The Meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on Tuesday, June 20, 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

First Order of Business: The Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Gennette: We have a 6:30 visitation for a dangerous dog hearing but we might as well get into some regular business before then. We'll move right into the Town Administrator's report, Mr. Strange.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Strange: Just a few things tonight. The Whitney Park playground, we've requested proposals from a few consultants for improvements and upgrades to the playground area at Whitney Park. The initial scope of service includes turning the tennis courts into a parking area and replacing the existing equipment with more contemporary themed and accessible equipment for kids aged 2-12. That's the initial scope. There will be a public component to this so a lot more to come there. We'll keep everyone updated as the project progresses.

Mr. Silva: Before we go further on that, we voted and requested to turn some of the tennis areas into pickleball. We voted for that probably 2 years ago.

Mr. DeBarge: I don't remember voting for it.

Mr. Silva: Yeah, we had somebody come in and requested it and we said that yes, we agree, we should update that.

Mr. DeBarge: We didn't vote on that.

Mr. Goncalves: I think that was something we discussed that possibly we could have used some of the ARPA money for depending on what happened with everything else that was going on. Part of the consideration process with the ARPA money.

Mr. Silva: I can't remember who the gentleman was that came in.

Mr. DeBarge: We definitely discussed it.

Mr. Silva: The gentleman came in with that request and we said that we were going to move forward. I don't know what ever happened to that. Out there I keep getting asked what is going on with that. Why are we not. Maybe we can find out before we…

Mr. Strange: Yes, I can respond after.

Mr. Rosenblum: If I remember, I think was back before you were a chairman, we had gone to a meeting and the Rec Department, which is part of DPW, said they were going to fund it themselves. It wasn't going to come from ARPA. Anything with the pickleball court. I remember there was a little tension on that whole thing and they said we can fund it, as in DPW, but nothing has gone from it there.

Mr. Gennette: That's what happened. I went to a meeting with the Board of Public Works, and they brought recreation in to talk about putting the last court over there into 2 pickleball courts. They approved it at the Board of Public Works, they were going to fund it out of the DPW budget. Recreation was the one that recommended it to them. I know Mr. McBride had an interest in pickleball. I'm against it so, I'm against it there, not in town but I'm against it right there. I think we did have a discussion here, but we did not have a vote any further past that.

Mr. Strange: Since I've been here, I remember having a discussion where somebody came in and we did a visitation, and they were requesting pickleball courts. I think the discussion surrounded

the noise at Whitney Park because there's residents there. I don't remember that there was a vote taken. I could be mistaken about that. My thought was to do pickleball here at Vets Park once the school is demo-d. I think we can probably do a field and pickleball courts because they're not that big and you're not going to get any of the surrounding objections from residents.

Mr. Silva: That's good. I just like to give these people that are questioning me an answer on what's going on because I've been telling them we had discussions with DPW, and it was in the works as far as I know, and this here is squashing it. If it's something that moved over here...something certainly has to be done. Every community has got them. I went by Palmer over by the high school and it's always busy and Westfield. That's all you hear. I think it's something that should be done for the residents because they're requesting it. As far as the noise, I've been at them, I've been watching and yeah there's a little noise but no more than I used to do when I was playing at the court at Whitney Park. It was virtually the same noise.

Mr. Strange: Let me just say the parking is what we've heard is a need up there. During these public information sessions, if people say they want pickleball instead of parking, that's the town's prerogative.

Mr. Rosenblum: We actually had an Open Space meeting last week or the week before. When we do board updates a lot of this discussion came up in that. I'll refer to that later.

Mr. DeBarge: I think the key thing here is initial scope of service evolves. We've had a lot of change over the past few months or year with planning the air conditioning for public safety, air conditioning here, going out to bond, freeing up the money that we initially set up. In a perfect world, especially with a thickly settled area like Whitney Park, I know we discussed a parking lot years ago, would be better for people there. If money wasn't an object with this, with how bad these tennis courts are at the high school and how bad these tennis courts need to be redone, there is your ticket right there, and the school should be involved in this as well, completely doing tennis courts over and making them both. The Vets Park space is a great idea too. I would prefer to keep those courts if there are going to be a multiple number of courts, I would prefer to keep them out of thickly settled areas. What are you going to do? Put a curfew on the park, put up lights, let them play until 10 and all that other stuff. I think this area is much better.

Mr. Gennette: Just to add on to that, Mr. Bortolo had come to Capital Planning the year before last with a project for those courts and if I'm not mistaken, he came in at 4 million for those courts. Just to let you know DPW said they were going to redo the Whitney courts for $98,000. Maybe it wasn't 4 million, I apologize. I have a different project in mind. It was very high. It was close to a million.

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Mr. Goncalves: How about the Boys and Girls Club Community Center there? They've got pickleball. One.

Mr. Gennette: They do. They put it up there before Chili had changed. They had done a lot of work up there and pickleball was a part of that. I don't think that anybody doubts that pickleball would be great. If we can hit on all fronts and put it over here where Vets Park is going to be maybe we talk about the tennis courts over here getting redone and parking lot at Whitney and hit on all of them. It's just a matter of getting everything done and we don't have the money in the budget right now. That was approved by the Board of Public Works to do that project, providing they had the money, like Mr. Rosenblum said. But they have no money at DPW.

Mr. Strange: I also wanted to talk about the downtown area DIF. We requested a proposal from WestMass Area Development who does DIF work. DIF is a district improvement financing program that the state sponsors. We asked WestMass about expanding the current DIF. The current DIF is just the Ludlow Mills area. The idea is to expand the district as much as possible and reasonable to potentially include all of State Street to Stevens down East Street all the way to the Putts Bridge up Center Street north of Sewall Street down Hubbard and Lockland and back to East Street. It's a pretty big swath but captures most of the downtown area. This would allow us to use a portion of the increased tax revenue associated with construction of Mill 8 and Mill 11 in the future and new investments on Riverside Drive and the to be constructed Millside Drive to improve infrastructure in the newly expanded district without taxpayer dollars. Initially we'd be specifically targeting the end of State Street and all of Stevens to be reclaimed and repaved. Potentially mill

and overlay East Street. East Street streetscape improvements and purchasing a property for municipal parking. All ideas but that's the power of the DIF district.

Mr. Gennette: I've had a couple people say what is exactly going on with Mass Development. Do we have anything we can really tell people what's coming as far as the development along the riverwalk.

Mr. Strange: Jeff Daley is coming on July 11 for an update.

Mr. Silva: They usually bring in charts and maps where the roads are going.

Mr. Strange: Along those same lines we have an East Street revitalization update. Weston & Sampson has completed the first part of their study, which includes an updated East Street revitalization overlay district bylaw, updated design standards and recommendations for streetscape improvements, which includes banners on the streetlights, the lighting poles along the sidewalk, street planters, gateway arches, traffic coning devices, pocket parks and some more stuff. The next step is a questionnaire being sent out to East Street businesses asking their opinions about what they would like to see in terms of parking improvements, streetscape improvements and the like. Finally, financial forecasting. The same team from the Department of Revenue that created the financial management review is also working on a financial forecast for the town, which is going to look at the past 5 fiscal year revenues and expenditures to help us forecast the next 5 fiscal years to help guide our budgeting process. It will also be used as a template we can use for financial forecasting moving forward. We should have a final report on that sometime in the fall.

Mr. Gennette: Excellent, perfect. Thank you, Mr. Strange. Any further discussion about the Town Administrator's report? None. Let's move on to correspondence.

74. Chief Pease – request to charge off medical expenses and lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for an injury sustained by a firefighter/paramedic as a result of an incident that occurred on June 2, 2023.

Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum to approve a request to charge off medical expenses and lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for an injury sustained by a firefighter/paramedic as a result of an incident that occurred on June 2, 2023. **Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

75. Brian Shameklis, Chairman, Safety Committee – recommending the DPW put in a crosswalk with flashing light enhancements, a sidewalk along the southbound lane of Center Street and a guardrail to add further protection to bikers and pedestrians.

