The Meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, began at 5:30 p.m. in the Board of Selectmen's Conference Room.

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

Members Absent: None

Board to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation because an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to exit executive session at 6:24 p.m. and return to our regular meeting. **Mr. Rosenblum second. Roll call. Mr. Rosenblum yes, Mr. Silva yes, Mr. DeBarge yes, Mr. Goncalves yes, Mr. Gennette yes. Motion passed 5-0.**

Mr. Gennette: We are out of executive session. Before we get going, I have a citation for Cindy Minie. We the Board of Selectmen are proud to present this certification and recognition to Cindyrae Minie upon your retirement from the Board of Selectmen's office. Cindy began her career with the Town of Ludlow when she was hired as a part-time permanent employee for the Westover Golf Course on July 10, 1988. One year later she went to the recreation department and in 1995 she was hired as a full-time employee in the accounting office. On November 4, 1996, she became the assistant town accountant. During her time with the town, she also served as the LATOSS union president and secretary of the personnel board until it was dissolved. She retired on May 12, 2023, to spend well deserved time with her family and friends. Cindy was an integral part of office administration in multiple departments in town and her dedication did not go unnoticed. With deep appreciation for your outstanding contribution and dedication to the community, we the Board of Selectmen present this certificate with recognition to you, Cindy Minie, and extend our congratulations and best wishes for a long and healthy retirement filled with special memories with your family and friends. Board of Selectmen. Thank you to Cindy.

CORRESPONDENCE

60. Elaine Zimnoski – Immunization Coordinator – Big Y Foods, Inc. – thanking the Town of Ludlow and Angela Kramer for her professionalism and initiative with the vaccine clinics that took place between the Town of Ludlow and Big Y Pharmacy since December 2021.

Mr. Silva: It's nice to hear that.

61. Laurie Smith, Chairman – Celebrate Ludlow Committee requesting approval for the event to be held October 14, 2023, with a rain date of October 15th at Memorial Park.

Motion made by Mr. DeBarge to approve the Celebrate Ludlow Committee's request for the Celebrate Ludlow event on October 14, 2023, with a rain date of October 15th at Memorial Park.

Mr. Silva: Mr. DeBarge, do you know what the event is?

Mr. DeBarge: You mean Celebrate Ludlow?

Mr. Silva: That's the actual date?

Mr. DeBarge: That's Celebrate Ludlow.

Mr. Silva: It sounded to me like there was an event they wanted to do prior.

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Mr. Goncalves second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.

62. John R. Maher, Director of Government Affairs, Charter Communications – providing a copy of the 2022 Annual Financial Report for Massachusetts CTV Form 200 (Financial Balance Sheet) and the CTV Form 400 (Statement of Ownership).

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to file. **Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

63. July Siebecker, Head of Youth Services, Hubbard Memorial Library – requesting permission from the Board to use the lawn adjacent to the library every Tuesday from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. during the warm months for their weekly "Sing With Me" program and any additional days they deem fit.

Mr. DeBarge: She had me at 8-12 on Tuesdays, but the any additional days they deem fit, I'm a little curious about. If we approve the Tuesday from 10-12, I have no problem with that, but any other days, I don't know. The space really isn't being used but I don't know. That's the only concern I had.

Mr. Rosenblum: If you're doing a specific time and then any time you see fit you basically eliminate the 10-12 and you're basically saying you can do it any time you want.

Mr. DeBarge: It says additional days, it doesn't say time. It says any additional days they deem fit.

Mr. Gennette: It seems a little over the top.

Mr. DeBarge: A little open ended.

Mr. Silva: I think we should approve the Tuesdays and request they submit the other days.

Mr. DeBarge: I second that.

Mr. Gennette: That's not an official motion.

Motion made by Mr. Silva to approve the head of youth services at Hubbard Memorial Library for their request for Tuesdays from 10-12 and to submit any other days thereafter if needed. **Mr. DeBarge second.**

Mr. Goncalves: The letter that came in doesn't talk about any additional names. That's on our agenda item but the letter itself doesn't talk about anything but Tuesdays 10-12. I'm not really sure where the additional days...that's one of us, somebody in our office, but that's not necessarily the request from the person.

