The Meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on Tuesday, March 7, 2023, began at 5:30 p.m.

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

Remote: James Gennette

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First Order of Business: The Pledge of Allegiance

VISITATIONS:

5:35 p.m. Pond Committee – Funding Request

Ms. Breault stated that she is here today to answer some questions the Board of Selectmen had at the last meeting and to just give a recap. One of the questions asked was if the treatments that Water and Wetland Management were recommending would negatively impact the fish or wildlife and they said absolutely not. They will actually have a positive impact because the current conditions are by no means a good habitat because of the dense vegetation and some of the invasive species. The other question was will there be a negative impact on humans or domestic animals and that was also a no. Ms. Breault specifically asked about Haviland Pond because that is mostly a recreational pond. The only recommendation was that no one uses the pond while they are doing the treatment because they will get in the way but there is no impact. There were questions about future expenses and that is going to vary depending on which pond they're talking about. If sonars are used year one, then a fairly deep decrease in the next year would be anticipated. Harris Pond would probably need the largest budget ongoing for at least three to five years because of the water chestnuts issue. We were also asked to prioritize the ponds and as a committee we did that, and we decided Harris Pond would be first due to the invasive species and the water chestnut issue. Haviland would be second due to the use and where it is located. Minechoag would be third due to the endangered species identified there. Alden Pond would be fourth due to the milfoil invasive species and Murphy Pond would be the fifth because there is no threat to anything there that they are aware of at this point. There was also a lot of discussion about grants and Ms. Breault, with Marc's help looked through the Mass Department of Environmental Protection and this was specifically for Minechoag, which she was researching with a woman from the Mass Wildlife Habitat Management Program and the two protected species were Bull Rush and Panic Grass and if they applied for the grant right now with the treatment they are recommending, the grant would be denied. The sonar treatment, which is the recommended treatment would treat all plants and Minechoag would have to have those two plants protected. Therefore, Water and Wetland Management would have to go back and recommend an alternative treatment for the particular pond. They have also researched some grants through the Department of Conservation and Recreation; however, these are mostly for DCR parks and land. Doug is going to do some research with Weston and Sampson to evaluate which projects to fund. Ms. Breault reached out to Southwick to see how they handle Congamond but because that is a lake, they are able to receive Federal grants. She reached out to Sheriff Cocchi to be able to use community service to help them do the manual pulling of the weeds and they could do that, but they need to clarify the work that need to be done. The town attorney would have to work with the Hampden County attorney to be sure they have the right liability and other things in place as well. She reached out to Jacob Oliveira and has not received a call back yet. She also reached out to Jim Goodreau at the DPW regarding Harris Pond Dam because that needs to be repaired and it would help with the water level being higher so that the weeds at the bottom would not be in the sunlight as much as they are now.

Mr. Goncalves asked if they move forward with this, how long is it good for?

Ms. Breault explained that it depends on the treatment. Sonar treatment is generally good for two or three years and it won't be the full cost every two or three years. Harris is going to be the largest price tag for at least two or three years until the water chestnut is under control. The timing is critical, sonar is best when complete in April or May. Harris will be in July or August before the flowers of the water chestnut bloom. The permitting process still needs to be done and this could take two to three months also. They would like to know how much funding can be committed for this calendar year or for 2024?

Mr. Rosenblum stated that they would be falling in two different fiscal years because July 1 is the new fiscal year, which may not be that bad because the town would not have to pull as much out of this fiscal year.

Mr. Silva asked if Haviland is going to be swimmable this year?

Ms. Markiewicz explained that she has been trying to reach Sean McBride for the past five weeks without any avail and the recreation department has not been very helpful.

Mr. Silva feels that Haviland should be done first because it's part of recreation and it's a nice thing to have in town. It is also a revenue source for the town.

Ms. Breault stated that the last she heard was they didn't have enough lifeguards to even open Haviland Pond.

Ms. Markiewicz feels that if they know what is going to happen then they can let the recreation department know that they will need to find lifeguards.

Ms. Hodgman also reminded them that the lifeguards will need all of their certifications, the lifeguard course, CPR course, first aid and waterfront safety. A lot of people don't want to put that money out ahead of time in hopes of getting a job.

Ms. Markiewicz lives on Haviland and would like to see it open as well.

Mr. DeBarge thanked the committee for all of the hard work they've done with the report. He agrees that Haviland should be completed first. He does not believe that anything can be allocated this year but definitely next year.

Mr. Strange believes there are three buckets to pull from potentially, one is the 40R funds and the Board would have to vote to allocate them, they could put a special article for the FY24 budget to cover one or use free cash. The other would be to put it on the tax rate. The 40R's would be the only thing available now, the others would have to wait until July 1.

Ms. Hodgman also stressed that this company has a maintenance plan as well.

Ms. Breault explained that some of the costs could be brought down if the committee or conservation does a little bit of the work on their own, but she would have to det the details first. Once they do the treatment it includes them doing a survey again and giving them the water quality results and all of the information as well as the license to apply the chemical or whatever the treatment they're doing. The cost Ms. Breault was given is all encompassing of that. The cost will go down each year after the initial year.

Mr. Rosenblum stated that is they were to do three ponds in fiscal year 23, it would be anywhere from $23,500 to $51,000. Harris would land in fiscal year 24 and would be $15,000.

Ms. Breault explained that $25,000 was to treat the entire pond at Haviland and $8,000 was if they only did spot treatments there.

Mr. Goncalves stated that would $15,000 for Harris, $13,000 for Haviland and $10,500 for Minechoag.
Mr. Gennette stated that they should look into how much is in 40R before deciding which pond to start with.

Ms. Breault asked if they should look into CPA funding as well?

Mr. Goncalves stated that the state no longer contributes to CPA's.

Mr. Silva explained that when CPAs first started, they would contribute 100%. Whatever a community raised with a surcharge, the state would match it. Every year they went down and down and now it's no longer worth it.

Ms. Breault also requested that they have a small budget for education. This would be to educate the public in the fertilization issues and how they're maintaining the properties around these ponds.

Mr. Rosenblum reminded them that they have to consider maintenance in the future as well.

Ms. Breault stated that she can get a firmer price from Water and Wetland Management for two or three years down the road when she talks with them again.

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Mr. Goncalves asked if they want to find out what is left in the 40R and then talk about it again?

Mr. Strange stated that the board could authorize up to a certain amount, so they don't have to wait for a couple of weeks again.

Mr. Goncalves thinks they should authorize $38,500 for the three of them. That way they have a good start on it this year.

Mr. Silva believes they should go one pond a time because of the budget constraints. There was something else for 40R already.

Mr. Strange explained that they are already pulling $26,000 out of 40R for something else but he believes there should be enough to cover at least one of the ponds.

Ms. Breault stated that they should start with Haviland this year and then go onto Harris in the summer.

Mr. Silva believes if they did one pond at a time, they can get one completely done and then start to work on the next one instead of piecemealing it.

