The Meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on Tuesday, November 21, 2023, began at 5:30 p.m. in the Board of Selectmen's Conference Room.

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

Members Absent: Derek DeBarge

First Order of Business: The Pledge of Allegiance

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Board to revisit request from Faith Community Chapen regarding snow removal and East Street School parking (Tabled from July 11, 2023)

Mr. Strange: The Faith Community Chapel is located across from East Street School and Pastor Lisa from the Chapel approached the Town about potentially having the DPW plow their parking lots during snow events with the thought being there are parents during drop off and pick up who park in the parking lot creating an informal quid pro quo, the Chapel allowing parents to park there and the Chapel asking the Town to help them out with snow events. The Board discussed it at the last meeting and you all requested us to go back to Town Counsel to see if this was possible. We spoke with Town Counsel and they said it is possible. They wrote up an agreement, which was sent to the church. The church wanted to get into some of the gritty details. We told them that the Board hasn't voted on anything yet. So, we paused there and put this back on the agenda for the Board's decision whether or not to move forward with an agreement or tell them we're not interested.

Mr. Gennette: Was our agreement sent to them?

Mr. Strange: Yes.

Mr. Gennette: Are they making modifications to the agreement?

Mr. Strange: Yes. They're lawyering. They're squabbling over language. Ultimately, if the Board chooses to do this I have no doubt we're 90% there. One of the outstanding questions was if there's a snowstorm on a Sunday and it's not during school will the DPW come and plow them out. Some of that stuff I don't have the authority, but also the Board hasn't decided where they want to go with it yet.

Mr. Gennette: I think they still plow the school even if…

Mr. Strange: They plow the school but they wanted them to plow the chapel at the same time.

Mr. Silva: It's a big problem over there on East Street, as we all know. Now it becomes a safety issue. Maybe that will alleviate some of the traffic. Quite honestly, I don't see the big ramifications. The liability and all of that is all taken care of to me it seems like it's fine for them to do it on a Sunday and keep the parking lot plowed. It's not going to cost the Town a heck of a lot of money. Maybe half an hour's work for one of the drivers. I don't see an issue with it if the attorneys don't see an issue with it.

Mr. Strange: Depending on what the Board decides, if you decide to go forward with it we'll have the attorneys iron out some of the stuff and if there's outstanding issues we'll bring it back to the Board so you all can decide on some of the stuff. There's some liability language in there, stuff like that. Some details need to get hashed out.

Mr. Goncalves: Along the lines of what Mr. Silva said, it seems like there's an issue at all our schools. The high school, Harris Brook & certainly East Street. Anytime we can get any type of assistance or break to take cars off the main drag and make it a little bit safer with less commotion I'm definitely all in. If it's a weekend storm and it's got to be clean for Monday, why wouldn't they go in and clean it as normal course. If the attorneys can iron out everything on their end, I'm in.

Mr. Rosenblum: The only sticking point for me is to make sure the language the attorney's put in there keep it closed ended so we don't open up Pandora's Box of everywhere in Town saying we did this for the schools. I have the faith in the attorneys to do that. I don't have a problem with this at all. We've probably all had kids go there. My kids went there. Understanding how it is going through that area and trying to cross the street. 20 mph is not happening all the time. I don't have a problem with it. That's my only concern. I hope we don't get into a situation where we start getting other places asking for that.

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Mr. Gennette: As far as the legalese, I'm fine with it too.

Mr. Strange: In the course of these negotiations between the attorneys, there's questions that come up that are really more policy than legal, how would you like us to handle that?

Mr. Gennette: We've already presented our paperwork to them? So, whatever those questions come back to, we obviously have to get those answered. Policy questions have to come before the Board.

Mr. Strange: I propose we will ask the attorneys to hammer out as much as they can and bring any policy questions along with a final draft for you guys to make a decision and we go back to the attorneys. We'll have to go back a 3rd time I guess.

Mr. Goncalves: Are we in agreement that whether it's a weekend or school vacation week we get it cleaned? I can see what's happening is they're going to eliminate that contract they have for cleaning the parking lot. They're going to put it on us and we're agreeing to do that. I would say if it comes down to that we should clean the snow every time.

Mr. Gennette: My only concern is when people don't get it done as fast as they would want it they would have to get the parking lot done when the DPW can do it in their schedule, which may not be 5:30 in the morning before everybody has to show up for work.

Mr. Silva: I'm sure they'll do it when they do East Street.

Mr. Gennette: I think we're all kind of trying to make concessions here.

Mr. Goncalves: That particular church is going to be as important to us as the parking lot itself of East Street. It probably handles just as many cars or the influx. The traffic pattern of getting it off the main drag, especially with snow on the ground, is important.

Mr. Rosenblum: Talking about the timing of it, I can see that if it's a Saturday storm early Saturday evening or Saturday night, is that going to be a priority over some of the streets? Because then there's going to be parking for services. I'm in agreement that to go ahead and try to set time limits for when a storm ends, you can't predict that so it should just be all the time that we do it. It's going to be the priority of when the storm ends.

Mr. Gennette: Whenever the DPW can get over.

Mr. Rosenblum: In the same sense, eliminating a private contractor to come and do it at 5:00 in the morning when the storm has stopped so people can get in for early mass.

Mr. Goncalves: The way that's set up over there, it runs between Cedar & Williams Street, so it connects them. It's not going to be a big deal for the DPW to go in there. It's going to be a few extra passes between the 2 streets. It's not a parking lot. It's actually going to be a cut through more than a parking lot.

Mr. Gennette: What about snow piles?

Mr. Goncalves: They have plenty of room there.

Mr. Gennette: Mr. Vestal, do you have anything?

Mr. Vestal: Is this an agreement or agreement in theory?

Mr. Rosenblum: The only sticking point for me is to make sure the language the attorney's put in there keep it closed ended so we don't open up Pandora's Box of everywhere in Town saying we did this for the schools. I have the faith in the attorneys to do that. I don't have a problem with this at all. We've probably all had kids go there. My kids went there. Understanding how it is going through that area and trying to cross the street. 20 mph is not happening all the time. I don't have a problem with it. That's my only concern. I hope we don't get into a situation where we start getting other places asking for that.

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Mr. Goncalves: It should work out well for everybody.