Mr. DeBarge: That's my concern.

Mr. Rosenblum: Wasn't there an email that asked, a follow up to the email that said something to the effect that they were going to amend the motion. There was another email that said they wanted to amend the motion to have that leniency and have extra days. There was a follow up to it.

Mr. Strange: It says we will ask for permission to use the lawn for more dates than just Tuesday mornings. Could you word it generally for now to be put on the agenda. We will quickly gather up all the dates we need scheduled.

Mr. Rosenblum: That goes to his motion right there that they're going to gather their other days. That's fine.

All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Gennette: I skipped over the Town Administrators report. Marc, do you want to go back to that?

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Strange: Sure, On Thursday this week, Carrie and I are having a call with Michael Ward from the UMASS Boston Collins Center for Public Management to discuss a scope of services for them to guide the soon to be appointed hopefully government study committee. The Collins Centers one of their core competencies is charter change assistance and government study facilitation and Mr. Ward is the head of that group. I had actually spoken to him on other occasions, and he comes very

highly recommended. They're also a quasi-governmental agency so we won't have to worry about procurement. Next on the list is the sports complex. Also on Thursday, Mott MacDonald is coming out to do a site visit to review the site conditions. That's kind of the last step in putting together the bid documents. The project timeline has us awarding the bid in June. We could potentially still meet that time frame but most likely will be pushed back a little bit. Construction is currently scheduled for the last 6 months. Right now, it's July to December 2023. The Healy Driscoll administration, like every administration before them are conducting listening sessions in various regions. The pioneer valley economic planning listening session is this Friday from 2-4 p.m. at Springfield College. Everybody is welcome. The Board members are welcome. The public is welcome. I'll be attending. I'd love to see more familiar faces there. We're also starting off our succession planning, Mary Aicardi from the Collins Center is going to be attending our monthly department head meeting next week to introduce the process and talk a little bit with the department heads about what to expect. After that we'll be scheduling individual meetings with each department head to discuss their succession planning needs and ideas. Lastly, we have a call this week with Constellation Energy to review the towns energy usage and determine if there's opportunities for us to save energy and money. My last comment on that is becoming a green community would help us achieve that goal.

Mr. Silva: Marc, didn't we become a green community already?

Mr. DeBarge: We didn't complete it. Fresh code. We tried before just didn't. Great stuff. Thanks Marc.

Mr. Gennette: Thanks Marc. Moving on.

Board to appoint Tree Warden.

Mr. Strange: The DPW is not quite ready yet to make a recommendation. They're still vetting current employees and determining exactly what the educational or experience requirements are. They're checking with the state and also talking with current employees and not ready to make a recommendation just yet.

Motion made by Mr. DeBarge to table the appointment of the tree warden until we have better information from our director. **Mr. Rosenblum second.**

Mr. Silva: Marc, would it be advisable to put it out there to somebody who might want to do it. It doesn't necessarily need to be an employee of the DPW. We might have an arborist out there that might want to take that on.

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Mr. DeBarge: It's not a separate position. It's a stipend.

Mr. Strange: Some towns have done this. You'd have to create a job description as a tree warden and put it out. You'd also have to pay that person.

Mr. Silva: It's a small stipend. Wilbraham had a tree warden that was from outside.

Mr. Strange: Some towns do that.

Mr. Silva: If we don't have anyone that's qualified to take on that burden. It's just an idea.

All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.

Board to approve and sign Selectmen Meeting Minutes of February 7, 2023.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to approve and sign the selectmen meeting minutes of February 7, 2023. Everybody was here. **Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Board to approve and sign Selectmen Meeting Minutes of February 21, 2023.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to approve and sign the selectmen meeting minutes of February 21, 2023, with everybody present. **Mr. DeBarge second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Board to approve and sign Selectmen Meeting Minutes of March 7, 2023.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to approve and sign Selectmen Meeting Minutes of March 7, 2023. All members present. Mr. Gennette was remote. **Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Board to approve and sign Selectmen Meeting Minutes of March 21, 2023.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to sign Selectmen Meeting Minutes of March 21, 2023. All members present. **Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

NEW BUSINESS

Board to approve annual appointments.

