

The Meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on Tuesday, August 15, 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

VISITATIONS

5:35 p.m. Shawn Teece – New Town Accountant

Mr. Gennette: Pleasure to meet you. Welcome aboard. Do you want to take a minute and tell us where you're coming from?

Mr. Teece: Currently, I am at MassHire, formerly Career Point.

Mr. Strange: Shawn also runs a tax consultancy.

Mr. Teece: I have a personal tax preparation business. I do personal and small business tax returns and payroll and bookkeeping as well. I stay busy.

Mr. Goncalves: How many returns do you think you do a year?

Mr. Teece: My wife is also an accountant and this past year we did over 300.

Mr. Goncalves: We do them out of my office and I have a general idea how much time it would eat up from you so that's not enough to take you away from your duties. Why a town vs a private sector?

Mr. Teece: I have a bachelor's and master's in accounting from Westfield State and I've taken several government accounting courses. I've always had an interest in there. I did apply for the director of finance in Suffield maybe a year or 2 ago. There was about 25 applicants. It got down to me and one other person. They ended up selecting the other person because they had experience with unions, and I didn't. I just have an interest in the government sector. It's similar to non-profit accounting but I know it's not exactly the same.

Mr. Goncalves: It's non-profit at this level. There's no profit at all. We'll have a director of finance someday. Is that something you'd hang in there for?

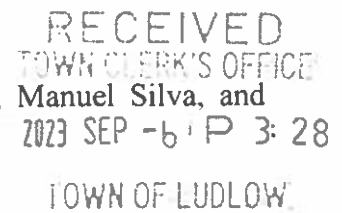
Mr. Teece: Absolutely. Marc has mentioned that during the interview process, and I told him I definitely have interest in that.

Mr. Silva: You have a business. Certainly, you're not going to answer in a derogatory way but you're not going to come to the Town Hall and probably not stay for a considerable amount of time because we really need the accountant for a significant time and get things rolling. You don't foresee your business growing that it might take you elsewhere?

Mr. Teece: I talked with my wife on this, and I think our plan is if it continued to grow she would do that full time. That's kind of the plan. I have intentions to be here for the long term. I was just talking with a couple folks outside, we're expecting our first child in March so she would likely be staying home with our child, while also working on the tax preparation business. To answer your question, I have the full intent on being here for the long term and if it did grow to that point, she would be going full time.

Mr. Silva: That's obviously the answer I'm looking for. I wouldn't think of it any other way, but at least hearing it from you we feel better.

Mr. DeBarge: Shawn, I have no questions for you. It's a pleasure to meet you and I look forward to bothering you at Town Hall when I walk into the office. Welcome.



Mr. Rosenblum: Welcome. Obviously you have a working knowledge of the MUNIS system.

Mr. Gennette: It's a pleasure to meet you. Welcome aboard. We'll challenge you. Thank you for stopping in. When does he start?

Mr. Strange: August 29th.

CORRESPONDENCE

100. Kelly DeGobbi – Resident requesting to use the Gazebo for a “Color Ludlow with Love” event with music, face painting, & a food truck for September 2, 2023, from 10:30 am – 1 pm with a backup date for September 16th. They also want permission to place yard signs around the Gazebo and Grounds during the event.

Mr. Gennette: Because the 2nd is in the middle of Festa we sent a message out to them and requested an alternate date, so they did provide us with an alternate date, which I believe is the 16th. Is it the same time, 10:30?

Ms. DeGobbi: Yes.

Mr. Rosenblum: I would be more inclined on the 16th, only because the 2nd is during Festa, and I know that our resources will probably be stretched pretty thin during that week. I would also probably get in touch with the Police Chief so he's aware. That would be my only concern. I would advocate more for the 16th. I wouldn't support the 2nd.

Mr. Gennette: Kelly, you did say something about the food truck as well?

Ms. DeGobbi: Early on in the conversation I was having with recreation, I mentioned a food truck. Given the time constraint, we decided to pull that from the agenda for this year. We are hoping to have this as an annual event. It would be on the planning agenda as an element for the following years.

Mr. Gennette: With the music, what does that entail?

Ms. DeGobbi: We're looking to bring in a band or quartet to play some family friendly songs to get the vibe going and celebrate in town.

