mary Margaret Scott informing the Board of her resignation from the Ludlow Commission on Disability effective immediately.

Mr. Goncalves: Reverend Margaret Scott has moved and left the area and so she's had to resign.

Mr. Gennette: I would like to thank Mrs. Scott for her participation on the Commission on Disability. That's a good group of people down there and she was certainly part of it. We're going to miss you.

Mr. Gennette made a motion that we accept the resignation of Mrs. Margaret Scott from the Commission on Disability and send her a letter of thank you, seconded by Mr. Silva. All in favor. Vote 5-0.

Mr. Gennette: There was a letter that was sent out by Mrs. Amy Murphy regarding the Whitney Park press box. The letter had gone out to Steve Santos, the Chairman of the Board of Public Works, and also to Sean McBride, the Chairman of the Recreation Committee. I know that the Recreation Committee did get back to Mrs. Murphy, but we are aware that Whitney Park has a lot of problems. I think the community is pretty upset about the condition of a lot of different facilities in town. We're really doing our best to try and clean them up and one of the questions she had was where is the funding coming from. So, we are in the middle of trying to do it. Actually, if you heard from the town administrator's communications this morning, there is possible Whitney Park grant money coming in, but Mr. Administrator is there anything on this?

Mr. Strange: We had a meeting today with the DPW and the Rec Commission and there is funding that's already been allocated for a new roof and to fix the section of the back wall for the press box and that work should be starting sometime in the next week or two and with respect to the bleachers, we talked a little bit about that and potentially getting the DPW down there to pressure wash the bleachers.

Mr. Gennette: I just want to thank Mrs. Murphy for sending in the letter. It was a great letter, and we really appreciate your concern and hopefully we can get something done.

Mr. Goncalves: I've been out there for a couple of soccer games recently and I had thought that the bleachers were probably in some type of bad condition. They are really not. I kind of canvased the entire area. They are extremely filthy. No question power washing would do wonders there and then if there are some bees maybe when the power washers are there they can get rid of any bees nests that are around or whatever else and then hopefully we can deal with the press box another time.

Unfinished Business:

Board to approve and sign Selectmen's Meeting Minutes of July 26, 2022.

Mr. DeBarge made a motion to approve and sign Selectmen meeting minutes of July 26, 2022 with Mr. DeBarge absent, seconded by Mr. Gennette. All in favor. Vote 5-0.

Board to approve and sign Selectmen's Meeting Minutes of August 23, 2022.

Mr. DeBarge made a motion to approve and sign Selectmen meeting minutes of August 23, 2022 with all members present, seconded by Mr. Gennette. All in favor. Vote 5-0.

Board to approve and sign Executive Session Minutes of August 9, 2022.

Mr. DeBarge made a motion to approve and sign the Executive session minutes of August 9, 2022 with all members present, seconded by Mr. Gennette. All in favor. Vote 5-0.

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Board to approve and sign Point Software Contract (tabled from 9/20/22).

Mr. Strange: We should be ready on the 18th for that one.

Mr. Rosenblum made a motion to table this, seconded by Mr. DeBarge. All in favor. Vote 5-0.

Board to approve and sign the Common Victualler License for Boston Pizza, 862 East Street Mass Pike I-90, Ludlow.

Mr. Goncalves: We have already done that.

Board to review and discuss lower Kirkland Avenue parking issues (tabled from 9/20/2022).

Mr. DeBarge: We had the letter and we sent it to Safety. Did we get any recommendations back from Safety?

Mr. Strange: Safety voted 9-0 to ask the DPW to put no parking signs.

Mr. Silva: If Safety has sent their recommendation to the DPW to put up no parking, I don't see that we need to discuss it further do we?

Mr. Goncalves: Do we need to do follow up on it just to make sure it's getting done or do we just leave it alone and see if anybody contacts us if there is a problem?

Mr. Gennette: Well, it's in the hands of the Safety Committee. Until they get back to us, there's really nothing we can do.

New Business:

Board to discuss results of Special Town Meeting.

Mr. Gennette: I was pretty blown away by the town members last night. I thought they asked great questions. They debated well. I was actually really happy with the meeting last night. I think they did what they were supposed to do.

Mr. DeBarge: I love town interaction with the precinct members. I don't think we have enough of it, but I also think it proves how antiquated town meeting form of government is because of how lost we got in the beginning with just some simple you can call it miscommunication, you can call it confusion about what it was, but look what happened. It's a great example of how town meeting form of government in this day and age is just not working and this government needs to change.