Ms. Markiewicz asked if that was going to be in the FY24 budget for sure?

Mr. Silva stated that they cannot guarantee that but if they can, they definitely will.

Mr. Simons voiced his concerns with Minechoag Pond and stated that it is not navigable any longer. There was a goose that was stuck in there and could not get out and they had to get

him out of there. He has pictures as well. Families of ducks can't get through. In the summer it smells and there are three storm drains dumping into that pond. This is an environmental mess.

Mr. Silva asked if they knew why the pond is so low? If there was a blockage or something.

Ms. Breault believes that Minechoag is spring fed. She has called the DPW and asked if there was a problem with the water level there, so they are aware.
Moved by Mr. Rosenblum to approve up to $25,500 if it is available through 40R to fund the pond prioritization of cleanup for Haviland Pond and Minechoag Pond, seconded by Mr. Silva. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

6:00 p.m. Liquor License Hearing – Change of Category of License to All Alcohol – James R. Carvalho – Casa Pizzeria and Bar, LLC dba Casa Pizzeria.

Moved by Mr. Rosenblum to open the liquor license hearing – change of category license to all alcohol – James R. Carvalho – Casa Pizzeria and Bar LLC, dba Casa Pizzeria, seconded by Mr. DeBarge. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Mr. Goncalves: Mr. Carvalho, how are you?

Mr. Carvalho: Did you guys do that already?

Mr. Goncalves: Do what?

Mr. Carvalho: I don't know,

Mr. Silva: No, we are waiting on you.

Mr. Carvalho: Oh, you're waiting on me. I don't know what to do, I'm not,

Mr. Goncalves: Tell us what the plan is, why you need the license. Why you'd like to have the license, etcetera.

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Mr. Carvalho: Oh, well you know,

Mr. Goncalves: First of all, James, do we have the return receipts?

Mr. Carvalho: Yes, let's do that. Some of them didn't take it, so I tracked them. You know, one of them didn't sign but they took it and the other one didn't pick it up from,

Mr. DeBarge: Sure.

Mr. Carvalho: So, there's the notices and I have receipts for everything that I did.

Mr. Silva: Mr. Chairman, I'm not sure what the difference is, what is required for the license, something like this. Is it 300 feet?

Mr. Goncalves: Three hundred feet circumference directly, directly across the street.

Mr. Silva: No, the license is usually,

Mr. Goncalves: Three hundred feet and anything directly across the street.

Mr. Silva: no circumference, around the whole thing. I'm not sure that this is,

Mr. Goncalves: Seems like not enough people notified.

Mr. Silva: no, there isn't. I know, it doesn't seem like there's enough. There are only three abutters on this list that I see.

Mr. Carvalho: It says, according to the rule that they had was properties that touch my property and years ago it was like all of them. But at some point, it changed because this was also the same way, because I have a liquor license right now and the last time I did it, it was like this too.

Mr. Silva: You don't have a liquor license in town, do you?

Mr. Carvalho: Yes, I have a beer and wine right now.

Mr. Goncalves: Beer and wine there.

Mr. Silva: There?

Mr. Carvalho: Yes, for years.

Mr. Silva: Oh yes, okay because whether or not we approve this or not, if the abutter is not right, it's null and void, you know. That's all I'm looking,

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Mr. Goncalves: It just seems like there should be more than three people.

Mr. Silva: Yes, especially for liquor licenses, which is something that's a little,

Mr. Goncalves: Do we keep these?

Mr. Strange: Yes.

Mr. Goncalves: Jim, you want to take this.

Mr. Carvalho: Sure.

Mr. Goncalves: Okay, so why don't you tell us what you're thinking. If you have beer and wine, why you want to go to full liquor?

Mr. Carvalho: Well, I think things are going pretty good with my shop. I don't know if you've heard about us or not, but we're doing pretty good and all I wanted to do was basically maybe expand, maybe make some better meals and you know I feel like it would be nicer because I want to get this nice coffee machine and sometimes with that usually you have to have like the brandies to go with it. You can't see that. And beer and wine you know it's pretty limited. So, expand the hours, you know, expand the menu. You know, obviously it's more worth it with that kind of a license, you know, and we've been responsible for many years. I've been in business for six years now.

Mr. Goncalves: No issues with the license?

Mr. Carvalho: No. We're pretty good. We're pretty responsible. We don't really plan to build a nightclub or anything. So, we're not going to stay open until the wee hours.

Mr. Rosenblum: You're only like 4:00 to 8:30 right now anyways, right?

Mr. Carvalho: 4:00 to 8:00 but yes. But if I did go a little later it wouldn't be like a nightclub bar. It's not a nightclub vibe. I think it's a good place for it.

Mr. Silva: Mr. Chairman. Marc were you able to find out where the license, where this license came from?

Mr. Strange: So, we have two because of the census we got two additional all alcohol.

Mr. Silva: So, we added two?

Mr. Strange: Yes.

Mr. Silva: Okay, that's what it was because we were trying to figure out the last, we were there, where'd come from? We're pretty, we stay up on it and then nobody's turning in a license when it comes. So, we got two additional?

Mr. Strange: Two additional, yes.

Mr. Silva: And my other thing is that I believe we've earmarked one for the mills area, and I don't know that we can do that. I know that we petitioned several years ago when mills came through and having plans and we decided a restaurant there would be good. Somebody actually bought one of the buildings over there for a potential restaurant with a license and we kind of earmarked it to, you know, have something nice over there. So, if we have two and we still have one left I'm a little better.

Mr. Strange: Yes, so this is just a related thought but kind of random, you know I am always kind of reading stuff about other municipalities and some municipalities actually do like an RFP for the licenses. So, it's not just first come, first serve. There's actually a bid involved in it.

Mr. Silva: That's my other question was did we in fact go out and notify the town of Ludlow and I owned a liquor license for a long time and all liquor licenses were advertised for anyone that was you know, interested in, you know put your application in and so on and so forth and then the selectmen would decide which would be more suitable.

Mr. Strange: Right, I don't think we did. I don't think we have in the past. I think that's a good idea. I think we should notify and kind of open it up to people so that it isn't just first come, first serve.

Mr. Silva: Right. Okay, just questions. Thank you.

Mr. Goncalves: Any other questions?

Mr. DeBarge: I don't have anything.

Mr. Rosenblum: I don't have anything either.

Mr. Goncalves: James?

Mr. Gennette: Yes, sir I have,

Mr. Goncalves: Our fifth member is on the phone.

Mr. Silva: Mr. Chairman, just one more. I think I saw something from the Planning Board, but I don't seem to find it in front of me. The Planning Board has a, did they approve the change of license or anything or did you have to go to Planning Board?

Mr. Carvalho: I wasn't told I needed to go to the Planning Board for anything.

Mr. Goncalves: Well, if you're going to increase seating you would.

Mr. Carvalho: Yes, if I change the footprint of the property I suppose.

