The Meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on Tuesday, October 3, 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

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VISITATIONS

5:30 p.m. – Board of Public Works to discuss setting the sewer rate.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to open the DPW meeting at 5:31 p.m. **Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Mr. Goodreau: What we need to do to set the sewer rate is we get estimates from Springfield all the money we're going to have to pay them for the year. We also have employee costs, long term debt, short term debt, general expenses. We tally all that together, get a number, divide by the water usage, which is sent from Springfield, minus our auxiliary meters for sprinklers and well accounts. Basically, the number we need to hit is $1,937,122 to fund our sewer budget for the year. Our total cubic feet of volume was $601,919; that's 100 cubic feet because we bill per 100 cubic feet. We had adjustments of roughly $82,000 per hundred cubic feet. We have abatements for whatever reason of $41,000 and about 950 well accounts. Our well accounts are $90 per person. Our sewer rate currently is $4.10 per hundred cubic feet. With what we need to get we recommend you keep the rate the same, $4.10 per hundred cubic feet and $90 per person for the well account. That will cover our bill plus give us about 10-15% extra in case those estimates from Springfield are low. We keep everything the same and be able to cover everything.

Mr. DeBarge: Jim, what was the total cost again?

Mr. Goodreau: $1,937,122 is what we have in for the budget. But at the end that could fluctuate because Springfield sends us estimates for the whole year. This year we were lucky. The true up for the end of the year was only a matter of $8,000 difference from what they gave us. Out of 1.4 million it was $8,000 off from what they estimated to what true cost was.

Mr. Gennette: As far as last year or the year before is it staying static?

Mr. Goodreau: Probably within $100,000, Springfield went from 1.25 million up to 1.35 or 1.4, so it's going up between $50,000-$100,000. That's because they've got a lot more projects in the works. The York Street pump station: we have to pay a portion of that, the new lines under the river: we have to pay a portion of that. They've got more capital projects so that's where the increased cost is.

Mr. Gennette: So, there was an increase to the cost?

Mr. Goodreau: Roughly about $50,000.

Mr. Gennette: Even if this went up by an incremental cost, and I'm not saying it should go up by an incremental cost, but if we delay we're building up some kind of increase down the road?

Mr. Goodreau: Currently, with this rate we're keeping ourself a quarter of a million-dollar safety net. This will build up for us going further.

Mr. Tomas: We'd have an excess of around $240,000.

Mr. Silva: It's unheard of really rates don't go up each and every year. To have something for the residents. The rates aren't going up and they're not going to have to spend any more per year. It's awesome.

Mr. DeBarge: I couldn't agree more.

Mr. Goncalves: So, it's $4.10 per hundred cubic feet.

Mr. Goodreau: For the wells, it would be $90 per person.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to approve the rates as set at $4.10 per hundred cubic feet and $90 per person for well accounts. **Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum to close the sewer rate meeting at 5:36 p.m. **Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Mr. Gennette: Jamie, how are things at the DPW?

Mr. Tomas: Couldn't be better. We're forging ahead. I'll start off with paving projects. We did get some Chapter 90 money approved. We are going to have Justina Circle and Elizabeth Drive from Longview Circle to the first cul-de-sac paved this year. Palmer Paving was already out staking the road. I think we're looking towards the middle to the end of this month for the paving reclamation project to begin. There hasn't been any hiccups that I've heard of with Palmer besides the weather. Obviously there's a lot of rain this year so it's putting them back. I think we're in good shape to get that one done this year. We're already looking at next year. We're looking at Grimes Street, Grimard Street, Willard Ave, and a portion of Cady Street where they did the sewer upgrade a couple years back. West to Chicopee town line.

Mr. Silva: I'll ask the question and I get asked this question all the time; when can I get my street paved? Are we developing a list?

Mr. Goodreau: A paving management plan that was done in 2022 basically has all the roads. They recommend what roads you should do. We are going by the worst condition roads, but also recognizing doing areas. As you'll see, Grimes, Grimard, Willard, and Cady are all on that section. You've got them all there in one location so that's what we're doing. We do have the 5-year plan that we are projecting out. That might change according to the DIF. When the money does come in we might take Stevens and State Street off of that list and bring some of the worst quality streets up.

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Mr. Silva: How are you picking the worst streets? If a resident wants to find out or get a street on the list.

Mr. Goodreau: If they come in and bring it up, we'll yank out this paper and we'll show there where it is and what streets we're doing. There's usually 30-40 more deficient than their street.

Mr. Silva: If that street is in need then you'll probably put it on the list.

Mr. Tomas: If a resident comes in and we go out and determine that this street is a lot worse than what it says we can put a street on that list. We hate to do that but…

Mr. Goodreau: We have $686,000 in Chapter 90 money a year. The 2 roads we're doing are $682,000, so it saved us $4,000. Next year, those streets combined came in at $677,000. We're only going to have $8,000 over 2 years in our Chapter 90. Then we'll be waiting for that 3rd year to do the next projects.