Mr. Goncalves: Is that something, I'm not sure what the agreement is with the City of Springfield and Water Commission, maybe under their park and activities they'd have some kind of money to put that in. If I'm not mistaken there was talk about one of those flashing lights with the crosswalk for one of those subdivisions over off Chapin Street near Harris Lane and it was smaller because Chapin Street is not as wide as Center Street obviously. That whole control system was in excess of $80,000. It's not a cheap thing to do. Maybe Springfield Water Sewer could help us out with that. Maybe somebody could look at potential state aid of some kind. It's not easy to just come up with that money and say it's a great idea let's go spend 80 grand.

Mr. DeBarge: Are we to assume that once the construction of the cemetery is complete that we would put a crosswalk in there anyway?

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Mr. Goncalves: There's not that much parking.

Mr. DeBarge: I don't know how much parking is going to be in the cemetery itself.

Mr. Strange: I'm not sure. We haven't talked about that with the DPW yet, but I certainly can.

Mr. Gennette: Do you want to table this for now Marc and get some more information about it?

Mr. Goncalves: Can we send a letter to Safety Committee asking them to explore alternatives with Springfield Water and Sewer Commission?

Mr. Gennette: Yes. Is that a recommendation?

Mr. Goncalves: That's a motion.

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

76. Brian Shameklis, Chairman, Safety Committee – recommending the DPW place a stop sign at the corner of Libby & West Street and Barna & West Street.

Motion made by Mr. DeBarge to place stop signs at Libby & West Street and Barna &West Street. **Mr. Goncalves second.**

Mr. Gennette: We're putting a stop sign on Barna and Libby, we're not putting them on West right? I just want to make sure because the way this is written it's not specific. **All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

77. Brian Shameklis, Chairman, Safety Committee – recommending the DPW place one of the recently purchased temporary plastic signs at the crosswalk at East and Newbury Streets. It was also recommended to review the painted crosswalks in this area and repaint if necessary.

Mr. Goncalves: What is the temporary plastic sign?

Mr. DeBarge: That's what I'm trying to figure out, plastic signs for the crosswalk? Cone-like? This prompted me to ask a question about the paintings. Is there an annual touch up for areas like that? Lines? 5 years?

Mr. Goncalves: I think it's as needed. Around the schools especially. I like that idea. That does get a lot of traffic both during services at the funeral home and Festa.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to ask the DPW to purchase temporary plastic signs and install them at the crosswalk. **Mr. DeBarge second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

78. Justin Torrey, President, Operation Veteran Vacation – requesting to hang a banner in front of the Hubbard Memorial Library for a fair they are having on July 29th.

Mr. Rosenblum: Are they based in Ludlow? I know they're a nonprofit. My question is, are they based in Ludlow?

Mr. Goncalves: I've never heard of these people.

Mr. Gennette: I've never heard of them either.

Mr. DeBarge: I'm sure they're working along with Eric. He's been on vacation, so I don't know too much about this.

Mr. Goncalves: I think we've taken the position where only 503C's registered in the town should be doing any type of banners at the bridge or anywhere else. Maybe check with our Veterans Department to find out if this is ok with him and if this organization is working hand in hand with our Veterans organization and maybe revisit it then.

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Mr. Rosenblum: I was going to make a motion to table this until we talk to our VSO.

Mr. Goncalves: I think I just said that.

Mr. Rosenblum: Did you say the motion?

Mr. Goncalves: I can't remember.

Mr. DeBarge: I'd also like to see the banner. We have to make sure it's not huge.

Mr. Gennette: I have a motion from Mr. Rosenblum. I need a second. Mr. Goncalves second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.

79. Resident – informing the Board of the rat infestation in her neighborhood off of State Street since the revitalization of the Mills began and would like to know what the town is going to do about it.

Mr. Gennette: I'm going to preempt this and say that I live across the street from HealthSouth and I'm in one of the apartments there and I have never seen a rat. We have a dumpster and have not seen any signs of a rat infestation. I apologize to this resident.

Mr. Goncalves: What would an exterminator do anyway? I'd love to see pictures. It's easy to cry wolf, or rat here.

Mr. DeBarge: I've seen quite a few pictures actually. I've been talking to a resident on Bristol who has sent quite a few pictures. This is a Board of Health issue. Marc has more information on it. Letters are going out to residents to try to help them. I think it would behoove us to try to enforce unkept properties that may have helped this. There was complaints of rats on Prospect and East and we had the Board of Health go there. They wrote a report about a lot of old trash being outside in the back that was attracting them. This isn't anything about any individual resident. There's a property near where I live that's completely unkept and we're trying to mitigate that as well.

Mr. Goncalves: That person has been notified by the way. That person has been served with documents that they do need to clean up.

Mr. DeBarge: I think one thing that will help, at least our responsibility as a Board of Selectmen is to make sure that our unkept properties are enforced. Fines are levied and people get the work done to clean their properties. I don't know where else to go from there.

Mr. Gennette: This is part of the reason I mentioned the strategic plan was to come up with some ordinances and goals and what would that look like because we really have no accountability to the community.

Mr. Goncalves: It was attempted years ago. Bill Mahoney brought something where he tried to create a bylaw and it was killed at town meeting. Not to say that it couldn't be brought up again.

Mr. Gennette: Between the Board of Health and DPW and we're talking about possibly the move to individual services for trash you're going to end up with more opportunities for people to just pile it up, put stuff out in the front, get more dumpsters.

Mr. Goncalves: Like you said, the individual trash doesn't do anything because you've got a dumpster at your property. I've got dumpsters. I've never seen rats. I've seen squirrels and the occasional racoon, but I've never had a rat. Maybe read this letter that accompanied it.

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Mr. Gennette: Have we informed the Board of Health?

Mr. Strange: Yes, we talked to the Health Department about what our options are. It's kind of a unique situation. I haven't really heard of this happening elsewhere. The question is what can the town do to help. The Health Department is sending out letters to all the residents in that area, kind of as an educational tool as to how you can mitigate attracting rats to your property. There's really no way to determine where they're coming from. As Derek said, there was an issue on East Street when I first started last year. In terms of the Town taking the lead in mitigating this, I don't know how we'd be able to do that short of some public health emergency. At least for now the Health Department is going to send out letters to the residents and hopefully that will mitigate some of the activity down there.

Mr. Gennette: The other thing is we have one resident who is obviously seeing some issues, but we really haven't had a professional survey the area at all. If this becomes a thing or conversation, we may want to seek a professional service to identify how bad of a problem we have. We may not have a big problem. Another thing is we have a lot of chickens in Ludlow, when I had the house as well, and they're attracted to the food. If you've got chicken feed, keep it in a plastic container, that kind of stuff. If you own chickens, you know that you could end up with a rat problem. What do we want to do with this for now? File it?

Mr. Silva: It seems like the Board of Health is in front of this and they've sent letters to residents and what not. They're looking at the matter and if it ever becomes an issue where they've got to place an order it would probably be in their hands to do so.

Mr. DeBarge: If I might, Ann, we're talking about it right now actually.

Mr. Goncalves: In case somebody doesn't get their mail, should we read this letter from the Board of Health? This is from the town's Health Department. Valued Homeowner, The Health Department has seen an increase in rodent complaints within your neighborhood and surrounding areas. We are asking everyone to take a minute and try to reduce the population of rodents. Below are precautions that all residents can take to help with this battle. Keep your lawn maintained. Remove any piles of brush or leaves. Ensure trash bins are closed tightly. Breakdown and remove bags and boxes. Seal any gaps or holes around your house and property, including sheds. Dry up any signs of water leaking. If you have animals outside, make sure their food is securely covered and not left out overnight. Share this information with your neighbors. Rodent problems are a community issue. Working together will help eliminate this problem. If you see rodent activity, please contact a local licensed pest management company. They can always provide ways to reduce or eliminate activity within your property. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact this office. Ludlow Health Department, formerly known as the Board of Health. If it is an issue, contact the Town and let us know. Have you talked to Animal Control? I think maybe her responsibility goes beyond dogs and cats. There might not be anybody at the Board at a particular moment and if you see a bunch of them hanging around, Ms. Anderson our Animal Control Officer can go out there and help out.