Mr. Silva: Yes, the property and sometimes they have issues with parking for different businesses and I don't know do you foresee any parking issues?

Mr. Carvalho: No, people find their way pretty good, and you know, it's downtown and there's not a lot going on downtown. So, it's been pretty good.

Mr. Silva: So, the occupancy is actually going to be the same?

Mr. Carvalho: Yes, the occupancy is going to be the same. So, we don't expect to like make a big nightclub. It's just more of a specific type of option while you're there eating. You know, we don't,

Mr. Goncalves: There you would need to get an entertainment license or whatever else if you wanted to do anything.

Mr. Carvalho: Yes,

Mr. Goncalves: ...in order to serve the way you are.

Mr. Carvalho: Well, we're not ready to do any of that stuff. We're just trying to make a coffee machine and you know the beer and wine license is just very restrictive, you know.

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Mr. Silva: And that you're going to obviously turn it in.

Mr. Carvalho: Yes, we are going to turn that in, yes.

Mr. Rosenblum: I will make the motion.

Mr. Goncalves: Hold on. James, do you have anything? Mr. Gennette.

Mr. Gennette: No, I don't have anything.

Mr. Goncalves: Okay.

Mr. Silva: Before we do make that motion, I would like to have a motion or whatever, which way you want to do it Marc, that for any future that we do advertise and get whoever.

Mr. Strange: Yes.

Mr. Silva: Because, quite honestly, I'm willing to bet and nothing on you but I'm willing to bet that I will get comments that when you had a license, why did you just give this license out without, we didn't even know. You know what I mean.

Mr. Strange: Yes. Absolutely. Absolutely.

Mr. Silva: Personally, I would like to make a motion before you make your motion.

Mr. Rosenblum: No, that's fine.

Moved by Mr. Silva that any further licenses that we have, beer, wine and specialty license that we advertise for any applicant that's interested, seconded by Mr. DeBarge. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Moved by Mr. Rosenblum to approve the change of category of license to All Alcohol for James R. Carvalho, Casa Pizzeria and Bar, LLC dba Casa Pizzeria and he will turn in his beer and wine license, seconded by Mr. DeBarge. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Mr. Carvalho: Do I need to do anything? Do you want the check?

Mr. Strange: Yes, please.

Mr. Carvalho: Okay, thanks guys. Have a great night.

Mr. DeBarge: Thank you.

Mr. Goncalves: You too.

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Moved by Mr. Rosenblum to close the liquor license hearing – change of category license to all alcohol – James R Carvalho – Casa Pizzeria and Bar LLC, dba Casa Pizzeria at 6:28 p.m., seconded by Mr. Silva. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

6:30 p.m. Dangerous Dog Hearing – Racine/Zacharewiez – 57 Haswell Circle

Moved by Mr. Rosenblum to open the Dangerous Dog Hearing Racine/Zacharewiez at 57 Haswell Circle at 6:31 p.m., seconded by Mr. Silva. Vote 4-0. All in favor.

Mr. Goncalves: Okay. So, everybody that's here for the hearing, I need you to raise your right hand please, if you're going to be testifying in this at all. Okay, do you swear the testimony you're going to give during this hearing is the truth, the whole truth, so help you God?

Group: Yes.

Mr. Goncalves: Okay. Are you all one party?

Group: Yes.

Mr. Goncalves: Where's the other party? So, maybe I don't think there's enough chairs. We'll stay where we are then. Sure, come on up.

Ms. Anderson: Here, let's do this. So, if I seem like I'm rushing through this, I apologize, but I have an injured bunny waiting for me when I get out of here. If I go too fast, please stop me.

At approximately 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 4th, Michael was returning to his residence at 65 Haswell,

Mr. Goncalves: Who is Michael?

Mr. Zacharewiez: That's me.

Mr. Goncalves: Okay, thank you.

Mr. Zacharewiez: Can I correct something here?

Ms. Anderson: Yes.

Mr. Zacharewiez: I was actually leaving my house.

Ms. Anderson: Oh, not coming in?

Mr. Zacharewiez: No, the neighbors were in the circle. So, I was waiting for them until the dog was done doing his business. The neighbor's dog, or her business and we were in the process of walking out onto the deck. But I waited until she brought her dog into the house. She stopped at the mailbox, then she went into the house. The dog was on leash then and my dog was on leash inside the house, and we were waiting to get outside. So, I gave her a couple of minutes to get to her house, into the house and then after that, should I continue?

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Ms. Anderson: Sure, sure.

Mr. Zacharewiez: So, then when I thought it was clear, we stepped outside. I opened the slider door, let my dog out and then after that I turned around to close the slider and I saw their dog running down the driveway, my driveway and it wasn't leashed at the time. And the dog ran up onto the deck and proceeded to attack my dog. My dog is very passive. He's afraid of his own shadow. He didn't fight. He actually wailed and he whimpered while this was happening. So, I had to kick the dog that was attacking mine or I tried to five or six times to no avail. The dog luckily had a harness that they had on him and had a handle on it. So, I grabbed the handle and I managed to throw the dog off the deck and that's when she maintained control of the dog after.

Mr. Goncalves: Okay.

Ms. Anderson: Okay, so, that happened Saturday, on the 4th. I spoke with both parties. I'm going to let them explain also what happened inside her house before the attack. There was also, according to a neighbor, which I don't know if you guys have this note or not. One of their neighbors, they had an incident with their dog in October of 21'. You know, kind of the same thing. His wife was knocked to the ground trying to you know, the dog came out attacking their dog. Trying to get the dog away, she fell. It was never reported because nobody was actually hurt and you know and the dogs weren't hurt, it was just a scuffle, but,

Ms. Zacharewiez: Nonetheless that was me that was on the ground when the dog was absolutely charging around me. He was going for the dog.

Ms. Anderson: So, why don't you tell your side of the story of what happened when, after you came in from getting the mail and going inside.

Ms. Racine: Yeah, so,

Mr. Goncalves: Can we have your names and addresses please?

Ms. Racine: Maria Racine, 57 Haswell Circle. Yes, sorry.

Ms. Anderson: Cul de sac, they live right next to each other.