Mr. Tomas: In other words, we're tight.

Mr. Silva: We had regional Selectmen's and we're talking about getting to the legislators and saying this has been ongoing for 20-25 years. The same amount year after year and yet the costs are just crazy.

Mr. Tomas: Everything. Reclamation is up. Mobilization is up. Pavement is up. When you get into the reclamation project the price doubles no matter what from the mill and pave. It's the nature of the project.

Mr. Gennette: At the closing of the last meeting, I had mentioned that we were looking at some software called Vialytics. We're going to touch on it but that would constantly monitor the roads as the DPW is driving over them. It would get a rate of degradation for all the roads. The software

is a lot more encompassing than that. We're looking at it right now. I'm hoping it's well received and the price is ok and we're good to take a look at it. If Jamie and Jimmy feel that this is something they're going to use and it's going to go forward and they like it then we'll have to do the funding.

Mr. Goncalves: The only thing with that is how often would they go down Grimes or Grimard on any given year?

Mr. Gennette: We can put them on the street sweeper. It doesn't matter to me how they get down the roads.

Mr. Rosenblum: Where I work they put them in the city owned dump trucks. They put them on the trash trucks since they hit every street. Maybe it's something like that that hits all streets.

Mr. Tomas: As many of you may know, we did do a drive-through with the software and the rep. I think the software is good. I don't think they're quite there yet with completing it. Jimmy and I both agree that probably testing it out with the pilot program they have and looking at it that way would probably be a start. I think it has a lot of good benefits. We can map the town with manholes, catch basins. It's huge. It's definitely good software and we can definitely look at it and see what it really does when it's in our hands. I think the pilot program will be a start.

Mr. Goodreau: For me, it's a tough sell. The pilot program, 100% no questions, do it. Last year we just did this pavement thing where they drove every road in town for $18,000. The yearly fee is about $30,000. I would say this is going to be good for 5-10 years. I'm looking at if we spent $18,000 in 5 years but we got a yearly subscription of $30,000 that's $150,000 cost. Where I can get this done for $18,000 we're saving the town $130,000. But to see the pilot program, what it can do, maybe it changes our mind that it produces more than what we thought at our drive through. It's a no brainer to try it for the 3 months. I think it would be a home run for us to get that going to see what data we get then we can reevaluate the cost vs what we're currently spending.

Mr. Gennette: I agree with that 100%.

Mr. Tomas: The rep did say that, and we confirmed it with him a couple of times, he definitely did say that all the software data that we collect would be ours.

Mr. Goodreau: Whatever we could accumulate in the 3 months would be ours. We get handed over to us.

Mr. Tomas: Any upgrades that happen in the meantime within the pilot program...

Mr. Goodreau: We'd get that also.

Mr. Tomas: It would definitely be something to look at for the future.

Mr. Gennette: They said they'd come out and train too, right?

Mr. Tomas: Yes, the rep was excellent.

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Mr. Gennette: I just don't want him to put something in your hands and say here you go guys.

Mr. Tomas: He told us he'd come out as many times as we need.

Mr. Goodreau: We did look at his rating system, it only goes 1-5, this goes from 0-100, so we've got 100 different things. If they give you a 1 rating, it could be anywhere from 1-20, you don't know. When you look at what the roads we drove with him were compared to what these were rated, they matched up pretty close. We brought the book with us looking at the roads and they did match up. It's good to see their software was picking up the same conditions that we had in the study.

Mr. Gennette: It's also good to see that the report is validating.

Mr. Tomas: As usual, parks and athletics fields lining and mowing every single day. Especially with all the rain we've been getting we can't keep up. Catching up on forestry reports, tree service reports. Those are never ending. They come in every hour on the hour sometimes.

Mr. Gennette: As far as track and fields, with this new project we got going, I know the community had a big concern about continued maintenance after that stuff was up there. What kind of situation are we in to be able to take care of that afterwards. Who's responsibility?

Mr. Goodreau: Currently, we mow everything over there and line it. Our responsibility will be cut down to mowing the baseball field because the turf is permanent striping. We won't have to paint it anymore. We do have an option. At the meeting we were presented with, the company would come twice a year at a minimal fee to maintain the turf. It's a no brainer for the school to do that. All we would have would be mowing and lining the baseball diamond which we currently do. We did bring that up to eliminate some of our workload so we're not mowing the soccer/football field and lining it. It would be less maintenance for us with the new track.

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Mr. Tomas: Essentially all it is is sweeping of the field periodically, which I think they're purchasing a machine for. From what I gather with a turf field, just checking the seams. It's a no brainer to get them out here twice a year.