Resident 1: The Board of Health inspector was at my house, and he took pictures of them in my neighbor's yard.

Resident 2: I have a picture of 9 of them that my next-door neighbor captured. I live on Bristol. She got 9 of them. I have the pictures with me on my phone. They're pretty big. I think there was 9 of them in the last month that they caught in their traps. Those things know how to eat the peanut butter out of the traps without ever setting them off and go. She has the cleanest yard you've ever seen. They're everywhere. They're disgusting. This is not an exaggeration. On the forum on Sunday there's people all the way out in the Cumberland Farms off of Cady Street that are having the same problem. It was in the forum on Sunday with a bunch of people going back and forth. I think our neighborhood is worse because of all the stuff going on over there but it's not just there and it's only going to get worse. The exterminator suggestion is wonderful but it's $1,200 for them to come out to your house and then there's a monthly maintenance fee.

Resident 1: Urban Pest Control quoted me $1,250 for initial set up, 10-day visits in a row, $95 for each visit after that.

Resident 2: $150 quarterly to keep it going and if just a couple of people in the neighborhood are doing it, that's pointless. It's never going to fix this problem. That letter didn't make me feel any better.

Mr. Goncalves: Where are they getting the condiment packages?

Resident 2: People's yards. Drive my neighborhood and you will know. I don't even need to tell you. Go on my street and you will find 2 if not 3 houses. There's chickens on the street now, there's junk, the old Montalegre. I have a picture of all the trash behind there. It's absolutely disgusting what has happened. None of this is going to help these rats. This is huge.

Mr. Goncalves: I'm looking at these mouse traps in these pictures.

Resident 2: Those are rat traps, they're bigger.

Mr. Goncalves: Is this outside or inside?

Resident 2: Outside.

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Mr. Goncalves: Somebody is setting traps outside. Is it possible that the mice smell that from the mills and come across the street to get the cheese?

Resident 2: These mice are coming, which is why we're setting traps. Trying to get them out of our yards. They trashed our garage; they eat through everything. They get inside.

Resident 1: Another exterminator I had come over was $650 to set up and $150 a month.

Mr. Goncalves: It's not going to help the neighborhood they're just going to go next door.

Mr. Goncalves: How long has that been out there?

Resident 2: That's better. It was everywhere.

Mr. Goncalves: Do you know if that's garbage?

Resident 2: I can't go on their property. That's on the sidewalk.

Mr. Goncalves: They haven't served food there in a while, correct?

Resident 1: I think there's somebody living upstairs. You can see household trash bags.

Mr. DeBarge: I was down on your street before the meeting tonight. It looks like someone is cleaning up that one on the corner. I expected it to look worse. I'm not saying it has nothing to do with this but again, the East Street issue we had before, once the fines were threatened or levied against the businesses that had trash out it kind of helped itself out. We're hoping this letter notifies everyone and they start their own mitigation but that's expensive.

Mr. Goncalves: That's one house, that doesn't solve the problem. It pushes them from one yard to the neighbor's yard.

Resident 1: Educating people is a wonderful thing. It's going to help some people because they may be oblivious that there even is a problem, but other people don't care, they're not going to do it anyway.

Mr. Goncalves: This is definitely something for the Health Department to do some type of outreach.

Resident 1: They've been to my house, looked in the neighbor's yard and took pictures. Under my front porch I've got to get somebody to dig a trench and put wire in it. I can't find anybody to do that. My husband is 75. He's not capable of doing that without killing himself anymore.

Mr. Gennette: Can we ask the Board of Health to see if there's any precedent set for what some other communities have done with rat problems in the past? At least just send a letter and say give us a recommendation? It's kind of on them.

Resident 2: Do you know how fast they multiply? It's a serious problem. We're sitting outside eating at the picnic table and rats are running through the yard. I'm not exaggerating.

Mr. Goncalves: Did it initiate at the mills?

Resident 1: I don't think it helped by taking those buildings down. I had gone to the Selectmen's office 2 weeks ago and I asked when those buildings were starting to be renovated or demolished if there was a rodent control plan in place. I was supposed to get a call back or an email back and I've never heard. Does anybody here know?

Mr. Goncalves: I wonder if the mills, I think they do have them out. Those boxes that you see outside of buildings.

Mr. Gennette: All the businesses have to have them. The restaurants do for sure.

Mr. Goncalves: Let's see if the Board of Health can make some kind of an impact on the neighborhood to curb the appetite of these things to want to come in.

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TOWN OF LUNENBURG

Resident 1: I've heard that Somerville, MA, Johnston, RI and Cranston, RI, they've started putting bait boxes up in single family resident's yards. The residents have to sign a waiver that the town is not going to be responsible if a dog gets in it or kid gets in it. You have to be responsible for yourself. That's what they're doing in their communities because they're sick of the rats. Somerville, MA, Cranston, RI and Johnston, RI.

Mr. Goncalves: The community is paying for that?

Resident 1: The town is paying for that. Single family homes and the families just have to sign a waiver that the town isn't liable if anything isn't supposed to gets into it. It's a lot of money but we pay a lot of taxes in town. I've been here 40 years and never have I seen a rat in my neighborhood and now daily you see them.

Resident 2: I do dishes at the sink, and I look out and they're running along the fence. It's unsanitary, it's not even gross. They have so many diseases.

Resident 1: You're not comfortable in your yard. The exterminators I had come out did inspect my house and at this moment there are none in my house. I did fill up some cracks along the foundation. I've got to get somebody to do something under the porch because I have rocks around the porch, and I notice if I push them up there's a dip the next day. I don't know what to do.

Mr. DeBarge: First and foremost, this is mitigated by our Board of Health. It's their responsibility, which is why the letter is here. I hope this starts something and we're going to have to see what kind of steps they're going to take.

Mr. Gennette: We'll follow up.

Mr. Goncalves: I'm pretty sure it will be spoken about in some of the forums tonight.

Resident 2: It already was on Sunday and that was before the letter.

Mr. Rosenblum: Cranston has a rodent control officer. In our instance it would fall under our ACO then. I just googled it.

Mr. Gennette: Any further discussion? No? We're good? I was just saying before you came in, I live on State Street, and I don't see any.

Resident 2: You've got to be kidding me. They're everywhere. You're welcome to come sit in my backyard.

Resident: If you're not looking for them, you probably won't see them.

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TOWN OF LUDLOW

Mr. Gennette: Moving on to unfinished business.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Board to approve and sign Selectmen Minutes of May 3, 2023.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to approve and sign selectmen minutes of May 3, 2023, with all members present. **Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Board to approve and sign Selectmen Minutes of May 16, 2023.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to approve and sign selectmen Minutes of May 16, 2023, with all members present. **Mr. DeBarge second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Board to sign the amended contract between the Town of Ludlow Veterans Center and Procon Group, LLC for a 10-year lease.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to sign the amended contract between the Town of Ludlow Veterans Center and Procon Group, LLC for a 10-year lease. **Mr. DeBarge second.**

Mr. Goncalves: Discussion. Do we want to talk about what this is. If I'm not mistaken this is the adjusted rent savings by virtue of having gone into the 10-year lease approval at town meeting, we're now saving the town some considerable money on that lease.

Mr. Gennette: That sounds good. I like saving money.

Board to approve and Chairman to sign Change Order #44 for the Harris Brook Elementary School project.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves for the board to approve and chairman to sign change order #44 for the Harris Brook Elementary School project. **Mr. DeBarge second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

NEW BUSINESS

Board to discuss and possibly vote on creating a Government Study Committee.

Mr. Gennette: Just to remind everybody that we approved funding for this project 4-1 at our last meeting. Any discussion?