Mr. Rosenblum: I agree on that. I actually had a discussion with a couple of people outside afterwards about the form of government. We all agree on this Board, and I said it when I ran that if it ever got to a point where our charter changed, and we had a different form of government then I'd be done because that's where my goal is to get it to a point where it's a little bit more efficient. The perfect example would be some small things that were kind of overlooked that are important and it's just coming down to unpaid bills. The fact is when you sit there, and you actually see something that says golf on it in this town everyone's hair goes up on the back of their neck because they think we were subsidizing it through the general fund which we weren't. That's all coming out of the enterprise fund and just doing things like that would have squelched a lot of conversation with a few of those things. I was just a little taken back on the food pantry and the fact that the RVSO did a great job in explaining everything that had to go with it and in general everybody supported it, but I'm surprised it got as much ground as it did just because personally to spend $33,500 on veterans is a drop in the bucket. It's an all-day process to go get food, to go to Northampton. You've got to get a ride at 9:00 and you don't come back until 3:00. The fact that probably a lot of our veterans aren't very tech savvy with a computer and to have those resources here for them that's offered 25 minutes a way that's a full day trip and to also have somebody there that's going to help them with it is invaluable. But in general, again, I like the fact that people ask questions. I also said to a couple of people if you have questions when you open the warrant at your house, not when you open the warrant when you sit down in the auditorium, you're more than welcome to contact somebody in Town Hall or even one of ourselves to say I have a question on this and say this is what it is. It helps and that person can then get up and say something and say I did ask a question on this and now I understand it, but I just want to make it known. Again, it kind of shows where we are and where we need to go, but again its great we have the interaction of the 67 or so precinct members.

Mr. Silva: I was a little disappointed that we only had 66-67 people in precinct members. We're voting on people's pocketbooks. We're voting on some issues that are very crucial to the Town of Ludlow and by not showing up. I mean if you can't it's fine, but it seems to me that each and every meeting it's the same people. All I see there is the same people all the time, all the time the same people and people get on and they want to be precinct members and they just don't show. Just to show what happens is when you have such a low turnout and you have a 9/10ths vote, you only need 6 people to vote no and guess what, exactly what happened and if we didn't get that article back in we would have been in some kind of trouble or issues. We would have to go to the next meeting and not pay these bills. It would have cost us money; finance charges and we need to make our precinct members understand it. They run the budgets. They run all the monies. They don't run them, but they have to approve them. It would be nice to see the numbers come up a little bit, but overall, it went good, and we got it done right.

Mr. Goncalves: I agree with everything you gentlemen said. Maybe with the unpaid bill section in future town meetings we can have a small explanation on the stuff like with the website. I'm blown away that at a regular annual town meeting we can approve a 75-million-dollar budget in about 7 minutes with no questions and that yesterday the people in the room were having a difficult time with $24,000 of pay passes for the turnpike or blacktop to fix potholes. Maybe in the future we can have a little explanation on things that aren't self-explanatory since it seems to be such a big deal compared to a 75-million-dollar budget.

Mr. DeBarge: What we should be doing is moving towards changing the form of government and dissolving that town meeting.

Mr. Goncalves: I agree.

Board to decommission Ambulance Abatement Committee.

Mr. Strange: Chief Pease and I had spoken about this quite a bit. So apparently, the Ambulance Abatement Committee's charge is to vote on abating ambulance fees at the end of the year. You probably know a lot more about this than I do, and I think the current makeup is the Chief, the Town Administrator and the Town Accountant. We don't think we really need a committee to do that and that's kind of an executive function that the Chief can work out with the Town Accountant or if you want him to come here or if he has to come and request abatements for the ambulance fees whatever they are. From the Chief's perspective, it just seemed like an unnecessary layer of government.

Mr. DeBarge: I agree.

Mr. Silva: The Board of Selectmen used to get a request to abate these ambulance fees and the numbers sometimes were staggering. Now it's being done by the Chief.

Mr. Strange: I think the abatement committee has been doing it. I have not been involved in that yet. Obviously, I haven't done it in the past 6 months.

Mr. Silva: I was wondering and I thought maybe because of the way the new system was put in because we did go into a vendor system to bill and what not and maybe that's how it got by, but it would be interesting to find out.

Mr. Gennette: So that still that has to come back through this Board afterwards right?

Mr. Strange: You would know better about that than I. This was really the Chief's initiative, which I certainly support, the details of which I am a little foggy. I would defer to Manny or to Tony.

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Mr. Silva: Like I said we used to have to vote on it.

