The Meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on Tuesday, November 1, 2022, began at 5:30 p.m.

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

First Order of Business: The Pledge of Allegiance

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VISITATIONS:

5:35 p.m. – Senator Lessor – Legislative update

Senator Lessor: Thank you Mr. Chairman, thank you members of the Select Board. For the record, Senator Eric Lessor. I really just wanted to come by to say thank you to the Board and to the people of Ludlow for the last eight years. For the trust you put in me to represent you in the State Senate and I really just wanted to say thank you. Certainly, there are some formal things we can get into, we have an economic development bill that is finally moving with some significant funding for Ludlow. I would really be remised if I didn't say thank you. I will be concluding my term in a few weeks and just wanted to really say thank you to each of you for the friendship and the partnership we've had over the last eight years. I do also want to thank Marc, Marc Strange and of course Ellie before Marc and the great team and the Town. I really can't say enough great things about the Town of Ludlow and especially the professionalism and the public spiritedness of the public servants here. I was driving over and just thinking through a lot of the fun memories, the Whitney Park bleachers, the work we did with Ludlow CARES, the work we did on opioid awareness and Narcan access. The continuing work on the Ludlow Mills, which will certainly keep going and I'm not leaving town or anything, I'm going to still be close by. So, I will certainly be a resource and I'll be around and you'll be ably represented in the Senate by whoever my successor is and I'll certainly make sure that they are prepared and all the constituent work and all the files and everything are transferred over, but I really just wanted to come by and say thank you. I'll really appreciate the chance to work together.

Mr. DeBarge: I obviously worked extensively on a lot of the projects that you have just talked about and I'm with you, but I'm going to add to that because I was the Chairman when COVID broke and throughout and I can tell you some of the topics that I texted you about. I remember getting your cell phone number the first time and texting it going okay whatever and quickly thereafter a response and it wasn't anybody other than you. Especially when COVID was here and believe I know how busy you were. We all know how busy you were but every question I asked, every panic I may have sounded like, you answered and settled it down and I appreciate that. I could go on and on, but I'll just say that whoever the predecessor is, I hope no matter what side of the aisle they are on that they care as much as you have about Western Mass and they can do a modicum of what you have done for us in the time that you have been in office. They have big, big shoes to fill. I hope they can do it because we'll prosper from it as we have from your service, and I appreciate it.

Mr. Gennette: Well, I just wanted to say thank you. We really haven't had an opportunity to work together, I'm the newest guy here.

Senator Lessor: Congratulations by the way.

Mr. Gennette: I appreciate it. You really have a great reputation across all of the other platforms that I am involved in. So, I just want to say thank you for your service to us. We appreciate everything.

Senator Lessor: My parting word of advice, unsolicited, is I have a great memory of the night of my first election; a friend of mine called me and said, "congratulations Lessor now it's all your fault".

Mr. Gennette: I feel it.

Senator Lessor: Marc's laughing because he knows. So, congratulations.

Mr. Gennette: Yes, thanks!

Mr. Rosenblum: Well, I mean I obviously want to say thank you. Your resume is impeccable, it's awesome. The amount of work that you've done from day one, even before being a Senator. You've

always represented this area extremely well. I never really reached out to you as much, but to your point as you were saying to James is that you were part of the solution now you are part of the problem. Once you get elected. No, I mean I wish you all the best and I'm sure we're going to see you pop up somewhere else down the road. Obviously, our doors are always open and congratulations as a good run as the Senator and best of luck to whatever you do down the road.

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Senator Lessor: Thank you.

Mr. Silva: My sentiments are the same. You've always been an easy person to talk to, easy to reach. That's what we need more of everywhere. It's just a great thing to be able to do that with any of the Senators, any of the Reps and not many do get the response that you do and the work that you've done for us. So, thank you.

Senator Lessor: Thank you.

Mr. Goncalves: The good thing about being Chairman is everybody gets to talk, and I get to say yes, I agree with everybody. Certainly, with your eight years and Representative Petrolati, a new regime is coming in, but a lot of good stuff happened in Ludlow over the past decade. Ludlow Mills went from a contaminated landfill basically to a beautiful project now in the making and it's only getting better and better. I know recently you guys did something great up at the zoo. I think a lot of people take it for granted. A lot of people in town don't know where it is, they've never been there and how fortunate we are. Then the East West Rails, more and more conversations today than it's ever been.