Mr. Gennette: Electrified?

Ms. DeGobbi: Yes. I've already talked to Debbie in recreation about that as well. I already got the paperwork to submit the payment for that as well.

Mr. Silva: I'm all good as long as you get to paint Mr. DeBarge's face and Mr. Goncalves' face.

Mr. Goncalves: At the end of the day, I'm going to end up abstaining on this one for the same reason I abstained on the last one. It's not so much for you. I think in the future we need to sit down and talk about these things that are going to happen down there. This last one didn't cost us a ton of money but it's probably about a \$4,000 bill. That's down the road. Signs. We've made it a point. They've got to be 5013C, something local. What are you looking at for banners or signs?

Ms. DeGobbi: The banner that I was looking to put up wouldn't be permanently attached to anything. The sign has grommets so we would tie that up. The signs are simple Love is Love signs that we put in the ground. I understand there's a sprinkler system I need to be careful of.

Mr. Goncalves: I've got a problem with the signs and the banner. It's something we've talked about a million times. I think we've made it pretty clear that a 5013C, registered, local, Ludlow organization. I think this is probably not a registered 5013C.

Ms. DeGobbi: It's not. Not yet.

Mr. Goncalves: Maybe in the future you'll get there, and it will be a little bit different. Again, I'm probably going to be in the middle on this.

Mr. DeBarge: I'm not in favor of the signs either. We don't allow that. The event itself, I don't have a problem with any of this from the description of it. The description of it and what may happen could be 2 different things, as what happened in the last event. What I can see is if you want to keep this as an annual thing or if this group event is going to continue, then we may have to consider a different location to do this than the gazebo. If this is going to be some type of tit for tat between one group or another group then we may have to start thinking about a free speech zone so that the Board of Selectmen are taken out of this, other people are taken out of this. If you want to have an event, this is where you're going to have it, you tell your own people, you do what you want. The gazebo is not a place for groups to want to do this. Whether you agree with me or not, to me this seems like retribution or tit for tat from one group to another, as there are plenty of comments on the last one. We don't want to get into that no matter what the event is. In the foreseeable future, if you do plan on taking this into more events, then maybe we'll have to look into that. As the description goes, I have no problem with it. The signs, no, we don't do signs and definitely not the 2nd.

Mr. Gennette: I have a follow up question because of something Tony said and that is do you know how many people you're expecting to attend?

Ms. DeGobbi: Right now, I put up an event on Facebook and I'm expecting about 52 but it's open to the public so I can't really tell you how many.

Mr. Gennette: Do we have a number at what point we need police?

Mr. Strange: No, I don't think there's a number we hit that triggers 1 or 2 or 3 police officers I think it's just the feel of the police chief.

Mr. DeBarge: Usually the committee that's doing this pays for police, so you'll have to talk to the police department about how many you're expecting, what you plan to have there. Alcohol adds more police. I know you're not having that but whatever the projection is, your group will have to pay for that.

Mr. Gennette: The only reason I'm saying that is things like Festa. That's why we use up most of the resources because it's a full police force out there. So just be mindful of that. Because it's a larger group than I was expecting, which is fine, but no grilling and obviously fireworks and things like that.

Ms. DeGobbi: We were hoping to have a snack table with prepackaged snacks to benefit the GSA club at the high school. They'd be manning it and selling their snacks. We're not grilling or having any alcohol.

Mr. Gennette: So far what we've got is on the 16th; these guys said no banners. Do you guys have anything you'd like to add as far as the banners?

Mr. Rosenblum: We've been consistent in the past with anything that's on town property it has to be 5013C. That's how we've been in the past. We should stand by that.

Mr. Gennette: You're ok with that?

Ms. DeGobbi: Absolutely.

Mr. Rosenblum: To your point, in the future if you do become a non-profit then that opens up the window to be able to do that.

Mr. Goncalves: What's GSA?

Ms. DeGobbi: It's the Gay Straight Alliance at the high school.

Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum to approve the event for September 16th at the gazebo.

Mr. Gennette: Minus the food truck and the signs.

Mr. Rosenblum: Yes.

Mr. Silva second. Mr. Goncalves abstain. Motion passed 4-0-1.

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TOWN OF LUDLOW

VISITATIONS

5:45 p.m. Ludlow Youth Soccer Association – requesting use of the Community Center Fields.