Mr. DeBarge: Did you say we voted on this already?

Mr. Gennette: We voted on the funding.

Mr. Rosenblum: We have to discuss the make-up, how many people?

Mr. DeBarge: Do you mean the funding that our precinct members voted on at town meeting?

Mr. Gennette: No, the funding for the government study committee? We voted 4-1. Manny was against it. They approved it at town meeting. $25,000.

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TOWN OF LUDLOW

Mr. DeBarge: That's what I'm saying.

Mr. Rosenblum: So, this is now to make up the committee.

Mr. Strange: Carrie and I had a call with Michael Ward from the Collins Center and they're going to be helping us out with this. That's kind of what they do. They talked about some of the logistical stuff. The big question is how many people. It really depends on how many applications we get. I think the consensus amongst the people that were in that conversation was capping it at 11. Any more than 11 and it gets kind of unwieldly. It's going to depend on how many applications that we get. Of course, this is all up to you guys. A suggestion would be to have a selectman or 2 on the committee as a way to guide with expertise. I will be at the meetings as well to provide support as needed. Ideally, we'd get up to 9 residents who aren't necessarily already involved on committees or boards for a little bit of a fresh perspective. The other thing we talked about was how do you vet the applications. We could have the board vet the applications, the board can have Carrie and I vet some of the applications. I think it depends on how many we get. If we get 25 or 30 applications, you're probably going to want us to vet so you don't have to go through 25-30 interviews. If it's a lesser amount maybe we can send them all to the board and you can do interviews, or we can do the interviews. It's whatever the Board feels comfortable with. Those were the 2 main areas we talked about. We'd like to start in September with the goal of presenting a charter at the October Special Town Meeting in 2024. That would give us about 13 months.

Mr. Gennette: If I can make a recommendation, if we were going to have 2 members from the Board of Selectmen on this committee, I would say go to 11, if we're going to have 1, I would say go to 9. I like a smaller committee better than a large committee. I think a lot of people have a hard time coming to a decision. That would be my recommendation. Certainly, open to conversation.

Mr. DeBarge: Most importantly is that the 6 watching and the precinct members that vote for the $25,000 know that we are moving forward with this. I personally think 2 selectmen should be on it. 9 or 11 goes to how many applicants we have. I personally like the idea of Marc and Carrie vetting if we have a large number of applicants. I think the number should be capped at 11 as well.

I'll go with whatever the Board wants, 9 or 11, I just think there should be 2 selectmen. And I am volunteering to be on that.

Mr. Strange: Can I make a suggestion following up on what Derek said so it doesn't get lost? Regardless if there is 1 or 2 selectmen, I would suggest that the board choose a selectman or 2 that are going to be able to go through the whole process considering it's going to be October 2024 when town meeting would vote. It's got to go to the state and there's actually a ballot question in March 2025. Something to consider.

Mr. Gennette: We have to decide on the committee first before we decide. If you guys want 2 Board of Selectmen members. Him and I are up in March.

Mr. Rosenblum: If we're doing volunteering, I don't have a problem with it. I think my dual municipality background would help with it.

Mr. Gennette: How many people?

Mr. Rosenblum: I think it comes down to the amount of applicants. Honestly, if we're talking 25 or 30 and this isn't against anybody, just seeing the amount of outside input from people generally is small. The amount of people that run for any position in this town, I think we're going to end up with 9, 7 citizens. I would make sure those citizens diverse. I remember seeing some of the outlines for it before. A businessman, businesswoman, diverse, because you want to have input from different lives. You don't want to have 7 or 9 people that are basically all the same. I think that would be something that when it gets to the vetting process, we vet it down to whatever we vet it down to. That is what we keep in mind when we go through the selection process.

Mr. Goncalves: Marc, correct me if I'm wrong, maybe somebody from the clerk's office. There's a lot of moving parts besides the Selectmen's office. I think the clerk's office has a ton of moving parts when it comes to government. A member from the clerk for sure.

Mr. Gennette: Does it have to be non-employees?

Mr. Goncalves: It could be a non-employee; it could be an employee. Just somebody that has a pretty good knowledge of what's going on there. Licenses. Everything going on comes through that department. The need for time stamping, the significance…

Mr. Gennette: I just don't know if there's a conflict.

Mr. DeBarge: We could also have the clerk herself be there for us, an advisor for us or have her come to a meeting if we have a question or give a question to her through Marc and have her answer for us rather than commit somebody to that for such a long time.

Mr. Goncalves: I just think that's pretty important.

Mr. Gennette: That's the position you're going to take too, kind of an advisory committee.

Mr. Strange: Yes.

Mr. Goncalves: I think there's going to be that need. Planning. There's so much overlap between state zoning laws and requirements and what we do at a local level and how much gets shifted around to or from a board, an elected board or appointed board.

Mr. DeBarge: Are you for 9 or 11?

Mr. Goncalves: I think 11.

Mr. Rosenblum: I think if we're starting to include more people from this building, which obviously the point is good about the clerk, planning, things of that nature, is that the number would be 11 because we do want to get a solid representation of citizens, business owners. I think 11.

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Mr. Silva: Sure. The more people you have though the harder it's going to get. We don't get many applicants now, whether it's for a job or anything. Any time we go out nobody applies. I think it's going to be difficult to fill. If 11 works, fine, if 9 works, fine.

Mr. DeBarge: Should we do 11 unless the number of applicants is below that?

Mr. Strange: We can cap it at 11 and see.

Mr. Goncalves: If we get less than 11, we can take a member or 2 from this board and throw them there.

Mr. Silva: No, then you have a board every time you go.

Mr. Rosenblum: Maybe you throw in HR or something like that.

Motion made by Mr. DeBarge to create a government study committee. Are we going to call it that or are we going to call it a charter commission.

Mr. Strange: That's a good question. When we send out the solicitation, we'll do a press release and distribute it. We want to make sure to let people know the end goal is to create a charter. The government study committee can be a little bit misleading. I used that terminology because that's what was in the financial management review. It does not have to be a government study committee this is more of a communication marketing thing. I would say that's up to you guys.

Mr. DeBarge: Is everybody ok with charter committee.

Mr. Silva: Government restructuring committee?

Motion made by Mr. DeBarge to approve and create a government restructuring committee with a cap of 11 personalities including 2 members of the Board of Selectmen. **Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Board to approve and sign the contract between the Town of Ludlow and CivicPlus,LLC in the amount of $4,795.00.

Mr. Gennette: This is the annual bill for the website.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to approve and sign the contract between the Town of Ludlow and CivicPlus, LLC in the amount of $4,795.00. **Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Board to approve and sign the contract between the Town of Ludlow and O'Reilly Talbot and Okun, which includes project management for the former Veteran's Park Elementary School.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to approve and sign the contract between the Town of Ludlow and O'Reilly Talbot and Okun, which includes project management for the former Veteran's Park Elementary School. **Mr. Rosenblum second.**

Mr. Rosenblum: Just to be clear, this is the oversight of whoever the contractor is, the contractor that would be awarded the bid for the actual work of deconstruction.

Mr. Silva: We do have a couple bids, right? And we're reviewing them now.

Mr. Strange: We have a low bidder and we're meeting with them next Wednesday, I'm sorry tomorrow morning, because the low bid was so much lower than the other bids. We want to make sure they understand what the scope of the work is.

Mr. Silva: And the schedule start to demolish is approximately, do we have that?

Mr. Strange: I don't. Probably in the next month if we come to an agreement tomorrow.

Mr. Goncalves: In case people were wondering, it was substantially less than what we thought the number was going to be, which is great news. It will give us additional ARPA money to do a lot more things in town. We'll get into that once everything is signed so we don't get people over excited.

Mr. Gennette: While we're talking about, what's the timeline on those ARPA funds? Is it 2026?

Mr. Rosenblum: Earmarked by 2024 and spent by 2026.