Mr. Gennette: Marc, is this what I mentioned to you before about the Board appointments? I think we have to review this again and go through what the different boards are because some of them have been eliminated. I think the computer advisory committee, in particular, was one eliminated.

Mr. Strange: I think we took this list from the town report. I think I mentioned this before. The town report is a little awkward because it's the 2022 town report. Whatever people were on those committees and those committees that were still active or hadn't been decommissioned were included in the town report. I can go back through and clean this up and you can make the appointments then.

Mr. Gennette: Let's table it for now.

Mr. Silva: Marc, are some of these committees pressed for time? Because if you're not appointed to certain committees they technically can't function if their appointed date is expired so we need to look at that as well.

Mr. Strange: I'll take a loot at that. That's a good point.

Mr. Gennette: Board to appoint the following Open Space Planning Committee Members: Joel Silva, Planning Board Member; Penny Lebel, Conservation Commission Member; Angie Tierney, Alternate Conservation Commission Member; Joao Dias, School Committee Member; John Archambeau, Recreation Commission Member; William Ellison, Agricultural Commission Member; James Goodreau, Department of Public Works Member; Jamie Dumas, Alternate Department of Public Works Member; William Rosenblum, Board of Selectmen Member; Ryan Linton, Private Citizen; Elaine Hodgman, Private Citizen.

Motion made by Mr. Silva to appoint the individuals as stated by the Chairman to the Open Space Planning Committee. **Mr. DeBarge second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Board to discuss and possibly vote on a request from Mark Budzyna to have the town reimburse for vehicle damages allegedly caused by a pothole.

Mr. Gennette: I think this was in everybody's report. I don't know if you've had an opportunity to take a look at it. This has been a long-time complaint. Marc, do you want to give a little background on this.

Mr. Strange: This complaint was originally filed with the DPW and Board of Public Works. I don't know the history with the Board of Public Works, but according to Mr. Budzyna, the board was scheduled to finally make a decision on this before the town election vote. So now the issue is the town election results were publicized and he followed back up with us and requested the board take a look at this.

Mr. Gennette: So, this wasn't a request by the former Board of Public Works that was denied, right?

Mr. Goncalves: It appeared they were going to look into it but they were disbanded.

Mr. Gennette: So, no action was ever taken. Any comments, questions anybody?

Mr. Silva: There's some ambiguous remarks. I looked at it as to whether or not the town was actually aware. The only time the town is actually liable for potholes and any damage to vehicles is if it's reported and the town knows there's a pothole.

Mr. Goncalves: There's a report here.

Mr. Silva: Was the town actually notified. Does the town know that the pothole is there?

Mr. Goncalves: They were notified in May.

Mr. Strange: It's ambiguous. The report indicates there's potholes on State Street. There certainly was notice there was potholes or had been potholes on State Street. The question is was this pothole one of those potholes.

Mr. Goncalves: State Street was repaved right? And a second time they had to fix a couple of areas there. I'm just thinking of when that was.

Mr. Gennette: It depends on how far down does Stevens come and where does Stevens meet up with State Street, because that corner on Stevens is pretty nasty.

Mr. Goncalves: It's way at the end.

Mr. Gennette: I know but which part, where does it switch over to Stevens?

Mr. Goncalves: When you take a left-hand turn. You take a 90 degree off of State.

Mr. Gennette: That other corner there. There's a slight corner after...

Mr. Goncalves: That's coming into Fatima field by First Avenue. That's still State Stret. And it goes all the way to Stevens the other way.

Mr. Gennette: That's a pretty bad section.

Mr. Goncalves: That's a pretty bad area.