Mr. Anselmo: I'm Joe Anselmo, President of Ludlow Youth Soccer Association. We've always been allowed to use the Ludlow Boys and Girls Club. This past season in the spring was the only time we did not use it because we were asked to put up a stipend to pay for the field. We were under the impression that it's a town field. I know a lot of local guys and companies put up that field for free and they did a lot of the work. What happened in the last couple years is Ludlow Boys and Girls Club has been allowing outside entities to come in and use the field. Ludlow Youth Soccer, we fertilize Vet's Park, middle school, we used to do Chapin, we do now Harris Brook. Harris Brook we cannot use yet because it hasn't been signed off on. In Ludlow we're kind of hurting for fields. We would just ask that in the future...at the Ludlow Boys Club we only put games there. We have no practices there to preserve the field because it's still one of the nicest smaller fields for the younger kids. Going forward, I'm hearing that you guys have the ultimate say now on that field. Is that wrong?

Mr. Gennette: That's right.

Mr. Anselmo: We would allow outside entities to come in there and investigate whoever it is that's coming in investigate the equipment on that field is Ludlow Youth Soccer equipment. It happened a few years back where the FC Stars were coming in. I didn't like doing it, it was the first time doing it, I actually locked up all our equipment because that's a premier club that's charging \$3,000/kid coming into our town, using the fields, using our equipment solely for the purpose of making money. They were running camps but trying to recruit some of our kids. Ludlow Youth Soccer is 100% Ludlow kids based. We allow outside kids only in the situation that the kid does not have a place to play. Otherwise, if a kid lives in town or attends a Ludlow school they play for the Ludlow Youth Soccer Association. Otherwise, you can't. If you're from Springfield or outside towns we don't allow you to come in. We're not a premier team. We're a non-profit organization. None of our staff gets paid. None of our coaches gets paid. We're still one of the affordable associations that allow every kid in town to play. We would ask that you guys take a look at that in the future and outside entities that come in you try to keep us in the loop of who they are when they're coming in and using our fields. We are struggling to have fields in town for our kids. With Chapin gone it was a big blow because it was a nicer field that Ludlow Youth Soccer did many years ago. We re-did it. All volunteer work. The equipment on it was all ours. We've always tried to take care of the fields in town.

Mr. Silva: I was a coach for a very long time with Ludlow Youth Soccer and it's always been a contentious thing with fields. Our fields have been for years and years horrific and two, we just haven't had the space in fields that we could use. That's not just soccer. Also, baseball. We just don't have the resources to find fields or get some more fields. Hopefully with Vets Park going we might be able to fix that up a little bit. It is a problem. The other thing is I got called from Junior Pioneers. As you well know they allow LYSA and the Ludlow school system to use their field and they don't charge them. It's very difficult for all these organizations now to get space. The Junior Pioneers have agreed with the school to allow practices and everything over there at that stadium.

Mr. Goncalves: Help me, Joe, because you know I think we're all aware what the next half hour here is going to be like. The other organization coming in looking for field time is looking for 8 sessions, a couple of hours each session. How does that...what effect does that have on LYSA?

Mr. Anselmo: It depends. Usually, we have Saturday games but once in a while the league, which used to be Pioneer Valley, which no longer exists it's Roots now, they would throw a Tuesday or Wednesday game during the week. We don't know that until the season is officially on its way. The season runs from September through the end of October. That's the fall season. The spring season we run from April till the end of June. Until all the teams are in registered with Roots and officially everything is on the way that's when we'll know if...we have to give them a field time.

In other words, if the Boys and Girls Club we have to say on Saturday you can have from this time to this time and then Tuesday and Wednesday from 5:00 till daylight savings, and in the fall it's going to be from 5-6:30 at the latest. We have to put those in before the season even starts. What happened last year and the year before, the AD over at the Boys and Girls Club started scheduling a lot of stuff there. Some were in-house, some were stuff that we worked around it but it was thrown at us last minute. We weren't told up front this is going on, so we had to switch all of our schedules trying to find a field to put those games on.

Mr. Goncalves: Is there a potential that LYSA could use it? Do you need the field on Monday nights?