Mr. Goncalves: Why don't we have the Chief come in maybe at a meeting? Are we do for an update?

Mr. Silva: I don't know that we need the Chief.

Mr. Gennette: We've got boards and committees spread out all over the place and every time we can knuckle one done to eliminate some of that red tape the better off we are. I'm all about saving everybody some time and energy.

Mr. Silva: So, if we can get how it is done by a letter or something from the Chief. I don't think we need to have the Chief come in and tell us how it's done and waste an hour or two of his time.

Mr. Goncalves: Okay so we're in agreement to just get something out for an explanation.

Board to approve sending liquor license renewals via email and accepting electronic signatures.

Mr. Strange: There is a new way for liquor license renewals to be executed and approved via email and through electronic signatures and the Board has to approve that method. It's just part of the bureaucratic process. If the Board wants the town to be able to renew liquor licenses via email, accept electronic signatures, you have to bless that process.

Mr. Goncalves: If we adopt it, is this the only way they can do it?

Mr. Strange: No.

Mr. Goncalves: Will this system give us reminders of people who haven't started or who haven't opened an email? That forces us to keep everybody's current email and hopefully they have a system that's working.

Mr. Strange: Systemically for us, our process is not going to change. Some people might want to renew via email so we would accept the email and keep those records electronically instead of in a file folder.

Mr. Goncalves: So, we are still going to stay on the people if they don't come in, a second notice, a phone call?

Mr. Strange: Yes.

Mr. Silva: That is for the applicant to be able to electronically sign? It's not for us to electronically because that ultimately has to come to the Board for approval. We are not really going to be electronically doing that, right?

Mr. Strange: Right.

Mr. Gennette: I just want to say the more red tape that we can eliminate.

Mr. Gennette made a motion that we approve sending liquor license renewals via email and accepting electronic signatures, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum. All in favor. Vote 5-0.

Board to discuss and vote on proposed LHS baseball field improvements.

Mr. Goncalves: I think when we discuss the LHS baseball field improvements and then we talk about the ARPA funds update we can probably kill two birds with one stone on that one and I think that will be our last piece of business for tonight before closing comments. We did get the estimate in after speaking last time. To do things right on the baseball field and basically our wish list, complete, about $475,000 with the additional engineering cost.

Mr. DeBarge: This is the kind of stuff that we're looking for. You're talking about covered dugouts. Anytime you see site demolition that's got to make everybody happy because it will be redone; new sod, new clay mixture, fencing, netting, everything. This is what a high school baseball diamond that is right next to a brand-new track and a brand-new soccer and football field should look like. I am very pleased with this.

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Mr. Silva: Do we have a number for the track? I mean it's a ballpark number I'm sure still right? That does not include the baseball diamond.

Mr. Rosenblum: 3.5 million for the, that's without the baseball. The baseball is 4 million.

Mr. Silva: So now we're up to $3.9 million. When we first started discussing it, we were at a $1.5 million just to show the incredible amount of,

Mr. Goncalves: Inflation and increase, yeah, and the procrastination what it has cost us.

Mr. Silva: So, we're talking about $3.9 million and looking at our ARPA funds we are now down to 5.6 and that does not include demolition of Vets Park. We've expended our ARPA funds.

Mr. Goncalves: I don't think there's any room for much of anything short of an emergency at this point.

Mr. DeBarge: I don't know if we're going to be able to cover the demo. We're going to have to figure something else out with that to come up with the total cost.

Mr. Goncalves: We did get another million dollars in somewhere for the demo.

Mr. Strange: It's still in the economic development bill so I don't think they've reconvened to consider it. So, I think they will be reconsidering it. There is a lot of stuff in there that's important to a lot of people. It just depends on when that happens.

Mr. Goncalves: Should we reach out maybe to our state reps and senators in an official capacity that it's important for them to let us know where that bill is at.

Mr. DeBarge: I have. I can do it again.

Mr. Strange: It would be enormous for the Town of Ludlow.

Mr. Goncalves: Because that million dollars can make or break a lot of different things here, no question about it. The other thing is how close are we on the bid docs for?

Mr. Strange: Very, very. So, the last piece of it is we had to get the plans for the underground utilities. The plans are actually in my office right now and OTO should be stopping by at some point this week to pick them up and include those in the bid documents. That's the last piece and then we should be ready to go.

Mr. Goncalves: If we go to bid, when would we have numbers on that?

Mr. Strange: After we go out to bid, probably 4 to 6 weeks.

Mr. Goncalves: So potentially this year.