CORRESPONDENCE

151. Pamela Hayes, Resident – Requesting to be appointed to the Ludlow Cultural Council.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to accept Pamela Hayes to the Ludlow Cultural Council. **Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

152. Frank Krzanik, Resident – Informing the Board of his resignation from the Ludlow Council on Aging effective immediately.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to accept Mr. Krzanik's resignation and thank him for his time and good health to him. **Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

153. Valdemar Rodrigues, Resident – Requesting to be appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate Member.

Mr. Silva: I know Val pretty well and he's been involved in some development and some construction and things of that nature which I think he will be a great fit for the Zoning Board of Appeals. Didn't they need an actual member?

Mr. Strange: They needed 2 alternates. They had 3 and they were down 2 alternates.

Motion made by Mr. Silva to appoint Valdemar Rodrigues to the Zoning Board of Appeals as an alternate member. **Mr. Goncalves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

154. April Beston – President, Ludlow Rotary Club – Requesting permission from the Board to have the Toys for Tots banner (12ft x 5ft) hung at the bridge to advertise their event on December 3rd.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to approve the banner for the Toys for Tots at the Ludlow Bridge. **Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

Mr. Gennette: For a note, the Rotary Club is an operating entity 401C inside the Town of Ludlow.

155. 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 November 5, 2023.

Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum to approve charging 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 November 5, 2023. **Mr. Goncalves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

156. Chief Valadas – request to charge off medical expenses and lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for an injury sustained by a Police Officer as a result of an incident that occurred on November 8, 2023.

Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum to approve the request to charge off medical expenses and lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for an injury sustained by a Police Officer as a result of an incident that occurred on November 8, 2023. **Mr. Goncalves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

157. Michael Engel, Charter Committee Member – notifying the Board of his resignation from the Charter Committee.

Mr. Rosenblum: I sit on that committee and Mr. Engel mentioned during our last meeting and I know in his letter, he actually posted a letter to the editor of the Register as well, that he's not resigning for conflict or anything of that nature, it's mostly just that he feels he doesn't offer enough to it but would like to offer his assistance in some other capacity down the road and he feels that everything is going in the correct direction. He felt he didn't have as much to add as he originally thought. Very nice gentleman. I'd like to say Thank You for his service for his time on the commission. We've met 4-5 times now. We meet every 1st and 3rd Thursday at 6:00 p.m. and it's open to the public. Thank you, Mr. Engel, for your service to the Town.

Mr. Silva: Thank you Mr. Engel.

Motion made by Mr. Silva to accept the resignation of Michael Engel to the Charter Commission. **Mr. Goncalves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

158. Octavia Anderson, Animal Control Officer requesting a dangerous/nuisance dog hearing for 474 Poole Street on December 5, 2023.

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Mr. Gennette: We're all set for having this hearing on December 5th?

Mr. Goncalves: Reading this letter, sooner rather than later.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to schedule a dangerous/nuisance dog hearing at the request of Octavia Anderson for Kim Libiszewski at our next meeting on December 5th. **Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

UNFINISHED BUISNESS

Board to consider and possibly vote to approve a quarterly Employee Wellness Day for Town Hall employees.

Mr. Gennette: The Town Administrator and the HR Director were in here before and we asked for a little more clarity on what exactly that meant.

Mr. Strange: With the Board's direction, Carrie, Paulina, and I went back to the drawing board and came up with a draft agenda. We're calling it Employee Wellness and Employee Appreciation, which I think certainly in a lot of employment and employers in a lot of towns is lacking. Here we have a lot of departments that exist in their own silo so we're trying to figure out a way to bring everybody together and team build?

Mr. Gennette: Any questions about the agenda or employee wellness? I appreciate that you're trying to change the name.

Mr. Rosenblum: That's what we call it in the City of Hartford. I thought it was a little bit broader.

Mr. Gennette: I appreciate the work you've done on this and I think it's a great idea.

Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum to approve the Employee Wellness agenda as it's been presented to us. **Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

Mr. Gennette: With that motion, do you want to see any changes to the Employee Wellness agenda or are you comfortable having the Town Administrator and HR Department work up the agendas in the future? We don't need to see their agendas every time.

Mr. Rosenblum: This agenda is a great agenda and I think between the Town Administrator, Paulina and HR I think they know what's best probably more than we do inside the building.

Mr. Gennette: Duly noted for the record.

Board to approve and sign Executive Session Minutes of November 7, 2023.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to approve and sign Executive Session Minutes of November 7, 2023, with all members present. **Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

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Board to discuss the BOH Shared Services Initiative.

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Mr. Goncalves: It looks like we're going to be waiting until the beginning of the year on this for whatever we're going to be doing.

Mr. Rosenblum: We've already received funding for it.

Mr. Gennette: I can read her description of what's going on. We were going back & forth with Chairperson for the Board of Health, Kelly Lamas, and she answered some of the questions I put out to her. I requested her to come visit. She asked what it was about. I posed some questions to her and these were the answers she sent. The Board was interested in the project overall and would like specifics about any new positions being added. Any impacts any new positions may have on the Town and if the Board of Health will be submitting anything related to the Shared Services Grant up to the Town Meeting via warrant articles. She responded, we're currently still in a bit of a waiting game from the grant from the DPH and other towns. My thought is to wait until the new year for a more formal update at a meeting. In the meantime, here are some high-level details about the public health excellence shared services grant. Public Health Excellence Shared Services Grant 3-year cycle with opportunity for 2-year additional cycles that will total 9 years. DPH's goal is to build capacity within Health Departments participating in the Shared Services municipalities and to create a sustainability model under DPH guidance post grant cycles. This is part of a larger statewide effort under the SAPHE 2.0 act. Under this grant, we created the Mill Town's Public Health Coalition made up of 4 municipalities, Ludlow – fiscal agent, Palmer, Warren & West Brookfield. DPH approved $449,000 for the Mill Town Public Health Coalition admin support for FY24. Since Ludlow is the fiscal agent, DPH cannot exceed 15% of the budget to go to management, supervision and stipend to local health director working beyond regular hours to support shared services arrangement. As of 10/10/2023, we have currently received $147,500. Since Ludlow is the fiscal agent, yesterday 11/13/2023 the Town Accountant created the Mill Town Public Health Grant budget that will hold all shared service funds dispersed from DPH. These funds are to only be used for grant efforts and per DPH prohibited costs include capital expenses under any circumstances and supplementing existing municipal funding for the public health services. The coalition was approved by DPH to hire 4 shared positions. Shared positions will be formally hired under Ludlow, as Ludlow is the fiscal agent. The approved DPH Shared Services Grant budget will pay for all fringe and benefits that will be provided by the Town of Ludlow. Positions will report directly to Paulina. DPH has approved the 4 below positions that will be shared between all 4 municipalities. One full-time employee shared services coordinator, one full-time employee shared environmental health inspector, one full-time shared social worker, one full-time shared health…half a nurse. Governance: there is an inter-municipal agreement already approved by Ludlow's Town Counsel that must be signed by all participating municipalities. We're still waiting on the other 3 towns to sign. Each Board of Health will designate a representative, which has already been done. I am the representative for Ludlow. The Governance Board will meet quarterly and will make decisions about cross-jurisdictional policies and personnel, including all positions, descriptions and hiring, operations and finances. Each municipality shall retain its Board of Health legal authority unless a municipality votes to delegate part or all of its authority to the Governance body and the Governance Board votes to accept it. Board of Health must approve agreements to delegate their legal authority. No anticipated articles or warrants for Town Meeting. Thanks. Kelly. Marc, one question. How does that work? We're going to pay them and get reimbursed by the State?