Ms. Racine: Yes, so, there's a middle part where we both walk the dog. We know they, we come at different times. So, I did just walk my dog Quinn, bring her inside and I took off her leash and where my kitchen is at, we usually have a toddler gate because I have a four-year-old. It wasn't there at that moment. So, I took the leash off of her and then she started just jotting out. So, where my kitchen is at, my car is right here. So, she was right by my car still. So, then I was telling her, I'm like, "Quinn get inside". Usually she listens, you know, but she heard the dog I think it shook or something. So, she heard the collar on the dog and she's not normally around dogs. So, she started jogging over there and she wasn't listening to me. So, that's the biggest thing, she's not trained. So, Octavia had mentioned that if she was trained and knew the stop command, that this would have never happened. So, she wasn't trained for that. So, when I was calling her to come, she was focused on the dog. So, I got to the end of their driveway and my dog was standing in front of them. So, he was by his door and his dog was behind them and them two were still staring at each other and I was still able to make it to the step and then that's when they were fighting. You're right she has a handle on the harness. He's kicking my dog, so I couldn't grab that harness. He was able to pick her up. Even if I'm screaming Quinn or he was screaming his dog's name, they're fighting. There's no way to take them off of each other at that point. So, he did pick up my dog and threw her and yes, that's when I was able to gain control of her. And then I bring her inside and I quickly ran to them to see if the dog was okay because I didn't know exactly what happened. He opens his sliding door and all he shouts is, does she have her shots? And I said yes and then he said, leave, leave right now. Then I went inside, and I was checking my dog. My dog was okay, you know, and I am very sorry that this happened. You know, we're not, we don't want something like this to happen. This is the first time that this has ever happened. That's why we were discussing surrendering her because we don't know what to do in this situation, you know. But then Octavia explained a dog can be trained to not bite again. A dog can be trained a stop command and had she known that she would have stopped right there when I said her name and she would've turned around. So, we're willing to pay the medical bills. We're very sorry that this has happened, and we are willing to get my dog trained by somebody that Octavia has recommended to us. Versatile Canine, unfortunately right now he's in the hospital. I've been going back and forth with him. He told me that he's going to try to talk to his wife Stacy, to try to get something as a startup plan until he's out of the hospital. But we are trying, we don't want this to happen again, and we've been walking our dog in the backyard even though she's off of quarantine, we're still walking her in our back. It's not the flattest place but we're just taking her in and out and walking her.

Ms. Anderson: So, I've talked, they share the same vet. I've talked to the vet, gone over records. Both dogs have really high anxiety. Neither one of the dogs, I would consider aggressive. Meaning, are they going to bite a person, highly doubtful unless the dog was absolutely cornered in, in panic. Really high anxiety. Your dog, as you said, is really passive and just he's scared to death. Their dog is also scared to death. You know, they use the middle of the cul de sac where with a doggy brain, they're just marking each other over and over for the last three years basically. That can cause all sorts of hidden animosity between dogs as, especially, you know their neighbors. You know, one dog sees the other dog going out, they pee, the other dog will go, hey wait, that's my space. So, you know, there is definitely tension.

Mr. Goncalves: The gloves come off the first time they get the opportunity.

Ms. Anderson: Right and I think this situation was really bad timing. She didn't know her gate was down. He thought he was safe bringing the dog out. Unfortunately, his dog definitely got the brunt of it. You know, she had what, six, seven different puncture holes. I do have pictures in here.

Ms. Zacharewiez: Ten altogether.

Ms. Anderson: Ten altogether.

Mr. Zacharewiez: Yes.

Ms. Anderson: And as I was explaining to them, I spent about an hour over at their house, training will help. Medication will absolutely help. They give Valium, they give all sorts of things, Veterinarians, for anxiety with dogs.

Ms. Racine: Yes, I don't mean to interrupt, but the vet did give us medication to try,

Ms. Anderson: For her anxiety?

Ms. Racine: because she was there today just for a normal, her yearly physical and,
Ms. Anderson: I've talked to the vet too and she said, you know both dogs, their anxiety levels just go out of, you know, off the charts when they're in stressful situations. Obviously, you know your dog interprets their dog being a stressful situation. They have another dog. I had her dog in the kennel around my dogs, absolutely no aggression whatsoever. She didn't lunge at the cage, she didn't try to bite me, she didn't try to bite my dog. She just wanted nothing to do with, she was just shutting down. She wanted nothing to do with any of us. An actual aggressive dog would have been lunging at my dogs. I have both male and females and they were walking up and down in the kennel, you know, trying to sniff and trying to see what was going on and I just didn't see the aggression. I think it was just bad timing. Unfortunately, these two do live next to each other. They both own their houses. It's not a matter of making the dog go away. I don't think your dog needs to go away. I think what needs to happen, what I'm recommending for this whole thing, and she is right, my trainer is in the hospital, and he's been in the hospital for the last two, almost three weeks.

Mr. Racine: He's been in at least a week, week and a half, I think. He has pancreatitis.

Ms. Anderson: Yes, so hopefully he will get out soon because I would like to continue my training too. But his wife, Stacy does do some of the training and so hopefully she'll be able to work with us. The fact that they've already contacted them. You know and I check my trainer when I recommend them to make sure that people are actually following through instead of saying, oh yeah, I'll call. They did that before we even got to the hearing. So, I think my recommendations would be for Quinn, which is the dog, to be seen by a trainer, behavioralist who's familiar with anxiety, obedience training, as you all know, is one of my favorite subjects and it really does work. You know even if it's, we're not looking for perfect obedience, we're not looking for show obedience, we're looking at just to be able to have the dog realize that you know, something else, you know to work with those distractions. I would continue that Quinn relieve herself in your yard, in the backyard. The least these two dogs see of each other, the better it's going to be for the whole neighborhood.

Ms. Racine: Yes.

Ms. Anderson: A fence, we talked about a fence. Their backyard drops down, so it's actually fairly hard to fence in, but you could fence in the front part so in case she does get out your

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side door, she can't keep going. If you have, with your house here, if you have a fence going around, so your doors are basically inside the fence. So, if she,

Ms. Racine: So, it's in front of the house?

Ms. Anderson: Not the complete front, but the side definitely where the car is. You can do it before the cars, where the baby gate basically, where your side door is, you know. But, that is obviously a fence company's decision, not mine. Something like that would be really highly recommended. I don't think Quinn should be,

Mr. Racine: I'm thinking of fencing in the back area behind, because our basement we have a door that walks out to the backyard.

Ms. Anderson: Okay, okay.

Mr. Racine: We're thinking of fencing in that area underneath the deck. That way we could just walk right out that door.

Ms. Anderson: Yes, so whatever it takes so you don't have to take her out the front door. The other thing with obedience lessons will also help stimulate her brain, so she won't be so stressed out about life. You know, just in general it helps. I don't necessarily feel, as I said that this is a dangerous dog. It's a nuisance dog. It falls under our nuisance law, our bylaws as a nuisance dog and under our bylaws, biting and attacking other people or pets can fall under barking and nuisance dogs and not necessarily a dangerous dog, which is the state ruling of it. Thunder shirts that dogs, you can get on Amazon, they work wonderfully for anxiety for either one of your dogs. It basically you know, it's a tight jacket that goes around the dog. I use it for one of my dogs with thunder and she immediately calms down and goes to sleep instead of pacing and trying to jump out the window. Calming herbs help. There're all sorts of other things you can do to help her anxiety and I think we should give them three months or so to complete the above.

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Mr. Silva: Are you satisfied at all with what she's,

Mr. Zacharewiez: Well, I think there's a lot of things people don't understand here. This was, this was not a dog fight.