Mr. Goodreau: Before season, after season, they fix all the seams. I'm not sure, I forgot the cost but it was something cheap like $3,000 a treatment.

Mr. Tomas: Forestry is always there. We have trees and more trees. We have a backlog of forestry service reports. It goes back 3-4-5 years. We're constantly working on those. A couple community events that we help set up for. The recent one was the community market. It was a group effort from the whole department. There was 72 vendors we had to mark out within the gazebo grounds. We set up a wood carving area for them. I think it was a good turnout from what I hear. The next one is going to be Celebrate Ludlow in a couple weeks. On the highway side, we're going to start a project next week. Ludlow Construction is coming in to do some sidewalk replacement on East Street corridor business district. You've probably noticed a lot of the sidewalks are lifting from the trees, grates are popping out, tripping hazards to everybody, so they're coming in to do some repairs on those. We're getting prepared for winter. Going through all our equipment. We have our salt bid in place so we'll more than likely be getting our salt very soon so we're ready for our first storm. Getting all our small equipment and snow blowers all ready to go. A lot of our trucks are in pretty rough shape so we're piecing everything together to make sure we have equipment that's going to last throughout the winter. We just did a bunch of work on both of our main pieces of equipment. Our bucket loaders for the winter. One of them is in pretty rough shape. I think it's going to be time to look into a new one at some point down the road real soon. Another big one is responding to complaints, potholes. We've been chasing washouts with all this rain for the past 3 months. Every time it rains we have a ton of washouts. Last Friday we had a bunch of flooding throughout the town. I came in for a drive around at 8:30 p.m. and Center Street, a house by the power lines with a little pond in the front, the pond overflowed and there was 2' of water across Center Street. Everything is back to normal with that. Another big one is the cemeteries. We're constantly chasing the grass there. Weed whacking and the burials. We're always busy with that stuff. We try to get out there and jet sewer lines for maintenance as much as we can and vacuum out catch basins. This year we did a lot of that due to all the rain and all the debris washing into the catch basins especially in the areas where we have a lot of dry wells we try to do a lot of maintenance on that. We applied for a couple grants. We received the RDP grant for $12,100 and we just applied for a MIIA risk management grant and we plan on buying a sewer camera for the department. That will save the town a lot of money once we have one of those in place. We should have had one years ago but we didn't so we're trying to get one now. With that grant we're trying to get some safety equipment also for the staff.

Mr. Silva: How are you doing with the staff? I know we were really short.

Mr. Tomas: We are still shorthanded. I'd like to be at 18. For those of you who don't know, our mechanic just resigned and Friday is his last day. I spoke to Rich, a foreman who was our mechanic a few years ago, then he decided to go back out in the field. He is stepping up to the plate and being our mechanic. I wouldn't say full-time mechanic but he's going to help out in the shop until we can line somebody up. I believe that job will be posted shortly.

Mr. Silva: How many short are we?

Mr. Goodreau: We have 14 currently. We were down to 11 or 12. We just hired 3. We have 2 currently on the books that we're advertising for that will get us up to 16 that we have budgeted. We have 16 employees budgeted.

Mr. Gennette: What was their positions?

Mr. Goodreau: PW1 and PW2 which are a laborer and equipment operator.

Mr. Tomas: We have 3 new employees within a year.

Mr. Silva: So, they're starting to come in. I know that we were having trouble.

Mr. Tomas: We hired 3 within the last year who are fantastic. They're doing a great job.

Mr. Goncalves: That's about $23 an hour?

Mr. Tomas: Roughly. We're starting to get the team mentality back for the most part. They hold their own when it comes to being shorthanded. I think the morale is slowly coming back and a year from now I think if things keep going the way they're going I think they'll be back in pretty decent shape.

Mr. Gennette: Will that person leaving have an exit interview?

Mr. Strange: Not as a matter of practice but…

Mr. Tomas: I personally spoke with him and he's moving onto bigger and better things.

Mr. Silva: Partly where I was going is are we competitive?

Mr. Goodreau: We are down a couple dollars an hour compared to the municipalities where they're going. I'd say $2-$3 an hour when you look at where they're going. Our 3 level compares to a 2 level in Wilbraham. So, a lesser level making more money as a qualified person. It's about $2-$3 an hour that we're seeing.

Mr. Gennette: What's the minimum requirement for PW1?

Mr. Tomas: Driver's license.

Mr. Goodreau: PW2 is a CDL license and PW3 you need a CDL and hoisting.

Mr. Tomas: We have 1 employee now going through the CDL training. He's one of the very new employees that stepped up. He got his licenses. He's in the process of getting his CDL, which he'll have more than likely before winter, which will be huge. We'll have another CDL driver and he has experience plowing.

Mr. Gennette: I had a resident reach out to me asking if the DPW is hiring. I may let him know to go over there and talk to you guys.