Mr. Strange: It's not reimbursable. They give us the money. As Kelly was saying, Shawn set up accounts for all these different functions that are going to be effectuated through the grant. Those monies are just going to be paid for out of those funds.

Mr. Goncalves: All fringe and all benefits will come out of that money. It's not going to cost us anything?

Mr. Strange: It's not supposed to.

Mr. Goncalves: Retirement?

Mr. Strange: I'm not sure about retirement.

Mr. Strange: They're 3-year grants.

Mr. Gennette: My concern would be in 3 years when this grant is over and everybody comes in and says we need to fund these positions.

Mr. Strange: I can't tell you either way. I do know other clusters of communities that are doing this and the expectation is at least a 9-year horizon. After 9 years we don't know.

Mr. Gennette: What's your thoughts on this?

Mr. Strange: I like it. I think it's good. It's $450,000 from the State for the next 9 years. Anything can happen in 9 years. I think it's a good opportunity.

Mr. Silva: If we can't fund them in 9 years it doesn't say we have to.

Mr. Goncalves: I wish Kelly would have been here. An environmental health inspector. What is that? Tim is our health inspector now. What is this position going to be different from what Tim's doing now? It's probably very different. I really don't know. Do we need that. We're going to need room for more people. Somewhere along the line it's going to cost us money. There's no way we can be the fiscal manager and bring on more employees and not have it cost us somehow.

Mr. Gennette: What happens if one of the other towns doesn't pay? It doesn't matter it's getting paid by the State. Am I wrong in thinking we weren't going to be the fiscal responsibility?

Mr. Strange: That's right. Originally Palmer was the fiscal agent. They were the lead community. For whatever reason they couldn't put it together so Ludlow stepped up and offered to be the fiscal agent. I wasn't involved in any of that. With respect to the budget, for some reason, and I don't understand this either, of the 445 the state only authorized or approved a portion of that budget. Now they're going through some sort of bureaucratic machinations at the state level. Then they're going to amend the budget and get us the full $445. I think that's what Kelly is referring to here. Once they actually have the full budget then they can go out and start hiring people. I don't know what an environmental health inspector does. Every community is going to have access to these positions but maybe some communities need it more.

Mr. Gennette: None of these positions are going to eliminate the jobs of anybody else, right?

Mr. Strange: No. It's meant to supplement.

Mr. Gennette: I would hate to think somebody is going to lose their job.

Mr. Strange: No. I do know that.

Mr. Rosenblum: This is 9 years potentially. Grants do dry up. At the end of 9 years and the 15% we keep for administrative costs out of this is $67,350. At the end of 9 years, say there's no money coming in from a grant. Are we going to be expected down the road for them to say I've been here 9 years we need to keep that position? Because then we're funding it fully ourselves.

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Mr. Strange: I'm happy to speculate on that. These positions are coming in funded by the State they're not funded by any particular Town budget. Everybody is going to know they're funded by this grant. There's no obligation at the end of that period that the Town retain these employees. That's my understanding.

Mr. Rosenblum: To Mr. Goncalves' point, there's 3 and a half people. It's like a co-op in high school. If you're the chair that means we're going to be putting them up in our building.

Mr. Strange: That's true. That's a good question. We're pretty tight in here.

Mr. Goncalves: How much is health insurance for 3 and a half people.

Mr. Strange: In the budget there's a line item for the benefits. I can't remember what the number was.

Mr. Goncalves: This is good for now. I'm sure there's more to come before we get on board with this.

Mr. Gennette: My concern would be in 3 years when this grant is over and everybody comes in and says we need to fund these positions.

Mr. Strange: I can't tell you either way. I do know other clusters of communities that are doing this and the expectation is at least a 9-year horizon. After 9 years we don't know.

Mr. Gennette: What's your thoughts on this?

Mr. Strange: I like it. I think it's good. It's $450,000 from the State for the next 9 years. Anything can happen in 9 years. I think it's a good opportunity.

Mr. Silva: If we can't fund them in 9 years it doesn't say we have to.

Mr. Goncalves: I wish Kelly would have been here. An environmental health inspector. What is that? Tim is our health inspector now. What is this position going to be different from what Tim's doing now? It's probably very different. I really don't know. Do we need that. We're going to need room for more people. Somewhere along the line it's going to cost us money. There's no way we can be the fiscal manager and bring on more employees and not have it cost us somehow.

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Board to discuss the BOH Shared Services Initiative.

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Mr. Goncalves: It looks like we're going to be waiting until the beginning of the year on this for whatever we're going to be doing.

Mr. Rosenblum: We've already received funding for it.