Mr. Silva: Yes.

Mr. Zacharewiez: My dog didn't even defend himself. He cowered into the side of the house, where the deck was, and you said the gloves came off. They didn't come off because my dog didn't pursue any physical activity towards their dog.

Mr. Silva: Yes that's, I mean he came over, obviously he was the aggressor, but we're just wondering, what I'm wondering anyways, are you satisfied with the recommendations of the officer of what they should do with their dog to make it safer for your dog?

Ms. Zacharewiez: Oh, absolutely, yes. I agree with what you're saying but really, like I got a little PTSD over this on that side of her door so if that can be fenced in, because that's where that dog comes from every single time it's off the leash and charges.

Mr. Goncalves: So, this has happened more than once?

Ms. Zacharewiez: Yes. When I was walking down the street...

Mr. Silva: Now are you, sorry, are you satisfied with the recommendations that the officer has to alleviate these issues?

Ms. Racine: Yes, because it's not a dangerous dog. She just needs training.

Mr. Racine: Honestly, we don't want this to ever happen again.

Mr. Silva: Quite honestly, I don't know what,

Mr. Zacharewiez: And I agree with that. I don't want to see this happen again and I want some assurances that this doesn't happen again.

Ms. Anderson: Right. Between the training and the fence, I think that would just mitigate the problem completely. As long as everybody plays fair.

Ms. Zacharewiez: Well, if everybody does their job...

Ms. Anderson: Right, right.

Talking over each other.

Ms. Racine: And that's the thing with this, it was a mistake. I know but it was a mistake.

Ms. Zacharewiez: People need to be in charge of their dogs.

Ms. Racine: It was a mistake. It wasn't like I charged; I made my dog charge at your dog.

Mr. Zacharewiez: I know you didn't. I understand that.

Ms. Zacharewiez: I didn't say that. You have to be very cognizant of what's going on in your home.

Ms. Racine: I am that's why when this happened, like I never in a million years expected my dog to attack your dog.

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Ms. Zacharewiez: I didn't expect it the second time.

Ms. Racine: Yeah, I didn't,

Ms. Zacharewiez: I didn't expect it the first time.

Mr. Racine: The first time she was leashed, the leash broke.

Ms. Zacharewiez: No, no, no, no. The first time you weren't there Joe.

Ms. Racine: The first time I was using my yorkies, Joseph.

Mr. Racine: I'm listening to what my wife told me, that's what she told me.

Ms. Zacharewiez: You had the leash in your hand. I was watching you.

Ms. Racine: I was showing you that it broke.

Mr. DeBarge: Folks, excuse me for a second, Mr. Chairman.

Ms. Racine: I'm sorry.

Mr. DeBarge: Listen,

Ms. Zacharewiez: It was not on a leash.

Mr. DeBarge: Anybody getting bit by a dog, anybody seeing a dog attacked or a dog fight is a scary thing. We're not downplaying, I would never downplay anything like that. I've owned dogs all my life. I had one that was an escape artist, four-foot stockade fence over it, through the door, over it, dug a hole under it until we had to do eight-foot vinyl to do it. You, I never, I don't believe in bad dogs. I believe in bad owners and I'm not saying this is that situation. Dogs are excitable. They react in ways that we don't anticipate sometimes. A dangerous dog designation is a very serious thing. It leads to, could lead to in any incident the dog being euthanized, which I will not vote for in any instance unless it's vigor, you know exigent circumstances. However, another incident like this and I'm not saying the first one isn't serious enough to have a discussion like this but again a dangerous dog designation is very serious. I don't think this rises to that level of designating a dog. We're talking about muzzles, we're talking about cages, we're talking about houses with roofs, we're talking about all kinds of stuff that add anxiety to the dog. I would rather see, which you've already said, training, and see if that works. Our, she does a fantastic job of checking up on all of the orders that we approve or give and that's where I would go in this situation. Hopefully, this would be the end of it. If it's not, it's going to have to come back.

Ms. Anderson: Right and that's one thing that I really do take seriously with my job is the follow up. You know, because it's really easy for someone to agree with me and then four months later we're looking at a dog again.

Mr. DeBarge: And we've had that.

Ms. Anderson: I will definitely be working, and I agree with you, that side door something needs to be done about it. One way or another. Especially, with you having young kids. Kids, as they get older often don't shut doors and so we need a failproof safe way to make sure that she can't get out. The training will give you a little piece of mind of knowing that stop command or that, you know, drop command, whatever command it ends up being. My dogs know a stop command. They can be rushing after something, and I holler stop at them and they drop to the ground. It takes a lot of work. If I'm not here, I'm usually at dog training. So, it's not like a quick fix and with her history, surrendering her would mean euthanasia. There's not a, there shouldn't be a shelter out here that would say we can rehome her because you know she has a bite history now. But with the medication, the vet's working with you, with me working with you, you know, I come out I look we can figure out, take a real good look at your yard. Try to figure out how we can make sure this doesn't happen again. I just keep checking on it, you know and obviously as he said, if there's another incident or if you see the dog, even if there isn't an incident and you see the dog out call me. Absolutely, then it would be a completely different conversation. Then it's like okay somebody's not following through with what we want.

Ms. Zacharewiez: Right.

Ms. Anderson: So, that's my recommendation.

Mr. Silva: Okay, so back to where I was getting at, so you're comfortable with what she

recommends as fixing the issue and you're comfortable with what she recommends as you obviously are going to have some costs and training and you're comfortable with that. So, my feeling is that if you're both comfortable for now, I would say, I don't know, three months, maybe give it three months or,

Ms. Anderson: The ground could be frozen so who knows,

Mr. Silva: Give it six months and if there's another incident then come back. For now, I would say that there's not much that the Board would want to do, and I think we actually can do so,

Ms. Anderson: Besides, well, making an actually order for them to follow up.

Mr. Silva: Right, right. I mean that's what I'm getting at,

Mr. Goncalves: Your order for the fence and training.

Ms. Anderson: Yes.

Mr. Silva: And if they're comfortable with that and then they come in, I'm ready to make a motion that we have,

Ms. Anderson: I think that's a great idea because I have to go save a bunny.

Mr. Zacharewiez: Involved in this is also the reimbursement for the vet bill.

Mr. Silva: She had said that she will pay for it.

Ms. Anderson: Yes.

Mr. Zacharewiez: Because we spent six hours there and it came up to almost a thousand dollars. It's listed in the paperwork.

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Ms. Racine: We're willing to pay for that.

Ms. Anderson: And they have said that from the very start.

Ms. Racine: Yes, the first day we spoke about it, we said that we're willing to pay the medical bills. We didn't even know they were in the emergency room until Octavia said it. We didn't, I didn't know what harm my dog did to their dog. You know, we're very sorry that it happened. We're trying whatever we can to make sure it doesn't happen again.

Ms. Zacharewiez: Excellent. Glad to hear that.