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Mr. DeBarge: As a policeman I've gone to countless calls. People stranded on the side of the road, West Street, West Ave, everywhere, with a blown-out tire and that was easy. These are difficult. Going forward, how can you be sure it was reported, how can you be sure it's that exact pothole without specific evidence. I think going forward we need to make sure we have some criteria in front of us with on scene pictures and possibly maybe a police report that would help us out. Yes, to your point Mr. Goncalves, I read the report too. Bill said it, I'm sorry maybe you did, if it was reported and not taken care of then we are liable. It's just how do you know that one pothole that's in question without any pictures was that one that caused it.

Mr. Gennette: For myself, I don't know how we dispute the claim. If the official claim is there, we can't say it didn't happen.

Mr. DeBarge: I'm not disputing this claim, I'm saying going forward.

Mr. Gennette: What are they asking for again? What's the claim?

Mr. Rosenblum: $489.

Mr. Gennette: I would be inclined because of the transfer of power here and we really don't know what the situation was. I think we need to clear this up. And we're going to talk about that in a second. I would be inclined to pay it.

Mr. Silva: Marc, could we possibly get what the previous board, Mr. Batista could probably tell us something what the board actually did in these cases. Were they really paying these things?

Mr. DeBarge: No. In my knowledge of it, they were denying.

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Mr. Silva: Maybe we can get some confirmation. I'd hate to pay something and start...

Mr. Goncalves: Open a can of worms.

Mr. Silva: Without something significant, like Mr. DeBarge was saying, knowledge of what really transpired. What if the police are there and they actually see the pothole that's actually what did it. When you travel through roads, that could have been the final pothole. You could have gotten damage elsewhere. I don't know. It's difficult.

Mr. DeBarge: I think that brings up what our chairman was saying. I'd be inclined to pay this one as well and come up with a set of rules going forward because we weren't involved with this directly. Since there was some evidence that there was a report made specific to that pothole or not, there was a report made in their statement, saying they've reported it for years before it happened.

Mr. Goncalves: It was actually a month before. A month and a half. Six weeks. The report was on May 27, and this happened on 6/21.

Mr. Gennette: For me, this is an awful long way for somebody to go for a $480 bill. If I hit a pothole and it cost me $480, I'm sorry $680, unless there's some real big pothole where I'm really concerned about it, I'm just going to pay for my tire and move on about my day. I'm not going to chase this whole thing. I would give some validity to the claim based on that. I'm just saying, we need to fix the process for this and what do we do for this one. We're kind of stuck between a rock and a hard place. The resident's stuck between a rock and a hard place. I think we do the right thing and just take care of it.

Motion made by Mr. DeBarge to approve the request of Mr. Mark Budzyna to reimburse him for vehicle damages allegedly caused by a pothole on State Street up to $687. **Mr. Goncalves second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Mr. Gennette: On that discussion, what is the process for the community to report potholes. Obviously, my first inclination would be to tell the community that they have to inform the DPW that there's a problem pothole and the DPW director can kind of coordinate from there. If somebody has a claim for a tire or something, they can report it to the DPW. Are we going to let them handle a certain amount of claims? Are they going to handle up to a dollar amount. Are they going to have to get to the Town Administrator? If the community doesn't get anywhere with the DPW they can contact the Town Administrator directly and he can notify us or what exactly is the process as far as you guys are concerned? I don't want to hear every pothole.

Mr. Goncalves: Maybe form a mini committee to see what other communities do. Talk to MIIA. If it's ever something huge you could potentially have a pothole, and somebody smashes a post then you're looking at an insurance claim on that side. We've got time. We're not going to have potholes for a while, or we shouldn't. Not winter ones. At minimum, you've got to call the police. You're going to need a picture; we're going to need documentation that's fresh at that moment.

Mr. Rosenblum: Mr. Strange, have you come across anything like this before in Agawam or anything?

Mr. Strange: No, I think it's discretionary. In Agawam, the DPW director would talk to the mayor. In Longmeadow, I don't remember as a board member voting on whether to reimburse potholes or not. It doesn't mean it didn't happen, but I don't remember.