Mr. Gennette: I can read her description of what's going on. We were going back & forth with Chairperson for the Board of Health, Kelly Lamas, and she answered some of the questions I put out to her. I requested her to come visit. She asked what it was about. I posed some questions to her and these were the answers she sent. The Board was interested in the project overall and would like specifics about any new positions being added. Any impacts any new positions may have on the Town and if the Board of Health will be submitting anything related to the Shared Services Grant up to the Town Meeting via warrant articles. She responded, we're currently still in a bit of a waiting game from the grant from the DPH and other towns. My thought is to wait until the new year for a more formal update at a meeting. In the meantime, here are some high-level details about the public health excellence shared services grant. Public Health Excellence Shared Services Grant 3-year cycle with opportunity for 2-year additional cycles that will total 9 years. DPH's goal is to build capacity within Health Departments participating in the Shared Services municipalities and to create a sustainability model under DPH guidance post grant cycles. This is part of a larger statewide effort under the SAPHE 2.0 act. Under this grant, we created the Mill Town's Public Health Coalition made up of 4 municipalities, Ludlow – fiscal agent, Palmer, Warren & West Brookfield. DPH approved $449,000 for the Mill Town Public Health Coalition admin support for FY24. Since Ludlow is the fiscal agent, DPH cannot exceed 15% of the budget to go to management, supervision and stipend to local health director working beyond regular hours to support shared services arrangement. As of 10/10/2023, we have currently received $147,500. Since Ludlow is the fiscal agent, yesterday 11/13/2023 the Town Accountant created the Mill Town Public Health Grant budget that will hold all shared service funds dispersed from DPH. These funds are to only be used for grant efforts and per DPH prohibited costs include capital expenses under any circumstances and supplementing existing municipal funding for the public health services. The coalition was approved by DPH to hire 4 shared positions. Shared positions will be formally hired under Ludlow, as Ludlow is the fiscal agent. The approved DPH Shared Services Grant budget will pay for all fringe and benefits that will be provided by the Town of Ludlow. Positions will report directly to Paulina. DPH has approved the 4 below positions that will be shared between all 4 municipalities. One full-time employee shared services coordinator, one full-time employee shared environmental health inspector, one full-time shared social worker, one full-time shared health…half a nurse. Governance: there is an inter-municipal agreement already approved by Ludlow's Town Counsel that must be signed by all participating municipalities. We're still waiting on the other 3 towns to sign. Each Board of Health will designate a representative, which has already been done. I am the representative for Ludlow. The Governance Board will meet quarterly and will make decisions about cross-jurisdictional policies and personnel, including all positions, descriptions and hiring, operations and finances. Each municipality shall retain its Board of Health legal authority unless a municipality votes to delegate part or all of its authority to the Governance body and the Governance Board votes to accept it. Board of Health must approve agreements to delegate their legal authority. No anticipated articles or warrants for Town Meeting. Thanks. Kelly. Marc, one question. How does that work? We're going to pay them and get reimbursed by the State?

Mr. Strange: It's not reimbursable. They give us the money. As Kelly was saying, Shawn set up accounts for all these different functions that are going to be effectuated through the grant. Those monies are just going to be paid for out of those funds.

Mr. Goncalves: All fringe and all benefits will come out of that money. It's not going to cost us anything?

Mr. Strange: It's not supposed to.

Mr. Goncalves: Retirement?

Mr. Strange: I'm not sure about retirement.

Mr. Strange: They're 3-year grants.

Mr. Gennette: I'm assuming because they're still trying to deal with the State.

Mr. Goncalves: I'm going to leave the invitation open if somebody from the Board of Health wants to come in.

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Mr. Rosenblum: I would extend the invitation when they have the finalized proposal. It looks like January at some point. I would extend that invitation when this can be shared.

Mr. Gennette: What are we going to learn from that that we haven't just learned now?

Mr. Rosenblum: Once it's approved it should be on the next agenda. Instead of saying it's approved can you ask 2 weeks' notice.

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Mr. Gennette: Marc, could you please extend an invitation to have Kelly come to a future meeting after we know what this whole thing is panned out like? Anytime we can get together and talk about stuff it's a good thing.

NEW BUSINESS

Board to discuss and possibly vote to appropriate $16,916.16 from the Building Infrastructure Fund for repairs to the Hubbard Memorial Library.

Mr. Gennette: Yesterday we had the Capital Improvement Planning Committee and we talked at length.

Mr. Strange: With respect to Capital, the Library submitted a request for $214,000ish for the window restoration project. For the Board's recollection, Capital 2 years ago approved $16,000. That wasn't enough. Library had to come back for another $46 or so. There's been $62,000 that were approved through Capital for this project; however, that was before an architect went out and took a look at the windows. They are full of asbestos. They're historical. That elevated the project to $281. That was considered last night. When the Library submitted their capital request along with the library restoration, they also submitted a few other smaller items. Those smaller items did not rise to the level that would qualify them as capital so we suggested maybe the Board would consider funding those repairs through the Building Infrastructure Fund, which is what's in front of you tonight.

Mr. Silva: A couple meetings ago we did have a gentleman here to discuss some of the issues going on there. I was in the library for a meeting and noticed some of the things they're talking about. Some of the peeling paint on the walls or if some of the issues have been fixed or not.

Ms. Collette: It's beyond peeling paint. Plaster is pulling away. There is about 30 cracks in that room alone. We had the roof inspected. There were some minor repairs done for that. As we all know everything starts from the roof down. We didn't know what that entailed. If it was the roof or both. It's peeling away from the walls and we don't know why. Because it has to be a restoration project we're starting with the windows. We know the roof has been repaired. The windows, if you recall when the former Director and I came to a Board of Selectmen meeting, we had to take the lowest bid and that was the $16,000 bid. After that they informed us that the bid at $16,000 was wrong. They didn't include many things that needed to be done, which explained a lot of the disparity between the other bids we got. We were getting bids in the $80,000. Everyone that came

out to look at the windows said, one gentleman said, while it was not the worst he had ever seen, they definitely needed to be done within a year or so, and that was 2 years ago. I don't know if you had a chance to look at the condition of the windows…

Mr. Silva: Not formally. I didn't inspect the windows but just by being there you could see. It was pointed out.

Ms. Collette: We came to Capital, they gave us the additional money, like Marc stated, and then we were told by Leslie and Lori Belanger that we needed more inspections. That was done and that was when the asbestos was done. The testing came back and the paint around the windows is full of asbestos. We all know that the minute that word is mentioned your project price can quadruple and that's where we're at right now. That is the reason for the large expense for that.

Mr. Silva: We have an exceptional library building there. It's probably historic so $16,000-$17,000, I don't see that we should have an issue getting some of those issues repaired.

Mr. Silva made motion. Mr. Goncalves second.

Ms. Collette: The $16,000 was not the right bid though.

Mr. Gennette: When we're doing our budgeting trying to figure out how to get you this money, we're trying to take $16,916.16 from our Building Infrastructure Fund. We know that's not the cost of the whole project. It's like $214. That's coming out of Capital expenses.

Mr. Strange: Just to clarify, this funding is not for the windows, it's for the repair of the peeling paint.

Mr. Goncalves: The other small stuff that added up to $16 and change.

Mr. Gennette: That can be given to them now, right? You'll get that almost right away.

Ms. Collette: That would be wonderful. Thank you. I had stated to you we get about 800-1,000 visitors a week. The great thing is our wonderful library, our historical treasure, is being used.

Mr. Gennette: I don't want to get off on a tangent here but I went over to the Lions Club and I was speaking over there and talking to them and somebody had asked about the Library at the school and books and I said I'm not on the School Committee and I don't know what's going on over there but we have a very wonderful library down at the bridge and they have everything you could need and I'm sure they would love your business.