Mr. Rosenblum: The one thing, I know you are talking about the reimbursement portion. We, unfortunately, don't' have that authority that's going to have to be between the two parties here. And just, I guess peace of mind, in the fact is that our animal control officer is that unfortunately, we see this probably once every few months now, and generally knock on wood, things work out well. So, the recommendations that she's coming up with, I think that the training, you know if there's any medication, I think we might have used Benadryl on our dog once too. Is doing something like that because I have a 65-pound lab. Same thing, if he sees, and Amazon people go flying off the steps, nobody's going to come in my house. But yes, that was my thing was just saying if you're good with what the recommendations are from the animal control officer and if you're good with it, how long have you lived near each other?

Mr. Zacharewiez: We've been there for 32 years. They moved in I think two and a half years ago.

Mr. Rosenblum: Okay.

Mr. Zacharewiez: I don't want to start a feud with you guys.

Mr. Rosenblum: No, no, no, I'm just saying if it was like six months and it's happened twice or something like that then some, you know.

Talking over each other.

Mr. Rosenblum: But generally, the recommendations of the animal control officer is we do anything with any department is that we go by the expert and the animal control officer's been very good. She has been spot on and she does follow up and we've gone, you've gone through a couple of trainers. One moved out once before,

Ms. Anderson: Yes.

Mr. Rosenblum: and they've come in-house, and they do everything and obviously anything to do with some kind of blockage of that door. I mean that probably more than anything would handle just about anything that goes on.

Ms. Racine: Yes, yes, we're going to...yes, the first incident happened over a year ago. It was because the leash broke. I have a Yorkie, usually when I'm starting to walk them, I take the Yorkie one. I do one at a time and that's what happened. She heard the bell of the other dog, so she just ran and it ripped. It's only for a 10-pound dog. My dog's over 40 pounds, you know, and I put the baby gate up at that time. My son is four. I took it off, I didn't need it anymore. So, that was, that's what happened with this incident.

Mr. Racine: After this one, we put it right back up and we, I told my wife, we only have one open at a time. You know the doors open, that gate is shut, that gates open, that door is shut, you know. Like that's our new precaution for that side door because that's the new door. The front door we have double locks on it. We have the regular lock and then we have an extra lock so that way our son can never open the door.

Mr. Goncalves: Perfect. Alright, does somebody want to make a motion?

Ms. Zacharewiez: Can I just ask because how did the door get open? Did your kid open the door when you went back from the mailbox?

Ms. Racine: No, the door was open, and I went, and I was getting ready to leave. I had plans that day. So, I went and walked her and then I put her inside, I took off her leash in my kitchen and then she heard the dog, so she started walking out towards my car. At my car, that's when I was like, Quinn get inside and then she heard the dog again and she just went running over there. We don't leave the door open for that reason.

Ms. Zacharewiez: Well, that weekend was the coldest weekend so the door shouldn't have been open. But it's unfortunate it happened.

Ms. Racine: No, I know.

Ms. Zacharewiez: We wish it didn't happen either. We don't want to have a huge mess with you, you are our neighbors.

Ms. Racine: Yes, we're right next to,

Ms. Zacharewiez: It was just very upsetting and because it has happened twice, you know, once to me as you know you walked out and apologized to me. I'm glad he didn't get his throat that day because honestly, he chomped his tags right off my dog's collar that day.

Ms. Racine: It's the first time she has ever done anything like that. We have videos of her running out on the beach.

Mr. Goncalves: Okay, you guys can go for coffee one day, let's just get through this. James, you got something?

Ms. Zacharewiez: I'm just saying because our driveways practically,

Mr. Gennette: I apologize that I'm not there for the meeting, but you know, one of the things that I just wanted to say is that I'm really happy to hear that Quinn's family is interested in doing everything they can to kind of secure Quinn because Mr. and Mrs. Zacharewiez have every right to their peaceful enjoyment and if they can't even go out on their deck, you know, with their dog or for whatever they need to do. I can't imagine that this should ever, ever come back to us again. This should be locked down and taken care of.

Ms. Anderson: I agree.

Mr. Goncalves: Okay. Thanks James.

Ms. Anderson: Thank you James.

Mr. Rosenblum: We don't really need a motion, do we?

Mr. Silva: Yes, she wants one.

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Moved by Mr. Rosenblum that they take the recommendations of the Animal Control Officer and we do not designate this a dangerous dog and if over three months and that if there's any reports, report back within three months with an update to the situation, seconded by Mr. Silva. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Mr. Goncalves: Okay guys, good luck.

Moved by Mr. Rosenblum to close the dangerous dog hearing at 6:59 p.m., seconded by Mr. DeBarge. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

7:00 p.m. Tiana Steffenhagen – New Town Accountant

Mr. Strange explained that they were scheduled to have a visitation with Tiana Steffenhagen, who was supposed to be the new Town Account. She is currently the Assistant Accountant for the City of Chicopee. She has decided to stay in Chicopee and so the quest for a new Town Accountant will continue here in Ludlow.

Mr. Silva stated that it's important for the Town of Ludlow to retain their employees and pay them well because it's very hard to find good employees now.

Mr. DeBarge does not believe this particular position was not filled due to the salary. But it is unfortunate.

7:15 p.m. John Hanifin, Resident – Request to discuss reimbursement of fees for unblocking sewer line.

Mr. Goncalves read the letter Mr. Hanifin sent into the Board of Selectmen on February 21st.

Mr. Hanifin explained that his sewer was blocked on the 19th and the plumber came out on the 20th and they found the blockage to be out in the road. His neighbor also stated that he was experiencing slow drainage. Once he told the plumber about the neighbor, the plumber went and popped the cover and saw that it was backed up into Mr. Hanifin's sewer line. The plumber tried to clear it but couldn't, so he told Mr. Hanifin to contact the DPW. The DPW came out and flushed it. The plumber cleaned out Mr. Hanifin's line. The cost was $685 for this. He submitted the invoice to the BPW and at their meeting of January 31st he was watching the meeting and the BPW wasn't sure where the 65' blockage was. They said if it was in the road, it's their responsibility and if it's on his property, then it's his responsibility. It was denied by the BPW. Mr. Hanifin then requested to attend the next BPW meeting and showed them where the blockage was, and they still denied it. Mr. Hanifin then looked into the bylaws and the bylaws state that the DPW is responsible up to the street sideline and the residents are responsible from the street sideline to their house. The DPW is still refusing it.

Mr. DeBarge asked if Mr. Hanifin knew why they denied it the second time?

Mr. Hanifin said he did not know why.

Mr. Goncalves asked if it was because the DPW wanted him to call them first?

Mr. Hanifin explained that they did say he should have called them first per the notice that was on the webpage. That notice went up on February 2nd and his blockage occurred on January 19th. He did not know anything about that.

Mr. Goncalves asked if Mr. Hannifin's plumber would have been able to unblock the line without getting the DPW involved?