Senator Lessor: It will happen.

Mr. Goncalves: Yes. We appreciate it and good luck to you. We'll see you again, I'm sure.

Senator Lessor: Absolutely.

Mr. Goncalves: You're going to take a break, right?

Senator Lessor: Well, I don't know, break is in the eye of the beholder, but I will not be in public office for a while.

Mr. Goncalves: You can stop being blamed for a while.

Senator Lessor: Exactly. Yes, yes.

Mr. Goncalves: Well, good luck to you and thank you for coming in.

Senator Lessor: And of course, I just want to thank the Board and we obviously don't work alone. You mentioned Representative Petrolati, I do want to publicly thank him as well. He was a great partner for the first portion of my time here and Rep Oliveira also has been a great partner to me. You mentioned the Ludlow Mills, we have had a lot of great partnerships with the Baker-Polito administration as well and certainly I know you will have the same with the Healey-Driscoll administration and I do want to also thank Jennifer and I know many of you have worked closely with, as well as Michael Clark. I'm sure many of you remember and also worked really closely with us and also Ellie for sure; we did a lot of work with her. You have a great team in Ludlow. Eric Segundo; I'm just remembering all the updating on the Veterans monuments and it's a really well runed town and really great, professional people.

Talking over each other.

Mr. Goncalves: Well, thank you. Anyone else?

Senator Lessor: Well, thank you. Easiest meeting I've ever had.

Mr. Goncalves: You still have a couple more months. So, get a little more money this way if you can.

Senator Lessor: Oh, don't you worry. I have a big one coming on Thursday.

Mr. Goncalves: Alright, perfect.

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6:00 p.m. Ludlow Cares Coalition – discuss Laura Stack Presentation

Ms. Rooney gave an update as to what the Ludlow Cares Coalition has been doing over the month of October. She thanked the town for putting the red lights up for Red Ribbon Week. The Ludlow Boys Soccer team put up all the red ribbons all over town. They had over 250 participants at the Walk to Remember at the Boys and Girls Club. It was a solemn event to kick off Red Ribbon Week. The Girls Soccer team helped with that. This was a reminder of all the suffering regarding substance abuse and overdoses in our community. It has increased a little bit with the Fentanyl. All week there were themes for the schools during Red Ribbon Week. A letter went out to the parents to have a conversation with their children about drugs and how to keep the lines of communication open with their children. Ms. Rooney went to Harris Brook and helped the 5th graders plans tulips. The boys and girls club made posters and participated in the Rag Shag Parade. They went to the Senior Center to talk about drug disposal and explain what Cares is to the Seniors in conjunction with the Board of Health and the Police Department.

Ms. Rooney explained that Laura Stack presentation was seen by all of the high school students, and it was very needed. The parents had a presentation from Laura Stack that evening and the only disappointing part was there were only about 45 views of that presentation. It is very important for all parents to see it, as well as the Board of Selectmen. The presentation is about the high potency of marijuana and what it is doing to kids. Cares is not for or against marijuana but want people to be educated. Laura Stack's son died from suicide, and they attribute it to high THC that he used from 2014 to 2019. This is very serious. The presentation is only about 45 minutes long and we encourage everyone to take a look at it. The link is only good until November 15th.

Mr. Goncalves thanked the Cares Coalition for everything they do and would like to give them some of the opioid money when that comes through.

Mr. DeBarge stated that the Police Department does the take back medication around the same time, which is great!

Ms. Rooney stated that the Police Department does drug take back's twice a year. The senior center did ask if they could possibly do one there for easier access for the seniors.

Mr. Rosenblum thanked Ms. Rooney for all of the hard work she has done with Cares. He also stated residents can bring any unwanted medication to the Police Department at any time and they will get rid of it as well. The Rag Shag Parade had a lot of people in attendance this year and that was great to see.

Mr. Silva said thank you for all Cares does and to keep up the good work.

Mr. Gennette stated that marijuana education is huge, and he supports Ludlow Cares. Anybody who lives in Ludlow is a part of Ludlow Cares.