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All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Gennette: We may have more questions from Capital. We're still in the beginning stages trying to figure out where all the Capital funding and expenses are but we may be reaching out.

Board to appoint a new Charter Committee member to replace Michael Engel.

Mr. Rosenblum: We had 2 alternates. One right now, Christopher, has been at every meeting, so I think that was where Mr. DeBarge may have been able to help me out with this one a little bit more but I believe that was who we wanted to move into the regular position as a permanent member.

Motion made by Mr. Silva to appoint Christopher Pelletier as a Charter Committee member. **Mr. Goncalves second.**

Mr. Silva: Before we do vote on that, do we need to get a couple more alternates. Do we need to request people?

Mr. Strange: I think it's up to you. You have a pool of candidates that you interviewed that were not selected. You can certainly choose from one of those. You could solicit more applications. It's up to the Board.

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Mr. Silva: The reason I question it is for whatever reason I had a couple different people tell me they didn't even see it. If we went through that whole process and there is people that applied before, that's probably the best route to go.

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Mr. Gennette: I would say we should probably send an invitation to them to see if they're still interested in being an alternate.

Mr. Rosenblum: My only concern is getting caught up to speed or knowing where we're at. We've pretty much narrowed it down as to what the 2 forms are. It's filmed but there's a decent amount of information there. We just got 52 pages from the Collins Center the last time. I don't have a problem with it. Someone is going to have to take on the task of getting caught up. I would say if we could find out who…I think 14 people applied and we got it down to 11 or 12.

Mr. Silva: Maybe we can check with those people that were on there to see if they're interested. If it's not enough then we'll certainly have to post something.

Mr. Gennette: I agree.

Mr. Strange: Do you want us to reach out and see if they're interested? Would you like us to send you the pool of names?

Mr. Gennette: I would say ask them if they both want to be alternates if there's only 2. If they both accept they can both be alternates.

Board to recognize Robert Boduch as Veteran of the Year.

Mr. Goncalves: Town of Ludlow, Veteran of the Year, Robert Boduch. Veterans Day gives Americans the opportunity to celebrate the bravery and sacrifice of all United States Veterans. The day is set aside to thank and honor living veterans who served honorably in the military during wartime or peacetime. This year the "Veteran of the Year" Award is presented to Robert Boduch for his efforts, commitment and accomplishments to our Country, our Veterans, and their families. In recognition on your selection as the 2023 Veteran of the Year. Your service not only to our country but to our community is commendable. We are forever grateful to you and your service.

Board to discuss and possibly vote to add the Riverwalk Parking Area to the existing easement agreement with WestMass Area Development Corp.

Mr. Strange: When Riverside Drive was created and built there was obviously an agreement that was struck between the Town and WestMass. The new parking lot that's right across from the mills was not part of the easement, so that's what this does. Essentially expands the easement to include the parking lot.

Mr. Silva: I don't see an issue with it.

Motion made by Mr. Silva to vote to add the Riverwalk Parking Area to the existing easement agreement with WestMass Area Development Corp. **Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

Board to discuss and possibly approve a construction easement for the construction of Millside Drive.

Mr. Strange: Similarly, the Town got a 3-million-dollar Mass Works grant to construct the new Millside Drive on the back 40 acres of the Ludlow Mills property, or the property owned by WestMass. WestMass owns the property so this is a construction easement for the Town to be able to go in and build the road. Technically it's a town project. The grant money is the town's and it's the town's contractor that's going in building the road.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to approve and sign a construction easement for WestMass Development for the construction of Millside Drive. **Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

Board to accept Executive Office of Public Safety Office of Grants and Research grant in the amount of $48,937.26 for the purchase of ballistic helmets and plates, plate carriers, and eye protection for the police department.

Mr. Goncalves: This is a freebie, right? No match? Is this the one Sgt. Chelo had last week?

Mr. Strange: No, that's another one.

Motion made by Mr. Silva to accept the Executive Office of Public Safety Office of Grants and Research grant in the amount of $48,937.26 for the purchase of ballistic helmets and plates, plate carriers, and eye protection for the police department. **Mr. Goncalves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

Board to discuss and possibly vote to appropriate $6,209.34 from the Building Infrastructure Fund for repairs to 54 Winsor Street.

Mr. Silva: Is that going for auction?

Mr. Strange: We recently had discussions with Ludlow Housing Authority. They own the 3rd building. There was a representative from the State here. They went through all the different possibilities. It didn't sound like it was feasible at this point for the Town or LHA to put it up for sale. We quickly pivoted. Yesterday Derek was supposed to be there but he was under the weather. Derek and I were going to meet with Jeff Daley at WestMass to go through the building. He had his experts there and got ideas for possible reuses. Office space was one of them, a collaborative workspace was another. Jeff & his team will put their heads together and see if they can come up with a viable reuse for the buildings.

Mr. Silva: We talked about it before and said it was probably not advantageous for us to hold various departments. We're running out of space. It's that simple. Even though it might be a little more complicated to revamp that building to move some offices in there and not have to deal with adding here. I know the building is old and cumbersome but I think it might be something to look at. If it's not going to be feasible to move we probably won't get much for it anyway.

Mr. Strange: As we were going through the buildings I had that exact same thought but I hadn't before then. We have this space and we might be able to use it for storage or a couple of different offices to free up the congestion in Town Hall. There's a cost to that obviously.

Mr. Gennette: What is the $6,209 for?

Mr. Strange: In April we had a water leak at 54 Winsor that created all kinds of damage. This was Baystate Sprinkler. They had been sending this bill to 68 Chestnut Street and nobody was receiving the bill. They finally tracked us down, which is why this is so late. Also, complete restoration for the same project.

Motion made by Mr. Silva to vote to appropriate $6,209.34 from the Building Infrastructure Fund for repairs to 54 Winsor Street. **Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

Board to approve and sign the contract between the Town of Ludlow and Tighe & Bond for designer services for HVAC at the Public Safety Complex in the amount of $278,000.

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Mr. Gennette: This is not under that bond?

Mr. Strange: It is.

Mr. Goncalves: It's so much money for engineering. Am I missing something?

Mr. Strange: Typically, industry standard is 10% of the total cost. The HVAC is now at about 2.8 million. We're going to have to go back to Town Meeting and increase the bond authorization.

Mr. Goncalves: Does the engineering services go to bid?