Mr. Hannifin stated that the plumber told him if he would have unblocked his line without the DPW unblocking the line in the street, it would have blocked right back up again. He also mentioned that the DPW was back on his street that morning cleaning out the same sewer line for his neighbor.

Mr. Rosenblum stated that when he read what happened he agreed with Mr. Hannifin, if his own toilet was clogged, he'd call a plumber, not the DPW. If the plumber determines that the blockage is at the street then there shouldn't be an issue for the DPW to take care of this.

Mr. Silva explained that they are trying to dissolve the BPW and it's going to a vote in the town election and does not feel that the Board of Selectmen have any authority to override them right now.

Mr. DeBarge believes that the Board of Selectmen should have the authority but would like to check with the town attorneys.

Mr. Hannifin stated that this is an ongoing issue and other neighbors have had the same issue.

Mr. Goncalves assured Mr. Hannifin that they will be in touch once the town election is over.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Budget Updates: Governor Healey's local aid proposal hit the streets last week and it was good news on the educational funding front. That is, Chapter 70, charter school reimbursements, and school choice tuition funding increased by 5%. The total impact on the town's budget is approximately $608,000 in additional available funding. This number will fluctuate as the House and Senate craft their budgets, but historically this number does not change too much. We also received the town's proposed Chapter 90 funding, which was essentially level funded in the Governor's proposal.

DPW Updates: Issues and anomalies continue to plague the BPW's oversight of DPW management and staff. BPW member, Dan Soares, recently resigned from the board, but remains on the March 27th town election ballot. Chairman Steve Santos is up for re-election, but is not officially on the ballot; however, since nobody else returned nomination papers, Mr. Santos can get written back in as a BPW member and likely will be. And questions remain as to whether Mr. Soares will rejoin the board after the town election (if the BPW retains its authority). There is heavy speculation that he would.

Also, the DPW Director recently promoted a PW2 to an open PW3 position, which has been open for months. The PW2 was the only applicant. However, the BPW then voted to not promote the PW2 because, apparently, the PW2 did not have the required credentials even though the Board promoted a PW3 to a PW4 who also did not have the required credentials. Past practice allows DPW staffers up to 6 months to obtain credentials if they are otherwise qualified. So, one can reasonably wonder if the DPW Director's promotion was negated as a show of authority by the Board.

We have also heard from multiple DPW staff members that they have lost faith in the BPW's ability to lead. Morale is extremely low. Employees do not feel appreciated. OSHA-required equipment is missing, vehicles are not being properly maintained, and safety protocols have not been followed. Staff do not feel supported by the board in terms of investing in their success and the department. There are also issues with the BPW and DPW Director's relationship again.

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We are seeing these issues negatively impacting town residents. For example, the transfer station was closed unexpectedly last Saturday because the DPW did not have enough staffing to handle the winter storm and also keep the transfer station open. Unfortunately, the Board of Selectmen does not currently have any authority to remedy these situations.

First Year Recap: Hard to believe but March 14th will mark our one-year anniversary together and what a year that it's been. Here is a sampling of what we've been able to accomplish:

- Began the ***municipal electric aggregation*** process with MassPowerChoice
- Hired the town's ***first Chief Procurement Officer*** and ***Facilities Director***
- Hired a ***new municipal law firm*** (Mead, Talerman & Costa), which expanded access to legal services while saving the town $40,000 annually.

- ***Reconfigured the town's IT department*** by reducing town staff and outsourcing to a third-party vendor, which saved the town $50,000 annually.
- Lead the effort to ***combine the town's elected Treasurer and elected Collector into one appointed Treasurer/Collector*** position. Combining the offices would save the town more than $100,000 annually.
- Lead the effort to ***transfer authority from the town's elected Board of Public Works to the Board of Selectmen***
- ***Financial Management Review*** performed by the Department of Revenue's Division of Local Services to explore ways for the town to improve its financial standing. The final report is expected in late Spring 2023.
- Established the town's ***first five-year Capital Improvement Plan*** starting in Fiscal Year 2024
- Established ***monthly Department Head meetings.***
- Established ***monthly Finance Team meetings.***
- Established ***monthly meetings with the School Superintendent and School Business Manager*** to share budgetary expectations and projections.
- Established a ***monthly "Tea with the TA"*** at the Ludlow Senior Center
- Created a ***new town website*** using the CivicPlus platform. Previously, Ludlow's town website was a locally created and hosted site with limited communication features. The new site prioritizes communication with constituents, enhances security, and captures the spirit of Ludlow.
- ***Publishing town and zoning bylaws*** on new website via Municode in July 2023
- ***Upgrading Munis*** from the 11.3 version to the cloud-based 2021.7 version
- Hired ***ClearGov***, which is a cloud-based budgeting tool, to move away from budgeting spreadsheets and make the budget process more efficient, transparent, and accessible for all.
- Upgraded town's operating platform to cloud-based ***Microsoft Office 365***
- Created a ***Facilities Condition Assessment*** for all town-owned buildings.
- Established a ***new Veterans Center*** space that will be the new home for Ludlow veterans where they can gather, use computers for job searches, use private space for telehealth appointments and enjoy a weekly food pantry.
- Received multiple ***grants*** for: *Succession Planning* (Community Compact), *Economic Development Planning* (Community Compact), *East Street Revitalization District Update* (DHCD—Community Planning), *Facilities Management Software* (MIIA), and *Ludlow Mills Millside Drive Construction* (MassWorks)

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Some updates from the departments are as follows:

With respect to the Vet Center the Ludlow VFW donated $10,000 to the new Vets center to help purchase items to support the opening. This will help with furniture and incidentals. They also received donated furniture from a law firm going out of business.

The HR Department provided a list of current openings, and we now have a new part time local building inspector, Joe Molay and he starts on Monday.

The Building Department stated the inspections done year over year, 23' – 22' there were 420 inspections completed between August 22' and February 23'. Compared to 181 done between August 21' and February 22'.

CORRESPONDENCE:

18. Letter from Board of Health – notifying the Board of the structure of the Health Department and its positions.

    Mr. Goncalves read the letter from the Board of Health.

    Mr. Gennette asked for clarification with the letter.

    Mr. Rosenblum believes it is more like an ultimatum.

    Mr. Gennette will not approve another position for the Board of Health. They approved the Public Health Director and agreed to defund the other position and he is not willing to change that.

    Mr. Silva agrees with Mr. Gennette, and we do not have the funds to do that anyways.

    Mr. DeBarge agrees with Mr. Gennette and Mr. Silva but would like to have a Director at the Board of Health also. He also believes they should have another nurse but that's it.

    Mr. Rosenblum agrees with the Board of Selectmen.

    Mr. Strange stated that on April 4th the Board will be voting on the budget as well as some positions. He also stated that if every board in town had their own budget, there would be 20 different budgets and that's just not feasible.