Mr. Gennette: That will be pretty important when we start talking about the balances. Talking about Whitney Park and barrels for trash. We have a visitation coming in at 6:30. We have a couple of minutes to go over our events calendar.

Event Calendar:

New Town Hall Summer Hours Beginning July 3, 2023, through Labor Day:
Monday 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday 8:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Friday 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Tuesday, July 4th – Town Hall Closed – Independence Day.
Sunday Concert Schedule at the Mack Donnelly Gazebo beginning @ 5 p.m.

July 16, 2023 – Blues Brothers Briefcase Concert
July 23, 2023 – Pioneer Valley Concert Band Sounds of Summer
July 30, 2023 – Bad Signs
August 6, 2023 – Jeff Gavioli and his Bad News Jazz and Blues Orchestra Cindy Reed
August 13, 2023 – Triple Louie's Runaway Train
August 20, 2023 – New England Swing Orchestra
August 27, 2023 – Acousticca
September 10, 2023 – Billy Eagen

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Mr. Goncalves: Along the line of the change order for the schools, I know it's already been done or a signed contract, but I really think we need a better explanation on these items. They're spending $321,000, this isn't a 10 or $12,000 change. New basketball activity court. This wasn't in the original plan? Nobody thought that maybe we would need one?

Mr. DeBarge: This was not in the original plan. This was designed after the fact because of the size of the area that is still there, usable area. It was an idea; it just wasn't thought that it could conceptualize during the build. It can now. I asked the same at the building committee meeting.

Mr. Goncalves: And the pre-cash channel trench for the soccer field. Is this a result of Mr. Costa's questions?

Mr. DeBarge: I wouldn't say it's a result of it. He didn't cause them to do this, but it definitely is a factor.

Mr. Goncalves: We're going to see an engineer that could be responsible for this?

Mr. DeBarge: We discussed the possibility. Mr. Costa asked for a 3rd party engineer to come in and look at everything. That was not approved due to timing. It would take too long. The architect and engineers believe that this will fix the issue at the lowest cost. We're going to go with it and see what happens.

Mr. Goncalves: It seems like it's all so early to be having problems and a design error. That's $35,000. It can buy a lot of rat traps.

Mr. Rosenblum: That last one you talked about, that's the washout that went down into the drainage. It was a design flaw in the soccer field that is supposed to be on the contractor. I remember reading this one. It's supposed to be on the contractor.

Mr. DeBarge: You're talking about the pooling?

Mr. Rosenblum: You've got gravel and washout going into…

Mr. DeBarge: There's been an argument as to what is the best approach to fix it with one of our committee members, Mr. Costa, who I'll say again I think he's one of the smartest guys I've ever met. In the interest of time and the build, the committee voted to go with this and see how it works.

Mr. Goncalves: On our dime though.

Mr. DeBarge: Either way, something was going to have to be done and it wasn't going to be free.

Mr. Goncalves: I'm just wondering if we should put anybody on notice.

Mr. Rosenblum: Where is the money coming from?

Mr. Goncalves: It's part of the overage of the money that was bonded for.

Mr. DeBarge: There's over 6 million in contingencies.

Mr. Goncalves: I wonder if we didn't have that 6 million, would somebody grab this and put these people's hand to the fire that did the design initially. It's 35 grand. It's a lot of money. Should we get an explanation why the school department hasn't decided why they haven't decided to go after the engineer on this or at least have town counsel look at it?

Mr. DeBarge: That's all happened. We've had meetings with the contractor, we've had the owners in. It was pretty volatile at the time. We've gone through all of this. This is what the building committee has voted to approve; to take this step.

Mr. Goncalves: I still think an attorney should have looked at this. Would that be a big deal, Marc?

Mr. Strange: At this point it's kind of after the fact. It's up to the school building committee to make a decision on this, I would think, if somebody on the committee wanted to refer to counsel for review. In my recollection, the problem with the field was, Mr. Costa and others objected to the runoff because of the design and all the sediment was running off into the parking lot. The contractor's response was we need to let the vegetation grow into the field to see how much of that runoff would be mitigated by the vegetation. Unfortunately, the vegetation has come through and it's not the vegetation they envisioned. I think that's why they're not allowing people on the field yet, to see how it grows in. Full disclosure, I haven't been at those meetings for a little bit. That was the last discussion I remember having.

Mr. DeBarge: You're right, they want to give it 2 full years.

Mr. Rosenblum: If you noticed when they sprayed that field, and obviously it's by square footage, you'll notice the nice grass is inside the sidelines and crab grass out to the sides.

Mr. DeBarge: Outside the school is burnt and crab grass and no irrigation.

Mr. Gennette: Are you all set, Mr. Goncalves?

Mr. Goncalves: I'm not happy but yes, I'm all set.

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VISITATIONS

6:30 p.m. Dangerous Dog Hearing – Codding/Morais – 302-304 Ventura Street

Mr. Gennette: We're going to open the Dangerous Dog hearing. Can I get a motion please?

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to open the public hearing regarding the dangerous dog hearing at 6:34. **Mr. DeBarge second. Roll call. Mr. Rosenblum yes, Mr. Silva yes, Mr. Goncalves yes, Mr. DeBarge yes, Mr. Gennette yes.**

Mr. Gennette: Everybody raise your right hand. Do you swear to tell the truth, whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

All: I do.

Mr. Gennette: This is a board. We talk one at a time. If somebody has something to say I'll call you out and I'll give you the floor to talk. You don't interrupt the person next to you and everybody will have an opportunity to say their piece. We'll start with the Animal Control officer.

Ms. Anderson: On Tuesday, May 23rd at approximately 6 p.m., the Ludlow Police Department received a 9-1-1 call from Amanda Codding to report that a dog broke in through her screen door and attacked her dog, Toby, who is a 5-year-old neutered beagle, while she was preparing dinner. No people were bitten, but the dogs were injured. I could not respond right away because I just dropped the truck off, so I didn't talk to them until Thursday. When I first met with Amanda on Thursday, she explained that her husband, Michael, was in their yard and he saw their neighbor's dog, a 6-year-old spayed Staffordshire terrier mix was loose and on his property. He yelled at the dog to go back, also yelling to his wife not to let out Toby. Toby then barked at the screen door. The dog rushed by him, hit their screen door, broke the bottom screen and body slammed the screen right off of the windows. It's a built-in sliding glass door, Anderson, I don't know the actual make of it. A heavy wooden one. It took a lot of force. On the ring cameras we have you can't see the dog going in the house, but you definitely can hear the screen door slamming down being broken off. While she was trying to hold the door closed the dog came through. She then attacked Toby. Mike was right behind them, and they couldn't stop her from attacking while Toby was trying to fight back. Unfortunately, in the midst of all this, Michael grabbed the first thing that he saw, which was a serrated bread knife and sliced the Pitbull, not Pitbull, American Staffordshire terrier, and she got a pretty good gash on her back. That helped break up the fight. Then their daughter's boyfriend came down and with 2 people they were trying to pull the dogs away. They were able to get the dog out of the house and the boyfriend then returned the dog next door. We have ring cameras from them, the boy returning the dog. He was definitely hysterical. They see their dog and she's cut so everything just escalated from there as far as things that happened. The police were there. The dogs were separated. He took his dog to the Wilbraham Animal Hospital. They patched her up and sent her off to Connecticut, I believe. It's important to note that Michael called dispatch at 1:00 p.m. that afternoon because he saw men in his backyard, and it turns out they were workers from next door looking for the dog. The dog had escaped sometime earlier in the afternoon. I don't know if she came back during that time period or if she was loose for 5-6 hours. When I talked to the Pitbull owner, they didn't have a clear story of what happened, as far as they saw their dog ran into the neighbor's yard and the dog was stabbed. Unfortunately, by that time, Facebook got a hold of it. Everything was escalating. Both dogs are ok. Both dogs have little puncture wounds on their face. A lot of times dog fighting is a lot louder and scarier than actual biting and ripping, which is what I think happened between these 2 dogs. Their dog had a bite on his nose, their dog had a bite on his ears, everybody was put on a 10-day quarantine. The Codding's dog was current on its rabies shot and has had town licenses forever. I could not find any history of Nala having a town license at all. The veterinarian I spoke to from Wilbraham called me that Friday to report a dog was stabbed and he wanted me to be aware of it. I gave him the background. The last time they saw Nala with a rabies shot was in 2021. I went back through all of dispatch looking to see if there's any other loose calls for Pitbull's on Ventura Street. I found one in 2021 with a Pitbull type dog attacking a neighbor's dog down the street. That was before I started so I couldn't find a bite report, but I did find whenever a dog goes on quarantine, we have to fill out a state quarantine slip. This is a state rule not a Ludlow rule. I had a book that showed it was Nala that was in that dog attack in 2021, so she does have a history of not liking certain dogs. When I met her, she was fine. She had a big gash, staples, a drain bag. Unfortunately, these 2 dogs don't like each other. They live next to each other. They've never liked each other. Nobody lured the dog in to get hurt. If a dog broke through my screen door and attacked my dog, I probably would have done a lot more than just slice them to be perfectly honest because that's terrifying. The dogs now are fine.