Mr. Gennette: I agree with a strict regiment of exactly what needs to be done and filed for to make a claim and maybe that should get put directly to the Board of Selectmen if there is a claim. If a claim went to the DPW you can kick it up to the Board of Selectmen's office.

Mr. Silva: I'm not so much concerned with a claim, I'm more concerned with the knowledge that the town has that knowledge. Somebody reported it and it's on record that there's a pothole there and the Board of Public Works should get out there and do it. If they don't then we're liable. Otherwise, we are not.

Mr. Gennette: That's why it has to go to the DPW first.

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Mr. Silva: I think that DPW has to keep a log or something that a complaint came in, such and such time of a pothole at the end of…then we can say OK there was a claim, and the town didn't fix it. As far as paying it or not, I have no problem with it if we didn't get to it.

Mr. DeBarge: But on those reimbursements we should come up with specific criteria, like Tony said, pictures and all of that. I don't think we need a committee for that. I'm against enacting any committees for anything. I think your office could probably do it with Jamie. Or you could do it Tony because you're good at that.

Mr. Goncalves: I don't mind putting something together. Maybe talk to other communities in the area and make sure we're on the same page with everybody else so people don't imagine they hit potholes here because in Wilbraham they don't get as good of a deal.

Mr. Gennette: So, we'll put something together, as far as the criteria for this and then we'll just yay or nay it afterwards. We'll bring it up in a meeting again at some point.

Motion made by Mr. DeBarge for Mr. Goncalves to do some due diligence on this and report to us later. **So moved by Mr. Goncalves.**

Board to discuss private stormwater retention agreements, including Maria's Way.

Mr. Gennette: The emails that I read was that the Planning Board and DPW have pretty much already said that we should not be taking care of these. Is that what their claims were? Does anybody have any further discussion about the stormwater retention areas? No? I don't know about you guys, but I think it's a non-issue if it's already been voted on by the Planning Board and DPW.

Mr. DeBarge: Do you need a vote from us?

Mr. Strange: It's probably cleaner that way so we can refer back to the minutes and say the board considered this and actually took a vote.

Motion made by Mr. Silva to take the Planning Board and DPW's recommendations, I'm not sure they had votes, and agree with their recommendation and votes and not taking it out of private agreements. **Mr. DeBarge second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Board to approve and sign contract with Westmass for grant administration services for the Millside Drive MassWorks Project.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to approve and sign the contract with Westmass for the grant administration services for the Millside Drive MassWorks project for 3 million dollars. **Mr. DeBarge second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Board to discuss the DLS Financial Management Review report and its recommendations.

Mr. Gennette: I love this report. It's the one I told you about last week that if you haven't had an opportunity to check it out, you should because it's pretty good.

Mr. DeBarge: I'm not going to get into breaking it down other than the fact that a lot of this was suggested a long time ago and now that we're taking action on some of this and moving forward with this, it just goes to show that the vision that this board has had and what we're investing in is in my opinion the right direction as proven by this report. This report is exactly what I was hoping to see as far as moving forward with changing our government, streamlining tax collection and treasury. Upgrading our MUNIS software and just getting better and better. It goes on and on and on to more good positive things that we can do. I hope that we continue to move forward.

Mr. Gennette: Can I get a motion?

Mr. Strange: I don't think we need to formally accept it.

Mr. Gennette: We're good then.

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Board to schedule a public hearing for Shreeji New Sung, Inc. dba Ludlow Liquors for end of June – transfer of liquor license from Turnpike Package.

Mr. Strange: At the last Planning Board meeting the Planning Board denied the site plan for 21 Harding Street so the recommendation is that the board table this item until they can amend their site plan.

Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum to table this. **Mr. DeBarge second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Board to discuss and possibly vote on using 40R funds to pay a consultant to assist the town in becoming a Green Community.