Mr. Strange: No. Tighe & Bond is our in-house engineering firm. There's some value engineering you can do. I don't know if the engineering firms look at the total cost and they just slap us with a 10% fee but that's typically where it comes out.

Mr. Goncalves: I'm not excited about it but I don't want to hold things up either. We're talking about ¾ of a million dollars to do everything a year ago and now we're at $280,000 for engineering.

Board to accept Executive Office of Public Safety Office of Grants and Research grant in the amount of $48,937.26 for the purchase of ballistic helmets and plates, plate carriers, and eye protection for the police department.

Mr. Goncalves: This is a freebie, right? No match? Is this the one Sgt. Chelo had last week?

Mr. Strange: No, that's another one.

Motion made by Mr. Silva to accept the Executive Office of Public Safety Office of Grants and Research grant in the amount of $48,937.26 for the purchase of ballistic helmets and plates, plate carriers, and eye protection for the police department. **Mr. Goncalves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

Board to discuss and possibly vote to appropriate $6,209.34 from the Building Infrastructure Fund for repairs to 54 Winsor Street.

Mr. Silva: Is that going for auction?

Mr. Strange: We recently had discussions with Ludlow Housing Authority. They own the 3rd building. There was a representative from the State here. They went through all the different possibilities. It didn't sound like it was feasible at this point for the Town or LHA to put it up for sale. We quickly pivoted. Yesterday Derek was supposed to be there but he was under the weather. Derek and I were going to meet with Jeff Daley at WestMass to go through the building. He had his experts there and got ideas for possible reuses. Office space was one of them, a collaborative workspace was another. Jeff & his team will put their heads together and see if they can come up with a viable reuse for the buildings.

Mr. Silva: We talked about it before and said it was probably not advantageous for us to hold various departments. We're running out of space. It's that simple. Even though it might be a little more complicated to revamp that building to move some offices in there and not have to deal with adding here. I know the building is old and cumbersome but I think it might be something to look at. If it's not going to be feasible to move we probably won't get much for it anyway.

Mr. Strange: As we were going through the buildings I had that exact same thought but I hadn't before then. We have this space and we might be able to use it for storage or a couple of different offices to free up the congestion in Town Hall. There's a cost to that obviously.

Mr. Gennette: What is the $6,209 for?

Mr. Strange: In April we had a water leak at 54 Winsor that created all kinds of damage. This was Baystate Sprinkler. They had been sending this bill to 68 Chestnut Street and nobody was receiving the bill. They finally tracked us down, which is why this is so late. Also, complete restoration for the same project.

Motion made by Mr. Silva to vote to appropriate $6,209.34 from the Building Infrastructure Fund for repairs to 54 Winsor Street. **Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

Board to approve and sign the contract between the Town of Ludlow and Tighe & Bond for designer services for HVAC at the Public Safety Complex in the amount of $278,000.

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Mr. Gennette: This is not under that bond?

Mr. Strange: It is.

Mr. Goncalves: It's so much money for engineering. Am I missing something?

Mr. Strange: Typically, industry standard is 10% of the total cost. The HVAC is now at about 2.8 million. We're going to have to go back to Town Meeting and increase the bond authorization.

Mr. Goncalves: Does the engineering services go to bid?

Mr. Strange: No. Tighe & Bond is our in-house engineering firm. There's some value engineering you can do. I don't know if the engineering firms look at the total cost and they just slap us with a 10% fee but that's typically where it comes out.

Mr. Goncalves: I'm not excited about it but I don't want to hold things up either. We're talking about ¾ of a million dollars to do everything a year ago and now we're at $280,000 for engineering.

Mr. Silva: The reason I question it is for whatever reason I had a couple different people tell me they didn't even see it. If we went through that whole process and there is people that applied before, that's probably the best route to go.

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Mr. Gennette: I would say we should probably send an invitation to them to see if they're still interested in being an alternate.

Mr. Rosenblum: My only concern is getting caught up to speed or knowing where we're at. We've pretty much narrowed it down as to what the 2 forms are. It's filmed but there's a decent amount of information there. We just got 52 pages from the Collins Center the last time. I don't have a problem with it. Someone is going to have to take on the task of getting caught up. I would say if we could find out who…I think 14 people applied and we got it down to 11 or 12.

Mr. Silva: Maybe we can check with those people that were on there to see if they're interested. If it's not enough then we'll certainly have to post something.

Mr. Gennette: I agree.

Mr. Strange: Do you want us to reach out and see if they're interested? Would you like us to send you the pool of names?

Mr. Gennette: I would say ask them if they both want to be alternates if there's only 2. If they both accept they can both be alternates.

Board to recognize Robert Boduch as Veteran of the Year.

Mr. Goncalves: Town of Ludlow, Veteran of the Year, Robert Boduch. Veterans Day gives Americans the opportunity to celebrate the bravery and sacrifice of all United States Veterans. The day is set aside to thank and honor living veterans who served honorably in the military during wartime or peacetime. This year the "Veteran of the Year" Award is presented to Robert Boduch for his efforts, commitment and accomplishments to our Country, our Veterans, and their families. In recognition on your selection as the 2023 Veteran of the Year. Your service not only to our country but to our community is commendable. We are forever grateful to you and your service.

Board to discuss and possibly vote to add the Riverwalk Parking Area to the existing easement agreement with WestMass Area Development Corp.

Mr. Strange: When Riverside Drive was created and built there was obviously an agreement that was struck between the Town and WestMass. The new parking lot that's right across from the mills was not part of the easement, so that's what this does. Essentially expands the easement to include the parking lot.

Mr. Silva: I don't see an issue with it.

Motion made by Mr. Silva to vote to add the Riverwalk Parking Area to the existing easement agreement with WestMass Area Development Corp. **Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

Board to discuss and possibly approve a construction easement for the construction of Millside Drive.

Mr. Strange: Similarly, the Town got a 3-million-dollar Mass Works grant to construct the new Millside Drive on the back 40 acres of the Ludlow Mills property, or the property owned by WestMass. WestMass owns the property so this is a construction easement for the Town to be able to go in and build the road. Technically it's a town project. The grant money is the town's and it's the town's contractor that's going in building the road.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to approve and sign a construction easement for WestMass Development for the construction of Millside Drive. **Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

Mr. Silva: That design is not for the HVAC system itself? What's there to design?

Mr. Goncalves: You're replacing what's there.

Mr. Strange: My understanding is it's a new system. The old system is antiquated. It doesn't equally heat and cool both sides of the building. There is definitely an engineering component to it. It's also construction management. When we go out to bid they're going to create the bid documents. Things that come up with the construction company, they will be handling it. There's no question about it. It's a big nut to pay $280,000 for engineering services. In my experience, other estimates will probably come in around this amount.