Mr. Tomas: We're hiring and hopefully we'll be hiring for the next few years to take the workload off of the guys we have now. Just to have the extra staff to line fields and do work at the cemetery. We're behind even with just mowing. Island Pond Cemetery is the perfect example. We have 2 guys in there typically mowing every week and we just can't catch up.

Mr. Goncalves: You guys are doing a great job. It's good not having anything negative to discuss.

Mr. Tomas: A lot of positive over there. I can't say enough. I was there for a long time. Being in this seat now I can see the difference.

Mr. Goncalves: For the people listening out there, these are great jobs. If you like being outdoors. If you know anybody looking for work send them over.

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Mr. Tomas: Another one is the snowplow advertisement for the contract is out. For anybody out there that wants to come plow for the Town of Ludlow.

Mr. Goodreau: It's on the website also. You can fill it out and bring it back in.

Mr. Tomas: We have reached out to a couple of the contractors we've had for the past years and they are slowly coming back. They just haven't had time because they're all contractors that are out working. A few big ones have committed already.

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Mr. Goncalves: Your street pavement list report, is that available online?

Mr. Goodreau: We do have it in a PDF. I don't know if we have it on the website or not.

Mr. Goncalves: Maybe people don't have the time to come in. They can go look at it online.

Mr. Tomas: Even the streets we're doing in a couple of weeks, I'm going to put something out there to 22 News or whatever, just so people are aware that we are in the area and we are working out there. To seek alternate routes. We could even put it on the website.

Mr. Lavigne: My name is Larry Lavigne. I saw Jim and Jamie and I heard what they're talking about but no one has mentioned anything about the water drainage or tree issue they're having at the Memorial Hubbard Library. Jamie was there the other day and he noticed that the gutters were probably clogged because the water wasn't gushing out because he wasn't there when it was actually raining. I sent pictures to Marc Strange. If you saw these pictures, they got sandbags from the Fire Department on the sidewalks. They've got tarps over the bookcases in the cellar because the water is leaking underneath to a point where the books are going to be damaged if they didn't have those tarps. The ceiling tiles are all wet and collapsing. From what I understand, I've only been in Ludlow for 30 years but people before me are saying when they put the new addition on they've always had water problems but no one is addressing it. Jamie mentioned they should probably have tree cover there. What's happening is the acorns and leaves are probably clogging the gutters unless there's some kind of screen.

Mr. Tomas: Our tree department was down there today. They trimmed a big oak tree. Checked all the gutters on the building and they're all clean. I have pictures of that. Titan Roofing was contacted yesterday and they are coming out. We're waiting for them to come out and do the inspection and repair of the down spouts like we spoke of.

Mr. Lavigne: You mentioned by the sliding glass doors that there should be some kind of drainage put in there to prevent the water from seeping in.

Mr. Goodreau: We said we could put one in if fixing the gutters does not solve the problem. We need to see if fixing the gutters is going to work first. There's no need to dig up something you don't need to and cause a disturbance if fixing the gutter solves the problem.

Mr. Lavigne: That takes care of that but with the water coming down the way it is running down the sidewalk, and you saw those grooves in there, as long as you continue to have the water when it comes wintertime and that freezes you're going to have little kids, elderly and everybody else and with all these functions they have on a weekly, monthly basis, to me it's absolutely crazy that this has always taken a back seat. I don't want to get into it because I know there's 4.8 million dollars for the complex. This thing brings in so many people. They had 1,000 people there last week. They had 1 class for the little kids, 300 in that 1 class and it always seems like it's falling on the back burner.

Mr. Gennette: I'm going to intercede a little bit and say the DPW is not responsible for the library itself. They have a library committee. The DPW does what they can to help but they're not there to fund the library.

Mr. Lavigne: I appreciate Jim and Jamie coming out there because they were there in the rain looking at everything and I'm just a volunteer and I went up there with the elbows and plastered the heck out of it with the flex seal and it did absolutely nothing.

Mr. Tomas: They need to be replaced so we're working on that. Our road crew is going down at some point before the end of the week because we're supposed to get some more rain over the weekend to clean out the drains.

Mr. Goodreau: They're going to vac everything out to make sure it's flowing like it was.

Mr. Lavigne: I'm glad I came. You see all these little kids with their costumes and they're having events. I put it on Facebook and I caught all kinds of slack because they're saying they need the soccer field because people are getting injured. That's true. It could be dirty players too swiping out their feet from behind. I know. I played soccer. If you can afford 4.8 million dollars I'm sure some of the drainage…

Mr. Gennette: I've got to interrupt you because we're talking about the DPW, not that kind of stuff.