Mr. Strange: 4 to 6 weeks to accept the bids and the proposals and then contracting. It's probably going to be within the next 6 months I would say.

Mr. Goncalves: I'm more concerned with knowing what our number is and securing a number to know what we have for money.

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Mr. Strange: Oh yeah, we'll know that.

Mr. Goncalves: Before the end of the year possibly,

Mr. Strange: Yeah, yeah.

Mr. Goncalves: and I think that puts us in a better position to know exactly how extravagant we can get everywhere else and how much we really need that million dollars to make everything make or break.

Mr. Silva: We're going to have to somehow figure out how to get these three projects done and stay within the moneys that we have obviously. We won't be able to go out to the taxpayers and get this money. So, we will have to make some concessions most likely if we don't have the funds. It would be nice to get some final numbers and move forward.

Mr. Goncalves: If we were to be short, we've got a town meeting that will come up before this is in the ground most likely that we could always try to see if there is something that we can't put on the back burner, but I hate to do that. This is a long time coming and the town and the kids deserves this, the right way.

Mr. Gennette: So just for clarity on the process, at this point this is our estimate. We would probably still have to go out for bids on all this right?

Mr. Goncalves: Absolutely, this is the engineer's estimates for what they've seen in the past in other projects they're involved with. Our engineering I don't think has a lot of numbers from others in this area here. A lot of these are the Midwest or down south so we could get lucky and maybe there is more accessibility to some of this stuff up here and we get a little bit cheaper or it backfires. We don't know. That's why we need to get the bid on it. Just like I think the numbers for Vets Park demo are way out of whack on the engineer's estimates. I could be wrong, but I've got a good feeling about that hopefully which would put us again in a great position on this.

Mr. Gennette: So, are we looking for anything else before we move into the next process?

Mr. Goncalves: What process?

Mr. Gennette: With the track and field.

Mr. Goncalves: I think we've got to wait and see. The engineers have to finish up. We'll get bid documents by the end of the year maybe.

Mr. Strange: That's a good point, you're asking about the baseball field. Because there is an additional $9500 for design, you would all have to vote to approve that funding so they can draw up the plans for the baseball field.

Moved by Mr. DeBarge to approve the $9500 paid to Mott MacDonald for engineering for the Ludlow High School sports complex baseball field specifically, seconded by Mr. Gennette. All in favor. Vote 5-0.

Mr. Rosenblum: Just doing the roundabout numbers with the $4 million for this project it's going to leave us $1.645 million and that's basically what would be left for Vets Park.

Mr. Goncalves: And if we get that other million that comes in, then we're close.

Mr. Gennette: ...$2.8 million I think if it all comes together well.

Mr. Goncalves: I'm not a betting man, but I'm banking that the demo at Vets doesn't reach 2 million.

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Mr. Gennette: Well, that would be huge.

Mr. Goncalves: Short of the underground storage tanks.

Mr. Rosenblum: My other question would be are we locked in? I know the 525 for the safety complex.

Mr. Goncalves: Do we have a number on that Marc?

Mr. Rosenblum: Because that's been over a year that we've gone ahead and done that one, I'm guessing that the 525 that they are thinking is not going to cover that. I'm spit balling 650 to 700 at this point.

Mr. Strange: It's entirely possible. So, that 525 includes the planning site it's going on now and then obviously bidding it out and then whatever the cost is.

Mr. Goncalves: Who came up with that number?

Mr. Strange: I'm not sure. That was here before I got here.

Mr. Rosenblum: That 525 was they had the chief and some of his people come in and they had gotten the paperwork through, it might have been Tighe & Bond, I can't remember who it was, but they had it all kind of like what we have here for the track and field priced out at around 525. It might have been high 4's, but we went to 525 kind of thinking contingency or whatever, but I would say that that 525 would be higher at this point because that was March of last year.

Board to discuss and approve the Ludlow Community Center/Randall Boys & Girls Club request for permission to schedule the Annual "Rag Shag Parade & Trunk or Treat" to be held on Friday, October 28, 2022.

Mr. Goncalves: Ludlow Boys & Girls Club announcing that they are going to have their annual rag shag parade and trunk or treat event. Rag shag parade will take place Friday, October 28th from 6:00 to 6:30. The parade will be from Town Hall to the Ludlow Boys & Girls Club, Chapin to Sportsmen's Road, .8 miles. From 6:30 to 9:00 at the Boys & Girls Club parking lot, they will

have the trunk or treat and indoor and outdoor games and activities. The Baird marching band will lead the parade, the Ludlow Police Department and fire truck to bring up the rear, possible police escort and food trucks, etc.