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

19. Mechilia Salazar, President of the Ludlow Community Center – informing the Board of her resignation.

    Moved by Mr. Silva to accept the resignation of Mechilia Salazar as the Director of the Ludlow Community Center and send a thank you, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

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20. Brian Shameklis – Chairman Safety Committee – informing the Board they are recommending temporarily eliminating the East Street School parking spots from Merrimac Street to 494 East Street until the end of the school year.

Moved by Mr. Silva to have the Safety Committee notify the DPW and have the "No Parking" signs put up on Merrimac Street and East Street until the end of the school year, seconded by Mr. Gennette. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

21. Planning Board – informing the Board they approved the change of occupancy for the Town of Ludlow Veterans Services to be located at 487 Holyoke Street.

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

22. Shawn Giroux, Arborist, Transmission Vegetation Management – informing the Board that Eversource Energy will be performing vegetation work on Chapin Street.

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

23. Department of Environmental Protection – Notice of Noncompliance at 48 Baker Street – failure to submit a Tier Classification submittal or Permanent or Temporary Solution.

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

24. Chief Valadas – request to charge off medical expenses and lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for an injury sustained by a Police Officer as a result of an incident that occurred on February 17, 2023.

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Moved by Mr. Rosenblum to approve the request to charge off medical expenses and lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for an injury sustained by a Police Officer as a result of an incident that occurred on February 17, 2023, seconded by Mr. Silva. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

25. William S. Salomaa, Director, Office of Dam Safety DCR – reminding the Board to Perform Annual Emergency Action Plan (EAP) Review and Update per 302 CMR 10.11.

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

26. Helder Cerqueira – informing the Board of his interest in filling the vacancy for the open seat with the Conservation Commission.

Moved by Mr. DeBarge to appoint Helder Cerqueira to the vacant seat on the Conservation Commission, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

27. Gyalchen Sherpa, Pizza Corner -application for Common Victualler and Entertainment Licenses – New Owner.

Moved by Mr. Silva to approve the change for the Common Victualler and Entertainment Licenses for Pizza Corner to Gyalchen Sherpa, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

UNFINISHED BUINESS

Board to approve and Chairman to sign change orders #10, #12, #14, #15, #21, #22, and #23 for the Radio Communication Project.

Moved by Mr. DeBarge to approve and Chairman to sign change orders #10, #12, #14, #15, #21, #22, and #23 for the Radio Communication Project, seconded by Mr. Silva. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Board to sign the Common Victualler and Entertainment Licenses for Pizza Corner for 2023, if approved – for New Owner.

Board signed the Common Victualler and Entertainment Licenses for Pizza Corner.

NEW BUSINESS

Board to discuss Town Administrator's performance evaluation.

Mr. Silva stated that the Chairman usually puts something together and then brings it to the Board to review.

Mr. Gennette also recommends getting HR's input as well.

Mr. Strange stated that he had already reached out to HR.

Board and Town Administrator to discuss goals for the upcoming year.

Mr. Silva stated that he believes Mr. Strange has laid out all of the goals previously and he's okay with that.

Board to discuss and vote on using 40R funds for Wright Pierce overages in the amount of $29,602.44.

Mr. Strange explained that it is related to the Riverside Project, and it was overages not covered by either the EDA grant or the MassWorks Grant. This was for the Engineering firm.

Moved by Mr. Silva to approve the 40R funds for Wright Pierce overages in the amount of $29,602.44, seconded by Mr. DeBarge. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Board to discuss and vote on using ARPA funds for Mott MacDonald's services in the amount of $77,000 for Ludlow High School Sports Field Improvement Project.

Mr. Goncalves asked what happened with the $100,000 the town took from 40R and the $100,000 that the town received from the state for this project?

Mr. Strange was not sure what happened in the past, but this particular invoice is for engineering service with the additional baseball field.
Mr. Goncalves would like to know where that money went before approving this one.

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Moved by Mr. DeBarge to table this discussion for ARPA funds for Mott MacDonald's services, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Board to discuss and vote on using ARPA funds for O'Reilly Talbot and Okun Associates for Demolition Contractor Selection Administration Support in the amount of $730.00

Moved by Mr. DeBarge to use the ARPA funds for O'Reilly Talbot and Okun Associates for Demolition Contractor Selection Administration Support in the amount of $730.00, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Mr. DeBarge stated that the DPW is having the same issues it's always had and the town

definitely needs change. He is very excited about the new Vet's Center and all of the new programs they will be able to offer to our Veterans. Mr. DeBarge also reminded the residents that State Rep. Aaron Saunders will have an office there and Senator Jake Oliveria will also have hours there. Marc has made a lot of good changes this past year and they are looking forward towards the future.

Mr. Rosenblum stated that Mr. DeBarge and himself attended the 50th anniversary of the Ludlow Elks on Saturday. It was a great time and a great organization. He congratulated the Ludlow High School Hockey team, they are Western Mass Champs, but they lost in states due to injuries. Reminded residents that things are happening in town and to be patient. The track and field at the high school is moving forward and hopefully breaking ground soon.

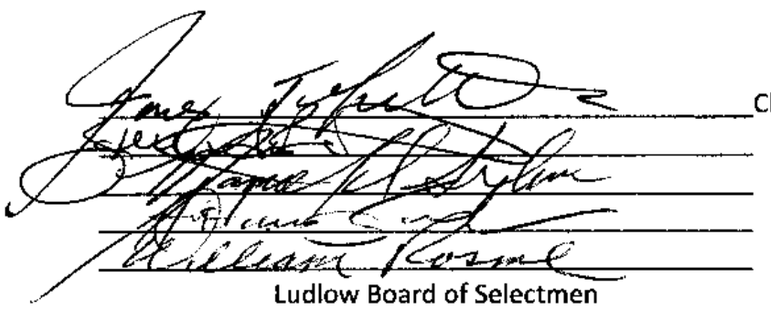
Mr. Silva agreed with Mr. DeBarge about the DPW and reminded residents to vote on March 27th.

Mr. Gennette believes that the Board should have goals not only for next year but for 5 or 10 years out. He would rather be proactive than reactive. Mr. Gennette gave a shout out to Chris Kellogg and the Kellog Team who read books to the students at Harris Brook School, which was wonderful. He also stated that he is going to miss Chile, she has done a lot at the Community Center and she will be missed.

Mr. Goncalves expressed that residents need to get involved with the elections and running for offices. The Board of Selectmen are going to try and go out for Charter to possibly get approval from the State to change the form of government in Ludlow. This will make the town more efficient and streamline things.

Moved by Mr. Rosenblum, to adjourn this meeting at 7:46 p.m., not return to open session, and to enter into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing strategy in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel, seconded by Mr. Silva. Vote 5-0. All in favor.

Mr. Rosenblum – yes, Mr. Gennette - yes, Mr. DeBarge – yes, Mr. Silva – yes, Mr. Goncalves – yes.



Chairman

Ludlow Board of Selectmen

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