Mr. Goncalves: On the 4.8, unfortunately the Town in all their wisdom, the Town Meeting voters decided they didn't want to spend a million and a half 3 years ago when it went to vote, so it turned into 4.6, 4.7. We have a beautiful library. It's got these small little quirks but we have a horrible sports facility by comparison of any community around us and that's long overdue. Was there a formal request from the library for that ARPA money? I don't remember seeing one.

Mr. Lavigne: From what I understand, they never had a plan in the following year because of the switch in management. Melissa is now there and they never put in the paperwork for the grant so now that has to wait until next year.

Mr. Rosenblum: I think 4 years ago we earmarked $80,000. We had to re-do all the windows because of the kind of windows they are to keep the aesthetic look to them. Then they came back and asked for more.

Mr. Gennette: That was a capital request and they didn't get a good estimate the first time. Those are historic windows.

Mr. Tomas: I was involved in that whole process and it was a lot of money.

Mr. Gennette: You mentioned the cemetery. How's the new cemetery going over there? I saw the paving.

Mr. Tomas: Good. One whole section is pinned out. Two sections.

Mr. Goodreau: We've got the pins coming in for the next 2.

Mr. Gennette: Can we start selling lots up there soon?

Mr. Tomas: As far as I know we can. We haven't advertised.

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Mr. Goodreau: If something should happen and we're out of space at Island Pond we do have the ability at any time to bury someone. Once that does happen where we do have to bury someone we will then announce that it's open.

Mr. Tomas: There is still some work going on up there.

Mr. Goodreau: Under the understanding that people are going to be buried there. It's not complete. You need to sell the lots to get the money to use to then proceed to the next section. It's all in the perpetual care fund. There's no money in the account right now. Once we sell the first 2 sections we'll be able to expand the next 2.

Mr. Goncalves: Is there a reason one cemetery couldn't help the other in any given year if we were to run short. Do they have to be separate?

Mr. Goodreau: It's linked to a specific cemetery. For perpetual care you can only use the interest on it for upkeep. Island Pond there's something like a million dollars there but you can only use the interest. You cannot touch it. You can use the sale of lot accounts for improvements.

Mr. Goncalves: So, we've been using any extra money hanging around to do bits and pieces of the other cemetery?

Mr. Goodreau: Correct. It's going to be called Reservoir Cemetery for ease. It's right there for location. So, people will be able to locate it. We already have Center Street Cemetery.

Mr. Gennette: You have your CIPC requests in for November 16th? Do you have anything you're sending over to capital?

Mr. Goodreau: The date is the 15th? We'll get it into you.

Mr. Silva: Last night we got an article passed and some funds are going to be available, I don't know when, but we expanded the district so funds will be for infrastructure. Keep your focus on that when you're looking at the road paving. Is this something that can come from those funds or not?

Mr. Goodreau: We already have that 2026-2027 State Street and Stevens Street combined is $810,000. If that came out of the DIF we would shift these other streets up and Chapter 90 would be used for other streets. We also have East Street, Stevens to State, which would be also in that DIF. That's almost a million dollars to do that one section.

Mr. DeBarge: I think you both are doing a great job. It's nice to go in the places I go in, Senior Center, Vet Center, and some of the events I go to and hear positive things about our DPW. The trees, the roadwork, seeing you out there. Answering the phones and all of that. It's nice to hear consecutive, positive comments about our department that was having trouble before. I hope people that are listening hear the East Street part of it. We are repairing East Street. It's something our new director and Jim are sick of hearing from me about. I'm always calling them about East Street. I'm very glad to hear the cones are going to be gone, the tripping hazards are going to be taken care of. That's a big deal. It's a step forward in our main goal to re-do, reface that whole area.

Mr. Tomas: It's a team effort really. The guys at the DPW are all doing what they can. Everybody pitches in, whether it's a little or a lot. I just want to make that clear to everybody. The department is moving forward.

Mr. Gennette: That's because the morale is improving. I like seeing around town that things are improving. I think everything is a project, but I love the direction we're heading in.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

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Mr. Strange: I couldn't answer the bell on a TA report this week. I would suggest we move down to the track funding because Lori is here.

Board to discuss and possibly vote to appropriate $4,800,000 in ARPA funds for the new Ludlow High School Sports Complex.

Ms. Belanger: I'm sending a letter of recommendation from our designer, Mott MacDonald, to pursue the project with Mountainview Landscape. The 2nd page is a listing of all the bid holders so you have an idea who requested bid documents. This page breaks out the bids. We had 3 vendors come in. You have the numbers based on the base bid plus the alternate. And then the engineers estimate. This is a draft from Mountainview on their project timeline. On Thursday we had a virtual meeting with Mott MacDonald, Jason, our designer, Marc was on the call, I was on the call and the folks from Mountainview. During that call I know I was very explicit on staying with the timeline. We are at 180 days from the start less winter stoppage. That brings us to 3 dates. 3/28 to have the field done so the high school can use the ball field. They felt confident they could match that date. A lot of this is weather related. They are planning winter shutdown, but if there's opportunity to be able to do things in the winter they want to do that and be able to come in before the 180 days. During that conversation, we got a sense of what their needs are with the town. We looked at again keeping them in line trying to stay to the 180 days. What we're hoping tonight is to have the approval for 4.8 million dollars. That will allow us to be able to move the project forward with the base bid and the alternate and have a little buffer on a contingency. In order to stay with the project and the timeline, Mountainview would need a notice to proceed by Thursday.