Mr. Rosenblum: I have 2 projects that are in excess of $100,000 for the design. It's called construction administration too. It's really the admin portion of doing the project. They have to prepare the bid documents that then go to procurement and then will go out to bid.

Mr. Goncalves: If this was a million dollars, they would have bid $100. Or 2.7. You buy a furnace for $30,000 or $150,000, it's the same work to install. It's the same man hours.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to approve and sign the contract between the Town of Ludlow and Tighe & Bond for designer services for the Public Safety Complex for HVAC work. **Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

Board to approve and sign the contract between the Town of Ludlow and Dietz & Company for OPM Service for the Public Safety Complex not to exceed $104,720.

Mr. Strange: According to Mass procurement laws, once a public construction project hits 1.5 million dollars, you have to hire an OPM. Dietz is our on-call architect so we are getting favorable rates on this.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to approve and sign the contract between the Town of Ludlow and Dietz & Company for OPM Service for the Public Safety Complex not to exceed $104,720. **Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

Board to approve and sign the contract between the Town of Ludlow and Geeleher Construction for Millside Drive in the amount of $2,501,837.10.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to approve and sign the contract between the Town of Ludlow and Geeleher Construction for Millside Drive in the amount of $2,501,837.10. **Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

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TOWN OF LUDLOW

BOARD UPDATES/MISC

Mr. Rosenblum: The Charter Commission, as Mr. Silva said how can I get on. We obviously have a committee that is in the process of rewriting the Ludlow Charter for a change of form of government. We had a meeting on the 16th, last Thursday. Once again, we meet every 1st and 3rd Thursday. Sometimes we might meet an extra day because one of the agenda items we discussed was we're trying to get other town administrators, town managers, mayors to come in and answer some questions. We went through a lot of questions we all submitted and we kind of narrowed it down to about 10 questions that we thought were the most important due to redundancy. We'll hopefully be having people coming in from other towns. We've also identified other towns that are similar to our government, like Bridgewater, Agawam, and East Longmeadow. These are towns that have either gone through the process not too long ago or a long time ago. One other thing we did do is we're trying to get public engagement on this and get it out there as much as possible so the public knows what's going on so when we get to the time when we have to go to Town Meeting and we go to the ballot is that people are informed about this. We're going to have a Facebook page established and we're hoping to be able to attach it to the town page. We're also looking to get maybe a high school junior on the committee to get input from a younger generation as well. Mr. Bylicki is going to be reaching out to the high school to try to get a student to be a part of the committee. We're going to be advertising on the Senior Center page and newsletter. I don't know if you've already been approached but the weeks we have meetings possibly a robo call, seeing robo calls seemed to work pretty good during COVID. You also seem to see a robo call being mentioned on Facebook. Flyers at Fatima and Chris the King weekly bulletins. Mr. DeBarge is going to reach out to the reminder Ms. Ribeiro Dahan, who is our chairperson, will be reaching out to the Register. The Register has come in on our first meeting so we're trying to get them in here if we could every meeting just to get some information in the Register because it's

another avenue for information. We're hoping to have an open forum at some point also. Questions. Obviously people can get the information but the questions become complaints. This is trying to be as transparent and as much feedback as possible because this is affecting 21,000 people. The Charter Committee met last Thursday and we'll be meeting next Thursday at 6:00 in this room. People are welcome to come in. We have a public engagement portion of our agenda so if anyone wants to come in and ask a question I will be here at 6:00. Our meetings go an hour, hour and a half so if anyone can make it in that would be great. Pond Committee is going to jazz up the beach a little bit more this holiday season with multiple trees that some businesses have sponsored. The Christmas tree I started out there in collaboration with the Fire Department Social Club and Buddy Ellison and he's always been kind enough to donate one. I've had the opportunity to have the keys and go out and get in the gate and light it. We have some power coming out. I think we're going to get a few more trees out there. We're trying to build on it. We have the tree lighting here December 3rd. The Pond Committee has taken it upon themselves.

Mr. Gennette: If you belong to a club, I've already reached out to the Lions Club and Brigham Lodge about their signs as they enter the Town. I think Derek has contacted the Rotary. Any other clubs, if you're going to replace your signs you can get them down to the DPW. We're going to have the DPW replace those signs. Are we going to relocate those signs?

Mr. Strange: I don't know what the protocol is on that. If people are used to having their signs there I wouldn't want to move them without their permission.

Mr. Rosenblum: I think the only one is the one coming in from Chicopee. It's hidden a little bit. When we were going through the list did we mention the one coming in from Granby? There was one right as you go down, the dip in the road. It was on the corner. Coming back from the golf course. Just as you start to go down there's a street that goes to the right and on the dip in the road on the corner there used to be a sign there.

Mr. Gennette: If you're coming in from Burnett Road they're all over. One's on a telephone pole.

Mr. Strange: The club signs I would defer to the Board on that or the club whether or not they are ok with us…I'm thinking about coming over Putts Bridge.

Mr. Rosenblum: That might be one larger board like the one we have now going down to Sportsmen's. We might have to bite the bullet and do something larger that says town offices this way and welcome to the town.

Mr. Gennette: Should we invite the clubs to put their signs along the bottom of our main sign?

Mr. Strange: Maybe it's worth approaching them to see what kind of donation they might be able to make to 1 sign. It's busy there when you come over the bridge. There's a lot of stuff there.

Mr. Rosenblum: I notice in other towns having grown up in South Hadley and coming over the bridge from Holyoke, sometimes you see home of the Lions or home of the Tigers, sometimes you see a recognition of State Championships for soccer or any of the other sports we might have. I think it instills a little pride in the community. In recognition of that it gives credence to our school system. We look at our athletics on a town level and we put the hooks and it drops down below the bottom.

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.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Mr. Goncalves: Congratulations to the boys soccer team. Elite 8. Unfortunately, they got beat by the same team that beat them last year. They had a great season. They ranked 20 in the state, which I think was a mistake by whoever was doing the rating. They beat Framingham pretty handedly. They beat St. Johns Shrewsbury. Those were teams rated top 10. They lost a tough one in Weymouth.

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Event Calendar

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Friday November 24th – Town Hall Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
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*First seating – 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.
*Second seating – 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
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Sunday December 3rd – Pet Photos with Santa 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Town Hall, 1st Floor.