Mr. Strange: I included the estimate from PVPC who is a consulting agency that does a lot of this work on behalf of towns. I also printed out a bunch of stuff from the state website to give you a little bit of background. It sounds like this process was started before but wasn't completed. In terms of timing, there's the designation applications will be due sometime in the fall because there would be bylaw changes or additions that would have to be approved by town meeting. This process would have to get started pretty quickly and town meeting would have to approve those bylaw changes so they can be ready to file in the fall of 2023. To date, there is 351 municipalities in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and 290 of them have become green communities. There's also a list of grant awards. This was from fall of 2022. They're typically, and it really depends on the needs of the town, but in my experience they're anywhere between $150-$200,000. I think in recent years, because so many communities are now green communities, there's a cap depending on how many. I think you can only get so much grant funding over a period of time, but for a designation grant we'd probably be looking at somewhere between $150-$200,000. The way to become a green community is to meet the 5 criteria. #1 you need to have as of right siding for renewable energy. That's a zoning issue. # 2 is expedited permitting for renewable energy projects. That means the permitting process has to be done within 1 year. Often times that's kind of baked into the permitting process for towns and cities. # 3 is the meat and potatoes of the program. A consultant comes in and does an evaluation of all the town buildings and says this is your annual consumption for energy. This is your baseline and every year a town or city is looking to reduce that baseline by 20% via changing out lighting for LED lighting, improving HVAC, wrapping exposed pipes, there's all kinds of things you can do that the green community's program will fund. #4 is we'd have to create a policy that the town would purchase only fuel-efficient vehicles. That's hybrids and fully electric vehicles. # 5 is the stretch code. Criterion 5 is typically…we did this process in Agawam in 2017. The stretch code was the last criterion that gave people pause. Since then, from what I understand, the building code has really changed in a way that it got really close to what the stretch code was originally envisioned. You guys might know more about that, but I think the stretch code is really the one that if there was an objection, I think that would be one of the primary objections. Just wanted to provide that information and happy to answer any questions.

Mr. Goncalves: That's $7,500?

Mr. Strange: Our 40R fund is about $200,000 and change right now.

Mr. Gennette: Criterion 1 is a right of siding, renewable energies, alternative energy. Those are obviously not…it says a municipality must provide zoning for, but we obviously don't have to own. So, we have 4 hydro dams in the Chicopee River, and I don't know if this plays into it, but MMWEC is in the middle of a decarbonization and we're the host community for them. I don't know if that plays into anything. That may be something huge.

Mr. Strange: I suspect that in addition to that since we have already met criterion 1.

Mr. Gennette: They built the largest solar field in Massachusetts. This is great.

Motion made by Mr. DeBarge to use the 40R funds to pay a consultant to assist the town in becoming a green community. **Mr. Goncalves second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Board to discuss and possibly vote on using building infrastructure funds for TJ Conway ($1,296.00) and Johnson Controls ($1,865.00) invoices for Ludlow Community Center.

Mr. Gennette: We're looking for 2 amounts here?

Mr. Strange: The line item for the repair and maintenance for the Ludlow Community Center is almost fully expended and there's going to be another bigger expense than these coming down the pike. I think it has to do with the pool. The pool is really in tough shape. The pool has eaten up a lot of that line item. Just to be safe we're asking for approval to use the building infrastructure funds to pay for these 2.

Motion made by Mr. DeBarge to approve using building infrastructure funds for TJ Conway, $1,296 and Johnson Controls, $1,865 invoices for Ludlow Community Center. **Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Board to approve and sign the Common Victualler's License for Cady Street Meat Market, Inc., 16B Cady Street – New Owner Alexandre A. Carvalho.

Mr. Goncalves: I'll be abstaining for anything to do with this process.

Motion made by Mr. Silva to approve the Common Vic license for 16B Cady Street, owner Alexandre A. Carvalho for Cady Street Meat Market. **Mr. Rosenblum second. Motion passed 4-0-1.**

Mr. Goncalves: I wish Mr. Carvalho a lot of luck. Mr. Carvalho worked for me for 18 years.

Mr. Gennette: Any board updates? Anybody? Any committees? Anything like that?

