The Meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on Monday, October 2, 2023, began at 7:00 p.m. in the Ludlow High School Cafeteria.

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

Members Absent: None

Meeting called to order by Mr. Gennette @ 7:00 p.m.

First Order of Business: The Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Strange: Article 1 is the unpaid bills. Article 2 is James', a 9/10ths vote. Article 2 is the cash match for the Fire Department FEMA grant, that's Derek. James is Article 3 asking Town Meeting to bless a 5-year contract for the tasers. Article 4 and 5 are both DIF articles. Article 4 would expand the boundary. There's a map that's part of the background that's part of the extra materials that are on the stage. Article 5 would amend the financing program. There is something we need to correct in Article 5, Tony. How would you word that Brian? In the article it references its own article.

Mr. Winner: The 5 is supposed to be a 4 at the very end of that. I would recommend that he preface before reading the motion and just say there's a type-o at the very last part of this. You don't need to make it more cumbersome by making the motion, just read it the way you want it.

Mr. Goncalves: Marc, are we going to have 3 copies to submit?

Mr. Strange: Do we need 3 copies? I never understood where the other 2 went.

Mr. Gennette: I think Kim Batista requested that.

Mr. Strange: I think we did 1 last year and I didn't get any push back on it.

Mr. DeBarge: Just sign yours and kick it up.

Mr. Goncalves: Where's our list of who's got what?

Mr. Gennette: We're going through them right now.

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Mr. Strange 4, 5 and 21. Article 6 would create an opioid settlement stabilization fund, which is the funds that we have that came into the opioid settlements. To date, we have collected $157,893.12. There's really no mechanism as how to spend it so this is the recommended way to do it right now which means whenever we get new funds in we're going to have to have Town Meeting vote to deposit those funds into the stabilization fund. I think that's a majority vote to put it in and then 2/3rds to take it out.

Mr. DeBarge: And then who can dispense it?

Mr. Rosenblum: This is a revolving fund right now, right? Can it go into a purchase order for police or fire for Narcan?

Mr. Strange: Yes, but that request has to be made to Town Meeting and they have to approve it.

Mr. DeBarge: There's no easier way to do it?

Mr. Strange: No. You can also do a revolving fund but it's the same process.

Mr. Winner: It's a DOR thing. It wasn't our idea.

Mr. Goncalves: That's going to suck. It's going to be twice a year. If they have a brainstorm they have to wait. That's temporary because if the new form of government goes through we don't have to do all this stuff.

Mr. Strange: Article 7 would authorize the Board of Selectmen to negotiate a pilot with MMWEC, that big solar array that went online this year. As a side note, we reached out to MMWEC to enter into negotiations and we have not heard back from them. I don't know if they're not ready, I don't know if that means they're not ready to enter into a pilot.

Mr. Goncalves: Why don't we get a report from the representative?

Mr. Gennette: I have to abstain from this.

Mr. Strange: Article 8 would transfer all these unspent funds to a fund that's going to be used to pay for our Town Hall improvements. Last year, our Town Meeting did a similar article. I think those funds were $600,000 or $700,000. Between those 2, those were unspent bond funds and these are unspent special article funds. So, we're approaching about a million dollars in unspent funds that can be used for Town Hall.

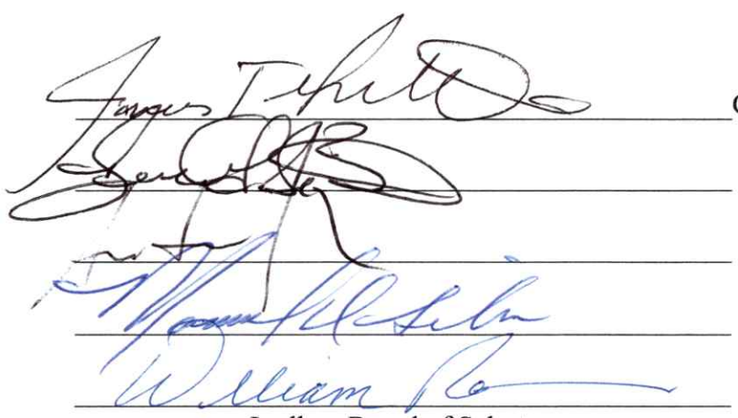
Mr. Gennette: If that starts to come up and they start getting into questions that I can't answer, are you prepared for that?

Mr. Strange: Yes.

Mr. Gennette: As far as the Town Hall goes, do we know what the estimate is for that?

Mr. DeBarge: 2.4.

Mr. Strange: We don't know yet. That was for the HVAC but we're doing a cheaper version of that. I think that was $300,000. So, instead of doing the whole thing, we're just going to change out the controls. So that will be done along with this. With that, it's probably going to be about 1.5 at this point. Article 9 is being dismissed. Article 10 is one where we might get some confused looks. At the May Town Meeting Article 18 had the main number was $7,791 short but if you go down the body of it and it breaks down the appropriations, those added up to the right number. Through Brian we asked DOR…



Chairman

Ludlow Board of Selectmen

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