Ms. Rooney stated they will be having a meeting at Baird tomorrow to discuss the tree lighting ceremony because they have been asked to be a part of that and they will also discuss what next year is going to look like for them. Anyone who supports Cares is a part of it. More volunteers are needed to help organize events for Cares. There are grants that they can look at as well.

Mr. Goncalves reminds residents that the Cares meeting is tomorrow at Baird from 6-7 p.m.

Ms. Rooney thanked all of the volunteers for Cares as well.

6:30 p.m. Fire and Police Chiefs – discuss change orders for the Radio Communications Project

Chief Pease explained that this project kicked off in 2018, funding was achieved in 2019 and then COVID hit, which put a damper on some things. The committee has been working very hard over the last 3-4 years trying to get this project completed. There were some challenges as two sites were on state property, the MWRA and the DCR. Nick Silva Field was another site, which didn't cause too many challenges for them. They are hoping to have this completed by February or March of 2023. Most of

the construction and installations are done, they are just tying up loose ends, doing some training and finishing up the project. An OPM was hired for the project but in order for him to see this project through, there are going to be some additional funds needed. However because of the warranty portion of this project, there is some remaining funds and will not need to go out to borrow. Throughout the change orders, they have been trying to keep it even balance but with inflation it's difficult. This first change order was a microwave change which was done in 2021 at no cost to the project and has been approved. The committee met and approved CO's 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13 & 16 to date. Change orders #8, 12, 14 & 15 were tabled, and more information was requested.

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Mr. Goncalves asked what happened to the zoning and having to survey the entire property.

Chief Pease explained that the town did not have an accurate existing survey on file, therefore they asked for a total survey.

Mr. Goncalves asked how much of the site they occupied.

Chief Pease said it was less than half an acre, maybe a quarter acre. They did a nice job with construction there too. The first week of October they did extensive testing of the system. In order for this project to pass, they tested every quarter mile square in the town of Ludlow.

Chief Valadas stated that for five days Deputy Chief Lavoie, Lt. Brennan, the OPM and someone from the company tested all of these areas.

Chief Pease wanted to be sure that the town received what they paid for, and they are excited to switch to the new system. He also informed the Board that they saved $164,507.73 by having the schools on a separate but integrated system with a permanent patch. If these change orders are approved there will be a credit of $43,917.79.

Moved by Mr. DeBarge to approve and sign the change orders as presented by Police Chief Dan Valadas and Fire Chief Ryan Pease pertaining to the Radio Communications Project, seconded by Mr. Gennette. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

More BPW Information—Over the past couple of weeks, we've done some more research as to why the Board of Public Works was created and how many there are in our surrounding communities/statewide. MGL c. 41 § 69D authorizes towns to elect boards of public works "to consist of three members" and establishes the board's powers, which includes authority to manage the Department of Public Works operations. Generally, in the past, Boards of Public Works have been used by smaller towns that don't have the ability to hire full-time managerial staff and not typically by bigger towns. For example, we surveyed 10 neighboring towns in Western Mass, including Belchertown, South Hadley, Wilbraham, Hadley, Longmeadow, East Longmeadow, Monson, Hampden, Palmer, and Southwick. Only East Longmeadow has a Board of Public Works, and they are appointed by the Town Manager. Of the Western Mass cities, only Westfield, Easthampton, and Holyoke have BPWs, and they are all 3-member boards appointed by the Mayor and do not have authority over day-to-day DPW operations.

So, in Hampden & Hampshire Counties, Ludlow is the only town or city that has an elected Board of Public Works and one of only four in the state. Ludlow is the only town whose BPW still has authority over day-to-day operations.

MassWorks & DHCD Grants—the town received two more grants recently: a $3M MassWorks grant to construct 1,800 feet of new road and infrastructure for the proposed Ludlow Mills Business Park. The property represents almost 40 acres of developable land with market-ready pad sites that can be subdivided or aggregated to meet current and future economic development needs, which is a great opportunity for the town. The town also received $75,000 from the Department of Housing and Community Development to design streetscape enhancements for East Street (e.g., lighting, pedestrian signals, traffic calming, benches, landscaped areas, parking improvements).

54 Winsor Sprinkler System Leak—the dry sprinkler system at 54 Winsor Street sprung a leak as a result of a power failure to the building from the street. One of the breakers powered the compressor for the sprinkler system, which caused the sprinklers to become over pressurized. The water damage has been

mitigated with dehumidifiers, the carpet was removed, and some drywall was removed. The town is still waiting for Eversource to fix the issue. These are the two buildings that the Town has taken over from the schools.