Chairman to approve and sign all bills, warrants and abatements. A record of all warrants is in the Selectmen's office for perusal until provided to the Town Accountant's office.

Event Calendar:

May 29th – Memorial Day Parade

August 31 – September 4th – Festa

September 30th & October 1st – 3rd Annual Community Market @ Memorial Park

Mr. Gennette: Of course we just approved Celebrate Ludlow on October 14th with a rain date of October 15th.

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CLOSING COMMENTS

Mr. Goncalves: I'm glad that we got through town meeting. A little disappointed that we spent 80 million dollars, and nobody got up to complain about anything. They had a problem with 6 insignificant items. It's a lot of money. There was a teacher that got up and I thanked her for her comments, at least saying something. I think people need to get a little more involved. It's a lot of money and don't complain about your tax bill when it comes in if you're not willing to complain about how we're spending the money. We need you to let us know what you think doesn't make sense. If you're not going to tell us those things, we're going to assume you're ok with it. Let's get a little busier with that sort of stuff and get a little bit more involved. Thank you.

Mr. DeBarge: Town meeting. Sometimes I don't know what to say about it. I expected to be out of there at midnight. We were out of there at 10, which I'm grateful for. It seems like those that get up to speak, especially a town meeting where we're passing a budget like that, people get up to speak it's more about instead of asking questions its more complaining and its always the same people. It's a complaint about a process or a complaint about something else. We did get some questions, and those are the people that don't get up all the time. The ones that get up all the time are the ones that like to complain about everything. I think it shows if the population of this town would see the way the process works, I think they would endorse us in changing this government even more so. I am grateful we were able to pass the article to pay a consultant to go through the

charter commission change. Some of the events I went to. I went to the first veteran's luncheon at our new veteran's center. We're going to do a lunch for veterans the 2nd Tuesday of every month. That same night was the Ludlow 250th committee's celebrity bartender event, which was monetarily successful and a great time. Marc participated. Bill participated. The Sheriff, Police Chief, Fire Chief was there. We had our state auditor. Quite a few town celebrities and a good event. Happy Mother's Day to all moms out there. I want to make sure everybody knows about the events because we're not meeting again until the 30th. May 20th, this Saturday, is the Rotary Club's clothing and food drive. So, if you have clothes to donate or want to donate food to the Veteran's Center here in town, then between the hours of 10 a.m. and noon the Rotary Club will be at our new Vets Center at 487 Holyoke Street to collect those clothes and food. Also, on the 20th, Saturday night is the Veterans and military comedy night at the Gremio Lusitano Club. All veterans and military members don't need tickets to go there for free. It's a good time. It's adult content for anybody wondering so do not bring your children. Doors open at 6:30 and the event starts at 8:00. I'm not even remotely closely to being done Manny so just relax. May 26th. These are Memorial Day events. May 26th is the wreath laying ceremony that we have and that will be Friday, May 26th at 3:00 p.m. We start at Island Pond Cemetery then we come here to the high school at Sgt. Josh Desforge's memorial, which by the way May 12 was the anniversary date of his tragic passing in case anybody didn't know that. We go to the Center Street Cemetery and the Civil War memorial. That is May 26th, Friday at 3:00 p.m. Sunday May 28th at 7:00 p.m. is a candlelight vigil that we do. We started that a couple years ago. It's very cool. You should come out for that. That's at 7:00 p.m. Sunday, May 28th, candlelight vigil at the war memorial down at the gazebo area. Finally, Monday at 10:00 a.m., May 29th is our Memorial Day parade. We have Bruce Duran who is organizing the 250th parade next year who is organizing the Memorial Day parade for Eric, so looking forward to a large parade. Looking forward to everybody coming out. If you need any more information on any of these events, you can call me. Thanks.