Mr. Gennette: Can you introduce yourself please?

Mr. Codding: My name is Michael Codding.

Mr. Gennette: You were home at the time?

Mr. Codding: Yes.

Mr. Gennette: If you wouldn't, the floor is yours. Give us a rundown.

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Mr. Codding: Around 6:00, like the report stated, I was finishing up some yardwork in my yard, I was about to put my rake away. I heard a snort. I saw the dog. It sat there looking at me. I immediately yelled to my wife, Amanda, keep Toby inside the neighbor's dog is in the yard. She's like ok, she panically responded. I thought everything was ok, they're safe. When Toby barked Nala took off towards the deck. In that second, I thought my dog and my wife are safe inside the house. She's going to run around, and I'll tell the neighbors that the dog is loose. I then heard a loud crash and my wife screaming like I've never heard before in my life. It was terrifying. I took off as fast as I could. I came in the screen door and saw the dogs going at it, right at my feet inside my screen door. My wife is still screaming. I attempted to pull Nala away from Toby while she tried to get Toby. It didn't work. I punched and kicked Nala. I didn't know what else to do. It did nothing. I hit her with a flowerpot because it was right there. It did nothing. I looked around for anything to try to make this stop. My only goal was to make this stop. I grabbed the serrated bread knife because it was there on the counter, and I slashed. It's the most horrifying thing I can picture in my head. It was awful. It still didn't stop. I didn't know what to do. Thank God my daughter's boyfriend came running in and with the help of 2 men we got them apart. My daughter's boyfriend walked the dog home and that's how it ended.

Mr. Gennette: Was that pretty accurate or is there anything you need to add that he missed?

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Mrs. Codding: No, that is what happened that day.

Mr. Gennette: Were either one of you home at the time?

Mr. Morais: We were both home. My name is Dan Morais. I was just coming down the stairs when the kid came and opened our door asking if this was our dog. We panicked. There was blood everywhere. I panically picked her up and didn't know what happened. I was asking the kid and he said I don't know. I took off from there. I didn't know what was going on. The dog was panting and lost a lot of blood. I threw her in the back of my truck and bolted to the Wilbraham Animal Hospital. Later we found out what happened. She was tied up outside but the latch that we have, I don't know how it happened, but she must have…she was out there for a little bit. Probably didn't realize that it wasn't fully latched and must have gotten out. Earlier that day, it was my hydro seeder guy, the guy working on my lawn doing the sprinklers and decided that it was smart to leave the door open while he's in and out working on the sprinklers. My dog is not caged inside the house. She must have ran out and he didn't notice and saw her from the corner of his eye inside the house and went looking for her. Nobody was home at the time for that. I gave him permission to come in and out of the house. That was unfortunate, 2 incidents in that same day. Do we have a record of that 2021 because I never even heard about that.

Mrs. Morais: My name is Stephanie Morais. When he brought the dog to the door and opened it, he was very disheveled. He kept telling us that he didn't know what happened. It's weird to me because if he broke the dogs apart how did he not know what happened. I was confused when that happened. My husband took off to bring the dog to the animal hospital immediately because she was bleeding. We didn't know what happened. We kept asking. No one was giving us answers. That's when the police arrived, and I wanted to go next door to see what happened because my dog was brought to my doorsteps bleeding. I walk over and Michael was getting loud with me, yelling in my face. I was very scared of him at the time. He just stabbed my dog and now he's yelling in my face. The officer brought me outside and we spoke. He told me what happened. He said that he slashed her because she was attacking his dog, which we still haven't seen pictures or bites of the dog. We provided pictures of our dog's wounds. If your dog was attacked of course, you would provide pictures. The social media thing has nothing to do with us. That was somebody else that took it upon themselves and it's not our fault that they're a dog lover and they were upset. Freedom of speech. I also did bring pictures of my dog because it's hard to hear a story and not see what type of dog she is. I have letters from neighbors in the area because the dog does get out. She's a runner. I understand she does need to be on a leash, but she would never viciously attack someone. It's very hard to find the story being true. I feel like there was more to it. We don't know what happened. We weren't there. I feel like they never liked our dog, so I do believe it to be a vendetta.

Mr. Gennette: We can't get into a yelling contest back and forth. I'm going to give you the opportunity to speak. You look like you're fired up.

Mrs. Codding: My name is Amanda Codding. We have had some history since we moved into the house with Nala. We moved in on almost the exact same day in 2020. That day everyone was moving. All the dogs together. I came back and I had walked Toby. Tons of people were here; tons of people were at their house. The 2 dogs ran over, Nala and the other dog, they have a smaller dog as well, maybe one more. They ran over and immediately started fighting. I had Toby on his leash, that happened, everyone should be able to attest that happened. We did not call the police that day because we were like whoa our dogs don't know each other, maybe they attacked each other. Dogs have pheromones, hormones, some dogs just don't like each other. That's ok. We all know that's a fact, just like human beings, dogs. Mike and Dan pulled the dogs apart that day. Mike got a bite. We didn't know who it was from. We just didn't know what happened. These dogs should not be together. That was the end of that. In April 2021, I was walking the dog back again. I walk from the other side; I don't walk past their house. I walk the dog twice a day the other way. I'm coming back walking across my lawn to cut across like I usually do, and Nala comes at me that way. I run to my deck, we run up the stairs, I'm trying to throw the dog into my house, and they start brawling again on the deck. This time Dan came, no one else was home but me, my son and I believe my stepdaughter. He wrestled the dog away; I was able to pull the dog, but they were brawling again, and I couldn't manage it myself. I screamed for him to come, he ran out of his yard and separated the dogs. I did not call the police again because I was like, you know what, I get it, the dogs escape sometimes but it started to be a dangerous situation. I can't manage this myself. So, every time I'm out I'm like, if this becomes if this dog gets out, I'm not going to be able to manage this. They go at each other. The difference is I've got Toby on a leash all the time. That is the scary part. That is the history of it. The history is not that I do not like the dog, the history is I'm scared of the dog. We've had conversations where they say they bring the dog to the dog park, and I totally believe it. It doesn't come after humans while we're there. I've never seen it, but our dogs don't get along. That's where we left it. For a year it was very quiet, we didn't have anything. I don't know when that 2021 was, it wasn't us, but it had been a year. I was like, it won't happen again but when I was in my kitchen and the dog comes through while I'm making dinner, now it's a whole other thing. That's where we are with this. It's not a grudge. At this point it's pure fear for my dog and I can't manage this situation. That's my piece of it. I'm usually the one walking with the dog when these things happen. That's the true story of what happened that day.

Mr. Gennette: You just sat up to the table. Who are you?

Resident: I just want to be close to you guys.

Mr. Gennette: Octavia, what's your recommendation?