Mr. Silva made a motion to approve the Ludlow Community Center/Randall Boys & Girls Club request to hold their Annual Rag Shag Parade and Trunk or Treat to be held on Friday, October 28, 2022, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum. All in favor. Vote 4-0.

Closing Comments:

Mr. Rosenblum: Again, thank you to everybody who came out last night for our Town Meeting. Again, it's good to see the questions being asked. Thank you.

Mr. DeBarge: I attended the Ludlow Cultural Council's weekend vendor fair the weekend before last. I was able to stop both Saturday and Sunday and saw all of our Ludlow family there with the 250th Committee, the Lions Club, the Cares Coalition. Everybody was there. A craft fair was what it was. There were a lot of good crafts available. The police department was there, fire, everybody was there. It was great, well designed. I'm optimistic and looking forward to Celebrate Ludlow with the changed venue down in that same area. I like the change. I think it's positive and we'll see how it goes. Halloween is approaching. I mentioned before and I read another article about Fentanyl finding its way into your average bags of candy. There was an article in Connecticut about Fentanyl found in everyday candy. Of course, we know about it being marketed itself with colorful pills. So, it's not like any parent is not vigilant with their children, but I think everybody should be vigilant with everything that they do with this until we can get some kind of a handle on it. Go vote November 8th, please. Thank you.

Mr. Silva: About the only thing I have is I just want to commend people for going to certain functions. There are a lot of functions right now raising funds for different places such as the Ludlow Boys & Girls Club which I attended, and it was very well received. They raised quite a good amount of funds from my understanding and it's nice to see that people are getting out there and supporting these things. We had the Ludlow Boys & Girls Club in here a few weeks ago and they have some projects that are coming that look or sound very, very interesting and very good. So, just keep that in mind and when you get asked to support some of these things, show up and have a good time. It's a benefit for the whole community. Thank you.

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Mr. Gennette: I just wanted to say the Town Hall members really went through a big change over the past several months and there has been a lot of work to be done, a lot of hard work to be done, and some tough decisions to be made and I think now that we are kind of coming out the other side I want to thank everybody that works in Town Hall for all the hard work that they've been doing. We know you've been challenged. We know that you've been on edge and we appreciate your hard work and hang in there and we'll all get through it together.

Mr. Goncalves: Again, don't forget Celebrate Ludlow October 15th, a nice event down by the gazebo. Kudos to the P.T.O., a great golf outing this last Saturday. It was a full house, and they did a great job and hopefully they made a lot of money, and it was well worth it. Congratulations, the Gremio Lusitano had their 100th anniversary gala this last Saturday, great party, great entertainment. It was kind of strange because it's the first large gathering the club has really had since COVID and it was kind of neat to see 350 people in the room having a good time and not being nervous like we have in the past. Other events, in memory of Dave Goncalves, there's a golf outing coming up on October 15th. The outing is completely sold out. However, there are still seats available for dinner back at the Gremio Lusitano after golf so if anybody just wants to go for dinner to help out the fund that would be fantastic and the Luso American Scholarship Fund this year will be awarding $72,000 in scholarships to Ludlow High School kids. They don't get nearly enough credit. That organization over 33 years probably nearing a million dollars in scholarships, and I don't think we've ever made the first five pages of the Ludlow Register let alone make it to the news. $72,000 for the second year in a row to Ludlow High School kids; that will be a minimum of 12 at $6,000 a piece; not to mention other surprises that night and on occasion some of our donors have done things like if you worked at a Dunkin Donuts you got an additional $2,000, $3,000, $4,000. The Dias Foundation has been generous enough to actually fund $20,000 for some kids in the past. That's a November 4th banquet at the Gremio Lusitano. Look for tickets

on that if you're interested. It's a nice night out and it's nice to show the kids the town's support so hopefully some day they come back.

Mr. Silva: It's important to say that these funds are raised by the golf outing.

Mr. Goncalves: Yes, the golf outing and the businesses and the community and just a lot of fundraising throughout the year. We're very lucky here in Ludlow that we do have a lot of generous companies, people out there that make this sort of thing happen. So that's November 4th if you're interested in tickets for that.

Mr. Strange: I would love to put something out, like a press release, to give that some publicity and further encourage people to buy tickets and come on down.

Moved by Mr. Rosenblum to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 p.m., seconded by Mr. Silva. All in favor. Vote 5-0

_____Chairman

Ludlow Board of Selectmen

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