It's outlined in their draft. I'll hand this out. It's an overview of what you're getting now. I came into this a little bit late but I think working with Mott trying to keep them on track. I was very clear at the beginning of the meeting that this was an important project for the town. It's ARPA funded so everybody has to stay within the federal regulations. This will be the premier track in Western Mass that's long overdue and that our expectation is that. Upon completion it's going to be an amazing project. I was so excited after the meeting that after the summer maybe some ribbon cutting or get the community in and showcase what that section is going to look like. When I'm looking at the drawings and things I think what you have now to what you're going to get is going to be dramatically different. I think it ties in beautifully with the 250th. Friday night lights. If all goes to schedule we're looking at completion with field towards the last week in July, again weather permitting. If plants are somehow delayed with product coming in, that's something we have to consider. Based on the feedback from Mountainview and the conditions in the market they feel they can meet the deadline. If we're able to get a blessing on the 4.8 I have the notice to proceed letter ready to punch out. Then we can start preconstruction meetings, what they will need from the town. We may have permits. What's going to be required with that. Overall, it was a good process and I'm happy to be here to present that to you. A lot of hard work. A lot of meetings and conversations. I'm taking this project personally on top of the procurement side. I can assure you and Marc can attest that he knows I work on a certain standard. I want to represent the town and I want the town to embrace this project and for our student athletes to have a spectacular field. That's where we're at and I'd be glad to answer any questions you may have.

Mr. Goncalves: The contingencies are around $160,000?

Ms. Belanger: The engineers' estimate includes a 10% contingency as well as a 25% escalation based on where the markets are right now with the goods. That was provided to us and that includes that.

Mr. Goncalves: The bid amount of 4.8 million, what do we have for a contingency?

Ms. Belanger: 10% contingency and 25…

Mr. Strange: The estimate opinion of cost was 3.5 and that included a 25% volatility for changes in pricing and a 10% contingency was in that 3.5.

Mr. Goncalves: That's the engineers estimate?

Mr. Strange: Yes, those numbers are not included in that which is why we're asking for. There's only 4.8 million or so in ARPA funds left. The contingency is a little thin and we have to see where we are before we go past that 4.8 million.

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Mr. Goncalves: How about Brillo's wish list?

Mr. Strange: It's in there.

Mr. DeBarge: It's a great presentation. I'm just excited to get this going. It's been a long time coming.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to designate 4.8 million dollars of the ARPA money for the purpose of funding the track & field as presented and that we also give a one week notice to Mountainview to start that project.

Ms. Belanger: I'd like to send that notice tonight. Then it's wheels up. They can start the planning process. We can start the preconstruction meetings and peel back the onion. I feel like there's some savings in this after all is said and done.

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

Mr. Rosenblum: Because the earmark is 2020, we have to earmark the ARPA funding by 2024. This project will be done in time if there's leftover money then we can reappropriate to wherever we want. Then you don't have to spend it until 2026. I wanted to say that out there that if we come in a few hundred thousand dollars under we can reappropriate to other areas.

Mr. Strange: Yes.

CORRESPONDENCE

125. Brian Shameklis, Chairman Safety Committee – letter recommending that a mirror be placed on the corner of Cislak and Miller Streets due to a resident complaint.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to install a mirror at the corner of Cislak & Miller Streets due to a resident complaint. **Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

126. Brian Shameklis, Chairman Safety Committee – letter recommending that 25 mph signs be placed both northbound and southbound on Fuller Street and southbound on Chapin Street to reinforce the town wide thickly settled speed limit.

Motion made by Mr. DeBarge to approve the 25 mph signs be placed both northbound and southbound on Fuller Street and southbound on Chapin Street to reinforce the town wide thickly settled speed limit. **Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

127. Brian Shameklis, Chairman Safety Committee – letter recommending that the Engineering Department and ADA Coordinator review this area to see what, if anything, can be done to accommodate a request for a crosswalk on Napoleon & Fuller Streets.

Mr. Goncalves: Do we have an engineering department?

Ms. Strange: Jimmy is the engineering department.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to send a letter to the DPW to get together with the ADA coordinator, which I think is Leslie, and talk about if it makes sense or if we can install a crosswalk at that corner. **Mr. DeBarge second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

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128. Brian Shameklis, Chairman Safety Committee – letter recommending a "Do Not Block Street" sign be placed on Sewall Street at the intersection of Sewall Street and White Street as well as ground restriction markings.