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Ms. Anderson: Because she does have a history of going after dogs, I haven't been able to get a hold of the person that lives down the street from the 2021 attack, but I have proof that it did happen. The dog was on a 10-day quarantine. We, meaning animal control, aren't the type that just randomly write quarantines if there wasn't a bite. If 2 dogs have a scuffle and there's no bite, nobody gets put on quarantine. If there's a bite you get put on quarantine. Because we were between ACO's that's probably why I can't find any bite reports, but I did find that. If it were just this 1 incident, I would feel a little bit better but there's been at least 2 incidents that we have proof of. That's how I'm looking at it. My recommendation is she'll be deemed dangerous. The front yard needs to be enclosed with either an electrical fence and with the training that goes along with it. You have a backyard fenced in, but it's fenced in with rod iron. She can get under or over it. Some sort of chicken wire or something that will completely block that off so she actually can't escape. She is an escape artist. When I saw her, she's not a mean dog to people as far as I know. She was fine with me. I saw her with 2 little children, and she was absolutely fine. She's a good-sized dog and if there would have been a child sitting on the floor next to the beagle, we would be having a completely different conversation. I don't want to have somebody get rid of their dog and I don't want to put tons of restrictions on them, but the dog does escape. That's my main concern. That the dog never, ever escapes again. The way to solve this is to make sure that their yard is fenced in completely. She should not be allowed on a tie out. She should have a fenced in yard, or as we have done in the past, they have a dog kennel built for her. They have a fenced in yard. It's a beautiful yard. We just have to make sure that fence is secure. She's not to be tied out on a cable. I would like to see some sort of training with her. A couple lessons with the trainers that I work with. If she gets loose again, they need to consider surrendering her because they cannot keep the dog inside. We're going to assume they can keep the dog inside or keep it at least closed in so she can't escape. If she gets a hold of Toby again, she could kill the dog easily. Toby is 35 pounds and

we're talking 2 different breeds of dogs. One breed of dog can be aggressive and loving good pets, but she has a history of attacking other dogs and that's dangerous situation.

Mr. Gennette: If they agree to it, are those conditions acceptable to you?

Mr. Codding: Yes. If that dog stays in that yard, there's no problem.

Mrs. Codding: I need it away from my dog.

Mr. Gennette: Are you guys ok with those recommendations?

Mr. Morais: Yes, we already have a fenced in backyard, but I just installed that fence. There's still plenty of other work I've got to do but it's in the process. As for this, I actually spoke to this lady and I know this lady, she's a neighbor of a guy I know. This wasn't even an attack.

Ms. Anderson: I'm just following what the police report and paper trail shows me.

Mr. Morais: Understandable, but it wasn't an attack. Nala has been to multiple dog parks. I agree with Amanda.

Mrs. Morais: Aside from the dog parks, she does get out and she's gone over to the other neighbor's house with their dog and has walked over. They've wagged their tails. The old man has brought her back on a leash. It's hard to believe because if you knew Nala ran and you knew she attacked your dog, why wouldn't you bring her home for us?

Mr. Gennette: I think the whole issue here is that it was in their kitchen.

Mrs. Morais: When he saw her in the yard, and he said go home Nala. If you knew that she gets out and she's going to attack your dog because it's happened on multiple occasions, why wouldn't you bring her home?

Mr. Codding: I didn't have the chance. It took off when it heard my dog barking.

Mr. Gennette: I think we have enough information now.

Mr. Goncalves: I know what you're saying but it's not his responsibility to take your dog home. There is a leash law and you've got to make sure the dog is always secure. I don't think anybody should have to worry about a neighbor's dog coming onto their property. Whether it's a friendly dog or not. I hate dogs. I have 2 dogs, but I don't like dogs and I'm afraid of dogs, except mine. If I saw a dog in my yard I'd be upset, let alone if it attacked my dog. Under the circumstances, if you can make that fence solid, whatever the recommendation is of Mrs. Anderson, you should be good. A collar or electric fence even in addition to.

Mrs. Morais: We have strictly been walking her. We don't plan on putting her on a runner ever again.

Mr. Goncalves: Does she sleep in the house at night?

Mrs. Morais: Yes. She's an inside dog. When she goes to the bathroom because she has a history of running, she's not on a leash we put her on the runner because we just can't open the door and let her out.

Mr. Morais: We also have small kids that sometimes open the door.

Mr. Goncalves: That's where an electric collar can help.

Mr. Morais: They're not going to wear an electric collar throughout the house all day if they're not outside. Usually, you put it on when they go out. It's a matter of all the incidents she's gotten out it's not because we're opening the door and saying go. We have kids that somehow open the door and then there goes the dog.

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Mrs. Anderson: Electrical collars can go on a dog 24 hours a day because the only time they go off, they're not like bark collars that go off every time the dog breathes.

Mr. Gennette: Octavia, you can talk to them about dog collars afterwards.

Mr. Goncalves: Why is this other stuff in here. Were those postings in here? How did those get in here and what do those have to do with what we're talking about.

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Ms. Anderson: Lt. Brennan put my package together because we were getting videos and cameras from everybody, and he just put it all together as a lump file.

Mr. Goncalves: That was part of the police report?

Ms. Anderson: Yes, that is part of the police report that you guys asked for.

Mr. DeBarge: Going through all this, my main question is with Nala getting out as often as she has, why haven't you taken any steps before all this to make sure this doesn't happen. As a dog owner myself and having a dog years ago that was an escape artist, every time she got out, I was terrified. Why was I terrified? Lawsuits. I went from 4' stockade to 6' stockade to 8' to vinyl to keep all my dogs in. That's my only concern. I understand dogs can be around people and maybe not other dogs, maybe not other breeds, maybe not a specific dog. Most importantly here, I think if you take the emotion out of everything, because if you see a dog fight it's terrifying. If you see a dog bite somebody, bite a human, it's terrifying. The noises, the fray, everything, it's terrifying and it's hard to forget that. Taking the emotion out of all this, the pictures show that Nala went on to your neighbor's property, busted through their door to get at their dog. It could have been to get at anything in the house. The dog's food, a child, it doesn't matter. The facts are indisputable in my opinion, which leads to something that I hate doing. Designating a dog dangerous. It puts a lot of restrictions on you and the dog and it's not the dog's fault. None of this is Nala's fault. It's unfortunate. I want to stress one point. If you don't follow with the restrictions of the dangerous dog, you know what the next step is. The next step is that you cannot keep that dog in Ludlow. I don't know if you're going to be able to find a place for her unless you have a family member that lives outside of Ludlow. I don't want to talk about the other option because I'm not in favor of that for any reason. Please. It's serious. Dangerous dog designation is a very serious thing. You have to make sure that you take care of Nala and make sure that she is protected and everyone else around her is protected.

Mr. Silva: I'm in the same boat. I know the family very well and coming here and having this thing before us is hard; however, I'm in her shoes. If he went into my house, he probably wouldn't be going home. I have a dog. He's small also. Happens to be his dog's brother. It's a difficult thing we have to do. I agree with you. You have to know the dog but put yourself in the other shoes.

Mr. Morais: It's different if it's a stranger or if you know the dog.

Mr. Silva: Dan, I know you would do the same thing if you were in the other shoes. I know the family; I know you guys. I think we're beating a dead horse. They have agreed, you have agreed. Let's put it to rest and get it done.

Mr. Rosenblum: You guys did it all pretty good but dog owner, 65-pound Lab/Shepard. I did the same thing as Mr. DeBarge. I had no backyard fence. I had chickens everywhere from other people. Over time, my whole back yard is a vinyl fence. My dog gets up in the window and sees certain dogs and barks like crazy. He's knocked the Amazon guy off the steps just through the window. A terrifying bark. My wife has said, if that dog ever bit anybody and nobody was home, we'd come home and there would be no dog because she would take the dog and get rid of it. We've gone through this so many times. I wrote it down. A pen, fenced in. We've done 12x12 pens and things of that nature. As a dog person, and I grew up with Siamese cats so I don't know how I ended up with a dog, I would never want to see an animal put down. At this point, I think if you just adhere by it, and Mr. DeBarge said it perfectly, the fact is a dangerous dog means you have to adhere to the guidelines. I think we've been pretty good with not many follow ups from anything that's happened. Everybody has done their part. That's all that we ask of you is to do your part and you guys can co-exist and it will be fine. Just complete doing what you're doing.