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Mr. Goncalves stated that the $3 million for the grant is going to give them the ability to complete the roadway from First Avenue to the trestle. That is fantastic and helps the town. Both of those grants are great and thanked Marc for the great work. The Police Department is also working on getting a 911 grant for additional training. Hoping for more cooperation with all of the different Boards in town, especially the DPW.

Mr. DeBarge stated that he was with Marc when he went to Pittsfield to accept this grant and it was one of the largest grants given out in the surrounding area. He wants residents to know how great the Mills project is and how much this is going to help the town. Also commented that having a Board of Public Works does not work in our town and it needs to be changed. Mr. DeBarge also thanked Westmass for all of their help with the grants for the Mills as well.

Mr. Gennette commented that a few years ago the residents voted down that the Board of Public Works be under the Selectmen's jurisdiction and it's up to the community. The voters will have to vote to disban the Board of Public Works, it cannot come from the Board of Selectmen. Thanked Mr. Strange for his hard work on the grants.

Mr. Rosenblum stated that the grants are great. As far as the DPW, they need someone who can manage people and manage a budget. The Board of Selectmen do not want to run it. This shows how much we need a government change in this town. He agrees with Mr. Gennette that this will be the voters choice.

Mr. Silva agreed with Mr. Gennette about putting the Board of Public Works question on the ballot again and then it's up to the voters. The Selectmen have tried to sit with the Board of Public Works and its very difficult if they don't want to cooperate.

CORRESPONDENCE:

170. Letter from Safety Committee – installation of mirror on East Street.

Moved by Mr. Rosenblum to approve the installation of a mirror and the trimming back of the hedges on the corner of East and Dinis Street, seconded by Mr. Gennette. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

171. Hubbard Memorial Library – application for Beer & Wine One Day Permit for Saturday, November 19, 2022, for Portuguese Cooking Demonstration.

Moved by Mr. Rosenblum to approve the application for Beer & Wine One Day Permit for Saturday, November 19, 2022, for Portuguese Cooking Demonstration and waive the fee, seconded by Mr. Silva. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

172. Jason Martowski – notifying the Board of his resignation from the Conservation Commission effective January 1, 2023.

Moved by Mr. Silva accept his letter of resignation from the Conservation Commission and to send him a letter thanking him, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

173. Michele Goncalves, Ludlow Cultural Council – requesting approval to hold the 3rd Ludlow Community Market on Saturday, September 30, 2023, and Sunday, October 1, 2023, at the Mack Donnelly Gazebo.

Moved by Mr. Silva to approve the Ludlow Cultural Council to hold their 3rd Community Market on Saturday, September 30, 2023, and Sunday, October 1, 2023, at the Mack Donnelly Gazebo, seconded by Mr. DeBarge. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

UNFINISHED BUINESS

Board to approve and sign Point Software Contract (Tabled from 8/23).

Moved by Mr. DeBarge to approve and sign the Point Software Contract, seconded by Mr. Silva. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

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Board to approve and sign Executive Session Minutes of September 6, 2022

Moved by Mr. DeBarge to approve and sign Executive Session Minutes of September 6, 2022, with Mr. Gennette being absent, seconded by Mr. Silva. Vote 4-0-1. One Abstention.

Board to approve and sign Executive Session Minutes of September 20, 2022.

Moved by Mr. DeBarge to approve and sign Executive Session Minutes of September 20, 2022, with all members present, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Board to approve and sign Selectmen's Meeting Minutes of March 22, 2022.

Moved by Mr. DeBarge to approve and sign Selectmen Meeting Minutes of March 22, 2022, with all members present, seconded by Mr. Silva. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Board to approve and sign Selectmen's Meeting Minutes of September 6, 2022.

Moved by Mr. DeBarge to approve and sign Selectmen Meeting Minutes of September 6, 2022, with Mr. Gennette absent, seconded by Mr. Silva. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Board to discuss and vote on dissolving the Ambulance Abatement Committee.