Mr. DeBarge: The want the lines put in the roadway and the signs put in there to stop the traffic that stops at the stop sign of Sewall and Center to keep them from blocking?

Mr. Strange: There's 3 new businesses going in there.

Mr. Goncalves: The Turkish Club and old fruit store. There might be parking a little bit outside of the zones.

Mr. DeBarge: I don't see where that hurts anything.

Motion made by Mr. DeBarge to approve, with the DPW Director's blessing, a "Do Not Block" street sign be placed on Sewall Street at the intersection of Sewall Street and White Street as well as ground restriction markings if they're allowed to be there. **Mr. Goncalves second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

129. Celebrate Ludlow Donations – Luso Federal Credit Union - $250.00, PV Financial Group - $500.00 for a total of $750.00.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to accept the 2 donations from Luso Federal Credit Union - $250.00, PV Financial Group - $500.00 for a total of $750.00. **Mr. DeBarge second with a Thank You. All in favor Motion passed 5-0.**

130. 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 10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. for the "Sing With Me" program while the weather allows and to do "Story Walks" October 1 through November 1, 2023.

Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum to approve the use of the lawn adjacent to the library every Tuesday from 10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. for the "Sing With Me" program while the weather allows and to do "Story Walks" October 1 through November 1, 2023. **Mr. DeBarge second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

131. Louis Gilli, EH&S Engineer, Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC) – Informing the Board that MMWEC will be performing their routine inspections on its natural gas pipeline right of way in October, November, and December.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to file. **Mr. Rosenblum second. Mr. Gennette abstain. Motion passed 4-0-1.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Board to discuss and possibly approve the request from Tom Barbeau, Chairman – St. Elizabeth's Pack 180 Cub Scouts to use the soccer and softball practice fields behind Vets Park to launch Estes type model rockets in November. (Tabled from 9/19/23)

Mr. DeBarge: Marc, with the demo, there won't be any issue with the area?

Mr. Strange: I don't believe so. I'd have to double check the date but when I read it I think it might be in the spring.

Mr. DeBarge: Tom, since we're talking about this, since we're demoing the school, is the area going to be finished and accessible to you guys?

Mr. Barbeau: We're looking at early November.

Mr. Strange: If it's early November it's going to be close.

Mr. Barbeau: We do 1 STEM topic a month with the guys and usually it's the last meeting of the month, the last Wednesday.

Mr. DeBarge: Do you have an alternative site?

Mr. Barbeau: We were thinking Vets Park wasn't being used for anything except maybe soccer practice. I can certainly swing by or email the secretary and find out if it's not suitable and we can try to find something. I know there's a big field in Three Rivers that could work that we've scoped out before. We were just hoping to stay in town.

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Mr. Silva: What about Baird?

Mr. Barbeau: Baird could work. When I was in junior high Mr. Libiszewski used to do rockets there. That field tends to get used a lot.

Mr. Goncalves: The Boys Club?

Mr. Silva: That's small.

Mr. Goncalves: That's not a scale model. That's an actual thing there.

Mr. Barbeau: We'll give them the small motor so these are probably going to go up about 300'.

Mr. DeBarge: 250th Committee is firing of fireworks from Nick Silva Field across from All Faze. I think that field would be wide open.

Mr. Barbeau: I've never been down there; I'd have to go look. It's by the river, right?

Mr. Goncalves: Behind the old police station.

Mr. Silva: I think if that's not available, Baird should work.

Mr. Gennette: I think you're going to be OK at Vets.

Mr. Rosenblum: I don't think we have any jurisdiction over it, but the Fish & Game. That might be something while we figure out the timing of this.

Mr. Goncalves: It's safe to say we'll find you someplace.

Mr. DeBarge: We're definitely in favor of firing off rockets.

Mr. Goncalves: We used to make that out of balsa wood.

Mr. Barbeau: This is the really easy kit so the cubs don't have to glue fins on or anything. It's one piece. They just have to glue the rings on the motor mount and put the decals on and the parachute is strung for them so it makes it pretty easy.

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Mr. Rosenblum: Is there a little guy in there?

Mr. Barbeau: We have a couple of those rockets where you can put a payload. Scout age kids 10-18 have a space exploration badge and they're supposed to do an experiment with a rocket like that. These are the little guys so we keep it simple.

Mr. Gennette: Maybe we'll come down and watch you guys launch them.

Mr. Barbeau: I'll definitely let you know the date.

Mr. Gennette: Thank you for coming down. Sorry to delay you. Thank you for the information.

Mr. Barbeau: She offered me 2 dates and I grabbed the first one.