Mr. Morais: I agree on the fence, and I've been working on the backyard for quite some time because there was no possible way. I didn't have a yard when I bought the house. It took walls and time to get that fence in.

Mr. Rosenblum: Trust me, I didn't put up a 100' x 75', 100 across the back, 2 75's and an 8' gate in one day because I would have never been able to afford it. It was by time. As long as you get that done, we're pretty consistent on how we usually deal with this. We always say, we go by our experts and our ACO is our expert on this, as our police chief and fire chiefs are expert at what they do so I'm good with the recommendations and hopefully everybody follows up.

Mr. Morais: I agree with everything, I just don't like to deem my dog dangerous when she just doesn't, I agree with Amanda, the dogs do not like each other, but now I've got to have on record that my dog is a dangerous dog and she's really not a dangerous dog. She's around babies and kids all day every day. Different kids, not just the same. You could walk in my house and rob my house and she'd probably help you.

Mr. Gennette: The problem is a dangerous dog isn't just dangerous to humans. It's dangerous to other animals and this isn't the first incident.

Mr. Morais: It really is. I literally know this person. They didn't know whose dog it was. The dog got picked up.

Mr. Gennette: I haven't had my chance to speak and one of the problems I have with this entire thing is you didn't license your dog until after this incident happened.

Mr. Morais: I had her licensed in Springfield. The dog is 8 years old.

Mr. Gennette: Do you know if the dog was licensed in Springfield?

Ms. Anderson: I haven't checked Springfield because I didn't know he lived in Springfield. The addresses I have are in Ludlow. They moved into Ludlow in 2020 and it's now 2023.

Mr. Gennette: 3 years no license. And what about the vaccinations. It was a 2020 vaccination.

Mrs. Morais: I even showed her, I went on my PetDesk because they are always up to date. I bring them to the vet all the time. It was when COVID was happening, and I didn't want to bring her by myself, and he was supposed to and that's why she wasn't updated.

Mr. Morais: There was 1 year that it must have gotten skipped. If you check the other dog we have, Max, he actually got it every year consistently.

Ms. Anderson: Has Max been registered with the town?

Mrs. Morais: Yes.

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Mr. Rosenblum: The one question I did have, and I made a notation of this, is the rabies vaccination certificate for the dog was after the incident.

Mr. DeBarge: Mr. Morais, the comment about the designation of the dangerous dog, as I have made a point in letting you know how serious it is, just the sheer fact that your dog crossed into another property and then entered the residence of another home to get at something, clearly there's not a group anywhere that wouldn't do that because you have to protect the victims. Here there are 2 victims, the family that was accosted and then there's Nala because she's doing what her instinct is telling her to do. This designation makes you act so that you protect the victim. The worst thing about this is that you're neighbors. As a former policeman, I hated going to neighbor disputes because nothing is ever going to be the same. The best thing you can do is adhere to all of this and I think it's serious enough to make sure we give them a shorter amount of time to complete this than we normally do. It has to be this way. If the victims wanted something more serious, not to say that we would agree to it, but if they said the dog has to be out of Ludlow, we want you to have the dog removed, they could request that. They could request much more. I'm actually a little impressed how gracious they are with that's all we want, just keep them over there. We've had

other meetings that have gone in worse directions. I think this is a good ending, like Mr. Silva said, and I hope we can all adhere to it.

Motion made by Mr. DeBarge to designate the canine named Nala residing at 304 Ventura Street owned by the Morais family to be designated as dangerous and the family has 60 days to comply with said restrictions as laid out by our Animal Control Officer. **Mr. Rosenblum second. Mr. Goncalves yes, Mr. DeBarge yes, Mr. Silva yes, Mr. Rosenblum yes, Mr. Gennette yes. Motion passed 5-0.**

Mr. Gennette: We really don't need neighbor tensions between the 2 of you either. You both agree the situation that's happened here was a horrible incident, but we don't want you guys to be in here arguing.

Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum to end the dangerous dog hearing at 7:16 p.m. **Mr. Goncalves second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

BOARD UPDATES/MISC.

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.

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CLOSING COMMENTS

Mr. Silva: I'm all set this evening.

Mr. DeBarge: Happy Father's Day. I hope you had a great weekend, as I did with my family. Fourth of July. I'm assuming we're not meeting on the 4th. So, we will be meeting, I'm assuming, on the 11th. This time, more than any other time, in my opinion, if you pay attention to what is going on in this country and overseas, remember our independence on the fourth of July. Remember what we did to get our independence and remember that the choices that you make, the freedoms you have are because of that independence. We are slowly losing that, and I hope we can get it back. Let's celebrate the 4th like we should with red, white, and blue and fireworks and chourico.

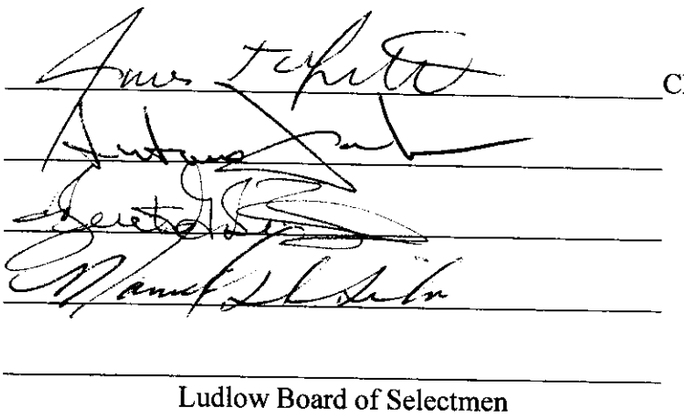
Mr. Goncalves: We're very fortunate and I want to reach out to the fire department because we're fortunate to have the dedicated men and women that we do there. We're very fortunate and just be happy that they're there and if you need them, they're incredible. Thank you.

Mr. Rosenblum: Since we aren't meeting until after the 4th, Happy 4th of July to everyone. We had our first open space planning committee meeting and the primary goals that we are identifying was open space for recreation and/or conservation. When we were looking at some of the things, we were actually talking about unique ways of using agricultural lands to where bike trails and things of that nature to where it's just not agriculture. Just trying to think a little bit outside the box with that. There will be a survey of public interest going out to try to recreate the priorities and actions of open space. Obviously, this is something that goes up the ladder from this committee. We've gone over a preliminary survey. We had it revamped to where we think we have the survey where it is. We're hoping to get it out the month of July so that these are things that we can get going towards September. To the point of pickleball, Angela Tierney is on the committee and she's with conservation so in conversations with her when we were sitting here talking about Vet's and obviously, I said to her once the Vet's Park demolition happens it goes back to conservation. They have to check their lines and everything of that nature. We talked about pickleball over there obviously, basketball courts, actually making a central building with restrooms that could almost be the rec building for town. It makes it central to this area. That was the main thing. Trying to think of ways to put pickleball up, bicycling. Be on the lookout for that survey. We're probably going to do a survey monkey looking to find a good way of getting it out to enough people, instead of 312 people reply to it we hope to get 1,000 people at least. So, we're working on that. I think with Vet's Park on the verge of being with the demolition of it, it opens up a great opportunity for the town with open space. I think we're looking at that in many ways.

Mr. Gennette: I want to remind everybody that there is a leash law, as you saw tonight, as the owner of the dog it's your responsibility to keep your dog on your property, keep your dog on your

leash, as it was mentioned here tonight for the dog's safety. I have plenty of other stuff, but I think I'm going to hold off.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 p.m. **Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**



Chairman

Ludlow Board of Selectmen

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