Mr. Silva: Going through some communities as I'm driving through, most of the communities have lights out on their main street similar to our East Street. Even Palmer. It was lit pretty nicely. Is that something the communities do, an organization or the Rotary? Seasonal lighting.

Mr. Strange: That would probably have to be us with permission from Eversource, depending on where we put them. I think lighting adds something.

Mr. Gennette: I think the clubs would love to get out there hanging wreaths and lights.

Mr. Rosenblum: To Mr. Silva's point, it's been mentioned over the years. It's a little more festive during the season. Especially East Street. Center Street might be a little difficult. At least East Street, the resident side. You see towns they string lights right over the street.

Mr. Silva: Much to the displeasure of a lot of people, I will be seeking re-election in March. Everywhere I go they ask me. Maybe this will get it out there. I took some time to actually decide, but it's been so much fun. It's tasking sometimes but we all have to do our part. Hopefully I'll get re-elected and do some more of it.

Mr. Rosenblum: One last thing on the Charter Committee is we are planning on picking what the form of government will be by January. We want this on the Town Meeting in October to go to the ballot in March of 2025. We have a solid timeline of what we're doing each time we're in there so we don't get behind. I'm staying this as somebody who would be on the outside. You're running for re-election. This board in general is a good representation of being able to see this through to the end. In the same sense, and I'm not discouraging anyone from running for a position, I'm up next year with Derek, my intention will be to run again because I want to see this through. I've always said this is where I want to be with this. To get to the point where we make it as close to right as possible.

Mr. Silva: You mentioned what it will be. What the committee is going to suggest…

Mr. Rosenblum: We're going to suggest this and then we're going to write it. As I've said before, it really comes out that there's no cookie cutter way to do it. You can have a town manager form but also institute some things that a mayor would do. Possibly something with a town manager having a seat on the school committee and being the chair. Obviously we have to go through Mass General Law and what other precedence has been done. I think we have a unique opportunity to tweak it the way we want it to be. With that, Happy Thanksgiving to everyone. Please drive carefully. When I came back into town today it's already a mess on the roads. Coming off the pike it was already stopping. Please be cognizant of when you're driving. My daughter loaded the car up to come home from college, stopped to get gas and the car didn't start. That call was in the parking lot. Hysterical. Friend tried to jump it. Didn't happen. AAA jumped it. It's going to be good to see all the kids back from school that have been out at school. It's going to be a good weekend. Please be careful when you're driving. We're in a cold snap right now where we're looking at low 40's and teens at night so please check on your neighbors. Check your oil. One thing my wife always does. November is the first time we turn it on. Unfortunately, this year she turned it on a little early. Also, don't forget to clean your chimney.

Mr. Silva: I've been getting a lot of comments about Riverwalk not being up to snuff. I've been getting comments about the dog leash law being broken. A lot of people are walking down there with their dogs. Today a lady said she was scared to death. It was a big dog. She turned around and walked away fast because she was scared. I like to tell people out there that your dog might be friendly but other people are just afraid. Have some consideration for people walking out there.

They don't want dogs to come up to them and sniff them and get all nervous. I suggest people be considerate and maybe take a look at putting a couple signs up there.

Mr. Gennette: I have this Ludlow Planning Board notice here. It's about a tattoo parlor coming in.

Mr. Strange: That's just for your information.

Mr. Gennette: Ludlow Planning Board will hold a public hearing at Ludlow Town Hall Selectmen's conference room on Thursday December 14th at 7:00 p.m. on the application of Paulo M. DosSantos for the property located at 314-330 Sewall Street, Ludlow, MA for the purpose of updating a site plan for a tattoo shop and relocate a dumpster. You guys are really making it difficult for me to exit stage left after my 3 years is up. I don't know if I'll make a public statement yet.

Mr. Goncalves: December 3rd, in addition to the tree lighting there's going to be a children's parade from 3:00 – 4:30. I believe it's going to start at the Community Center

Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum to close the Selectmen's meeting at 6:52 p.m. **All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

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Ludlow Board of Selectmen

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Mr. Rosenblum: To Mr. Silva's point, it's been mentioned over the years. It's a little more festive during the season. Especially East Street. Center Street might be a little difficult. At least East Street, the resident side. You see towns they string lights right over the street.

Mr. Silva: Much to the displeasure of a lot of people, I will be seeking re-election in March. Everywhere I go they ask me. Maybe this will get it out there. I took some time to actually decide, but it's been so much fun. It's tasking sometimes but we all have to do our part. Hopefully I'll get re-elected and do some more of it.

Mr. Rosenblum: One last thing on the Charter Committee is we are planning on picking what the form of government will be by January. We want this on the Town Meeting in October to go to the ballot in March of 2025. We have a solid timeline of what we're doing each time we're in there so we don't get behind. I'm staying this as somebody who would be on the outside. You're running for re-election. This board in general is a good representation of being able to see this through to the end. In the same sense, and I'm not discouraging anyone from running for a position, I'm up next year with Derek, my intention will be to run again because I want to see this through. I've always said this is where I want to be with this. To get to the point where we make it as close to right as possible.

Mr. Silva: You mentioned what it will be. What the committee is going to suggest…

Mr. Rosenblum: We're going to suggest this and then we're going to write it. As I've said before, it really comes out that there's no cookie cutter way to do it. You can have a town manager form but also institute some things that a mayor would do. Possibly something with a town manager having a seat on the school committee and being the chair. Obviously we have to go through Mass General Law and what other precedence has been done. I think we have a unique opportunity to tweak it the way we want it to be. With that, Happy Thanksgiving to everyone. Please drive carefully. When I came back into town today it's already a mess on the roads. Coming off the pike it was already stopping. Please be cognizant of when you're driving. My daughter loaded the car up to come home from college, stopped to get gas and the car didn't start. That call was in the parking lot. Hysterical. Friend tried to jump it. Didn't happen. AAA jumped it. It's going to be good to see all the kids back from school that have been out at school. It's going to be a good weekend. Please be careful when you're driving. We're in a cold snap right now where we're looking at low 40's and teens at night so please check on your neighbors. Check your oil. One thing my wife always does. November is the first time we turn it on. Unfortunately, this year she turned it on a little early. Also, don't forget to clean your chimney.

Mr. Silva: I've been getting a lot of comments about Riverwalk not being up to snuff. I've been getting comments about the dog leash law being broken. A lot of people are walking down there with their dogs. Today a lady said she was scared to death. It was a big dog. She turned around and walked away fast because she was scared. I like to tell people out there that your dog might be friendly but other people are just afraid. Have some consideration for people walking out there.