Motion made by Mr. DeBarge to approve the request from Tom Barbeau, Chairman – St. Elizabeth's Pack 180 Cub Scouts to use the soccer and softball practice fields behind Vets Park, should they be available, or any other park that is suitable for the launching of the Estes type model rockets in November. **Mr. Goncalves second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Board to sign Selectmen Meeting Minutes of September 5, 2023.

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

Board to sign Selectmen Meeting Minutes of September 19, 2023.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to sign the Meeting Minutes of September 19, 2023, with all members present. **Mr. DeBarge second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Board to discuss and possibly vote to allow Western United Pioneers to use the Community Center fields.

Mr. Silva: There's no insight. It's just the process we decided to move forward with between LYSA, the Pioneers and the Boys and Girls Club. I think things are in order.

Mr. Gennette: So, you're recommending just allowing this?

Mr. DeBarge: I still don't know why this is coming to us.

Mr. Silva: That's because it's in the bylaws. The Club did not want to. They wanted us to approve it. It's a formality.

Mr. Goncalves: There's papers in here we need to sign, so it's approve and sign the request.

Mr. Silva: Once they go through the process of each organization getting together and saying this is…all we have to do is just bless it.

Mr. Strange: We need 1 form signed. Maybe the Chairman should sign it.

Motion made by Mr. Silva to vote to allow Western Pioneers to use the Community Center fields and sign the request. **Mr. Goncalves second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Board to appoint the following Election Officers: Kelley Porfilio, Darlene Randall, Lynda Collins, Maurice Lavoie, and Janice Dusza (Unenrolled), Christina Brown & Diane Walton (Democrat).

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to appoint the following Election Officers: Kelley Porfilio, Darlene Randall, Lynda Collins, Maurice Lavoie, and Janice Dusza (Unenrolled), Christina Brown & Diane Walton (Democrat). **Mr. DeBarge second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Board to sign a contract with Weston & Sampson for consulting services related to the FY24 MVP Action Grant.

Mr. Strange: The town was awarded an MVP Action Grant in the amount of $135,000. There was a $40,000 cash match, which you all approved at the last meeting. This contract would bring in Weston & Sampson to be our consultants to effectuate the grant.

Motion made by Mr. DeBarge to sign the contract with Weston & Sampson for consulting services related to the FY24 MVP Action Grant. **Mr. Goncalves second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

NEW BUSINESS

Board to discuss and possibly vote to authorize $26,665 in Building Infrastructure Funds to repair a boiler at the Community Center.

Mr. Strange: It's pretty self-explanatory. The boiler at the Community Center and also at the Fire Department are shot and they need to be replaced.

Mr. Gennette: Is this money for both of them?

Mr. Strange: This is just for the Community Center. We have $180,000 or so in the Building Infrastructure Fund.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to authorize $26,665 from the Building Infrastructure Fund to repair the boiler at the Community Center. **Mr. Rosenblum 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.

Mr. Gennette: Any board updates we want to talk about? No? We're good.

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Event Calendar:

October 14th – Celebrate Ludlow @ Memorial Park
October 16th – Michael J. Dias Golf Tournament at Ludlow Country Club
October 23rd-31st – Ludlow Cares Coalition Red Ribbon Week
October 27th – Rag Shag Parade at the Ludlow Boys and Girls Club 6-8:30 p.m.
October 28th – 250th & Jimmy Mazz Ludlow Legends Night 6 p.m. – 10 p.m. @ Ludlow Country Club
October 29th – Ludlow Cares Coalition's a Walk to Remember at the Ludlow Boys and Girls Club at 6 p.m.
November 3rd – Thunderbirds vs Bellville Senators – Ludlow Night at the Mass Mutual Center @ 7:05 p.m. – a portion of the ticket proceeds go to the 250th Committee
November 18th – Ludlow Community Center Auction

CLOSING COMMENTS

Mr. Goncalves: 250th Committee. They're doing such a great job. It's exciting to see Linda Collette and that whole committee. It's just event after event. They must eat, drink, and sleep this stuff because it's nonstop. And I think it's fantastic. More seriously, at last night's Town Meeting I can't believe we were that close to not having a quorum. When we look through the list, precinct 2 is missing 9. Nine members in that precinct alone. There's probably more members complaining on Facebook than there are showing up at the high school to vote on stuff. People need to get involved. We've got 17-18 openings, different committees that are open, but nobody has got a problem with it raising heck everywhere else. I hope people that have a little bit of time will consider getting involved a little bit more and complaining a little bit less.

Mr. Gennette: I agree. We're going to be going into executive session and won't be returning.

Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum to leave regular session at 6:42 p.m. not to return to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel. Also, to discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares. **Mr. Goncalves second. Roll call. Mr. Goncalves yes, Mr. DeBarge yes, Mr. Silva yes, Mr. Rosenblum yes, Mr. Gennette yes. Motion passed 5-0.**

_____ Chairman

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