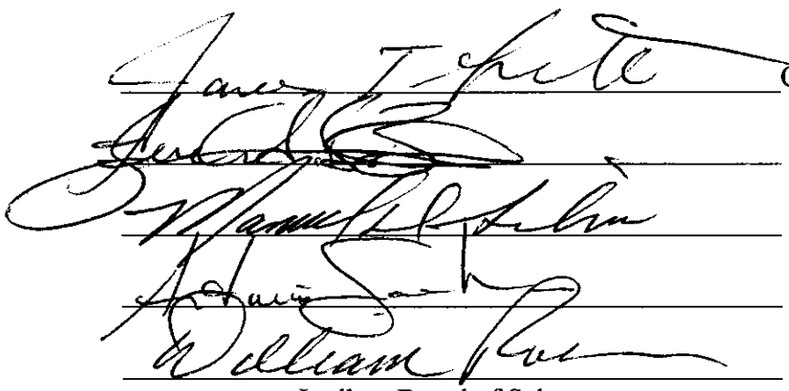
Mr. Silva: I have nothing.

Mr. Rosenblum: I just wanted to reiterate what Derek said about the 250th fundraiser at the Polish Club. It was a great event. The place was packed. A lot of fun. Slinging margaritas with Zanetta, my neighbor who's a Polish national. It was a really good time. Saw a lot of familiar faces and raised some good money. To reiterate with town meeting, I've always said that it seems that sometimes you watch people walk in and they tear open their packet once they get there. It's your chance. That's our form of government. I made a comment that apparently got picked up on the mic that said what a joke. To that point, it wasn't that had anything to do in particular with a certain budget item, it had to do with that I was surprised that we breezed through 30 million dollars whereas some articles it took us 2 extensions to get through, and not to say that those articles weren't important, but the budget is the most important article. It affects your taxes; it affects everything you do in this town. Again, after the meeting and a couple days of reflection I did think it was 10:30 at night, we had been there for 3 hours, and I can understand some people saying on with the vote. If we're going to scream on with the vote, then maybe we don't need to bring the budget to town meeting because we can pass it right here. It seems in the 4 years I've been here that budget breezes right through. I was ready for questions. I think any one of us could have answered a question on the budget. We're working for the betterment of the town. If people like to say drain the swamp or anything to the fact that we're doing or we're lining our pockets is ridiculous. All of us on this board are taking phone calls and doing things well outside any committee meetings that we do. We do it because we care. It's not that we have agendas to make someone's life miserable. We're getting there. We're doing our best. And actually, that DLS report talking about the fact that we had gone from 4.8 to 10% in our reserve funds we're just as healthy as we've ever been financially. These are things that you don't see but we do them on the backside. Someone was saying, why don't we just go into rainy day fund? No, we need to have our rainy-day fund at a certain percentage. It has to stay at a certain percentage for us to keep the rating that we get so if we want to go out and bond. There's a lot and there's nothing wrong with asking anyone on this board or in this office what about this. We're here to answer the questions. Our budget is an open book. As many people like to think I'd like to know where we're spending our money. We had 42 open line items that anybody could have asked during that meeting. Happy belated Mother's Day to all the moms out there. My mom got a plant that was this tall. It was supposed to be 5' tall in Savannah. That's good for 2 Mother's Day's. Thank you.

Mr. Gennette: At town meeting I was very surprised with the marijuana pass. I thought it would have been a lot closer than it was. I think that as far as the marijuana situation goes, I don't think people didn't want marijuana, I just think the community said we don't have to do everything. We

don't have to allow big box stores if we don't want to. We don't have to allow, well we do now because we have drive-thru's but some towns don't. We don't have to be everything to everybody. We have a community. We have a theme. We revolve around soccer. We have great open spaces and some things just don't fit our theme. I was very proud of our town meeting members the way they voted and the way they came out for that. That's pretty much everything. The budget is what it is. It's going to be difficult again next year. I don't know if the fed is done raising interest rates and whether or not we're going to be freed up as far as the housing market is going to look like coming up, but I have a feeling school is going to come in charging again next year and we're doing everything we can on this side so keep ready because we're going to have this battle again next year. With that being said, can I get a motion to close?

Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m. **Mr. Goncalves second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**



Chairman

Ludlow Board of Selectmen

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