Chief Pease stated that the original Ambulance Abatement Committee began in 1997 and the members. were the Fire Chief, the Town Collector, someone in the medical field, a Selectmen and a Ludlow citizen. The Collector was responsible for collecting the ambulance receipts when the committee first began. The Committee developed a policy for setting the rates for ambulance billing and reviewed hardship requests and worked with the subscription committee in setting guidelines. In 2019, I tried to dissolve this committee but shortly thereafter COVID hit and the meeting with the Board of Selectmen didn't happen. In speaking with the Town Accountant, they need to clear their books. If $2,000 is billed for an ambulance run, a portion of it is paid by the insurance and the person may be responsible for some of it. Even though not all of the bills may be collectible, they are still billed and show as an outstanding balance on their ledger. They go to a collection's agency for a certain period of time and then eventually gets written off. The hardship requests can be reviewed through the Fire Department as there are not usually very many. They have spoke to Town Counsel as well and the Board of Selectmen can vote to dissolve that committee.

Moved by Mr. Rosenblum to approve to dissolve the Ambulance Abatement Committee and to send letters of appreciation to those who served on the committee, seconded by Mr. Silva. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Board to sign the Hubbard Memorial Library One Day Liquor permit, if approved.

Moved by Mr. Rosenblum to sign the application for Beer & Wine One Day Permit for Saturday, November 19, 2022, for Portuguese Cooking Demonstration and waive the fee, seconded by Mr. Silva. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Board to accept $3,000,000 Mass Works Grant for Ludlow Mills.

Moved by Mr. DeBarge to accept the $3,000,000 Mass Works Grant for the Ludlow Mills Project, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Board to accept $75,000 Community Planning Grant for East Street.

Moved by Mr. Gennette to accept the $75,000 Community Planning Grant for East Street, seconded by Mr. DeBarge. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Board to approve a request to charge off medical expenses and lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for an injury sustained by a Firefighter as a result of an incident that occurred on October 24, 2022.

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Moved by Mr. Rosenblum to approve a request to charge off medical expenses and lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for an injury sustained by a Firefighter as a result of an incident that occurred on October 24, 2022, seconded by Mr. Silva. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

BOARD UPDATES/MISC.

None

CLOSING COMMENTS

Mr. Rosenblum wished the best of luck to the girls and boys soccer and volleyball, in the post season. Reminded residents that the election is next Tuesday and to get out and vote!

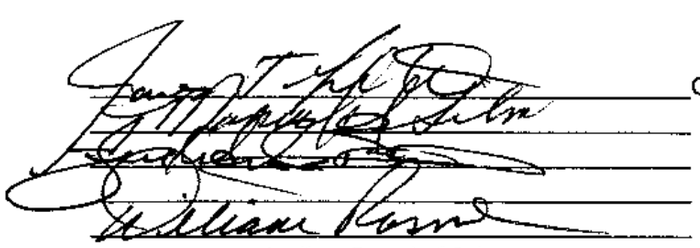
Mr. Silva also wanted to remind residents to get out and vote!

Mr. Gennette thanked Ludlow Cares Coalition and everyone that works with them. They are doing a fantastic job. He wished Mr. Martowski good luck and he will be missed.

Mr. DeBarge even though he missed both the Walk to Remember and the Rag Shag Parade, he is thrilled about the number of people that came out for each of these. This is a great town and he's glad to see everyone out and about. The Senior Abatement program is on the town website and it's also on LCTV. He read the senior abatement qualifications. Tomorrow, November 2nd at 3:30 at Island Pond Cemetery, they will be replacing flags on the Veterans gravesites. Vanished Valley will be having another thank you for your service ale, there is a kickoff party on November 3rd and on November 12th they will be having a pig roast for the veterans as well. On November 11th there will be Veterans ceremony at the High School. Our Veterans Services Director and 97.7 FM and 1250AM have paired up to do a radio show beginning Saturday November 19th from 7-8 a.m. The tree lighting will be December 4th with toys for tots. Agreed with Mr. Gennette that the voters need to get out and vote in order to change things in this town.

Mr. Goncalves stated there will be a food drive for Veterans food pantry from 9-12 at Christ the King Parish Center on Saturday, November 5th. Also, reminded the voters to get out and vote.

Moved by Mr. Rosenblum to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 p.m., seconded by Mr. Gennette. Vote 5-0. All in favor.



Chairman

Ludlow Board of Selectmen

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