Mr. Anselmo: In the past, we tried to preserve that field. Right now, if Harris Brook is not being released anytime soon we need any field space available. I'd like to have it all week long but at least 2 more nights during the week at the Boys and Girls Club and a Saturday, which is all game days.

Mr. Goncalves: The other request is for Mondays 5-7 for 8 Mondays. That would or wouldn't interrupt your schedule do you think?

Mr. Anselmo: If we knew ahead of time I guess we'd have to work it out. Usually, 5-7 is practice times. Right now, we did not run practices there. We are looking at trying to run practices there because Harris Brook is not open.

Mr. Goncalves: How many kids do you have in LYSA right now?

Mr. Anselmo: There's 395 kids, almost 400. Covid kind of took it but I think a lot of kids are coming back. It's still affordable. A lot of people can't do the premier. I hope they take into consideration to try to keep the Junior Pioneers, which is also a premier team in town with a lot of Ludlow based kids, we are 100% Ludlow kids. They are at least 80% Ludlow kids. A lot of the kids that play for us play for them. And try to keep us in mind that we are the association in town before we allow outside entities to come in.

Mr. DeBarge: As a baseball coach, I have to fight with plenty of other teams for the fields that we have. When we lost Chapin we lost a major league sized diamond for the older kids. Legion baseball and everything else. We always worked it out. There was a few teams when my team walked into the field and there was another team there because of communication or whatever. I know the Boys and Girls Club is in the business of making money because they need to make money. The donations have been less and less through Covid. I'd like to see everybody be able to use, especially the ones that are paying for it to generate the money. I definitely understand what you're saying too. We want to be there for our home teams. The main thing that I took from reading these is that I think everybody can do that if they communicate well. Most importantly, the club needs to make money. With the renovations they're doing back there with the new field, new diamonds, the bathroom, concessions, pickle ball, basketball, all of that. That's a \$450,000 upgrade there. I think we're going to get more requests once everybody sees that. We just need to mitigate it well. To everybody's point about communication I'm in favor of everyone using it as long as they're paying for it. The club needs to sustain their building, staff, everything. I think we'll find a way to work this out with everybody.

Mr. Rosenblum: You obviously work with the athletic director at the club?

Mr. Anselmo: Yes.

Mr. Rosenblum: Any communication for the field scheduling itself should go through that person because they are at the Boys and Girls Club. That's got to be something that's on them to make sure space is available. If you have the 2 entities sit down and you look at what you have and what he has, he should have a master schedule. That's where I would again say it comes to communication. Honestly I think in town leagues would take priority over anything coming from the outside. That's where my priority would be because it is Ludlow. Especially with the fact that the conditions of our fields are getting better and also the fact that we've lost fields. Knowing that LYSA at one point was dwindling with Roots and everything of that nature, and now that the numbers are coming back up we want to sustain it. I would put the priority with LYSA and then

whatever space. Obviously, working together. Not to have any bad blood. Work out the times and schedules and that should be done with the athletic director at the Boys and Girls Club.

Mr. Strange: Joe actually filled out the facilities use request form, and this is the attorney in me coming out. The dates requested says September 2nd through November 4th. If the Board approves that request, that essentially reserves all those days for LYSA. I'm wondering if there's any way to amend the request form with specific days and times. The other groups had dates like Mondays 5-7 just so the Boys and Girls Club knows. If we get another request that comes through, technically LYSA has use of the fields every day from September 2nd through November 4th.

Mr. Gennette: You're the next appointment, do you have anything you'd like to add.

Mr. Goncalves: How many Ludlow people are you going to have? How many people in general and how many are Ludlow kids? For the 2 hours a week you're requesting.

Mr. Serafino: Just about everybody.

Mr. Goncalves: You have that many Ludlow kids?

Mr. Serafino: Not for the entire club but this particular program, yes. It's designed primarily for our members that are currently in the club that have siblings in Ludlow, and we'll service those players and any players that come through Ludlow. We do them in other towns so there's no reason for kids outside of Ludlow.

Mr. ____: I'll speak again on their behalf. I am a coach for LYSA and also a coach for IFA. I will be the one commanding the Ludlow district for the Futures program. I'm a Ludlow resident, born and raised. Andy is the contact. I was the one that took it on my own to make this Future program work knowing that there really wasn't anything in town that was available for children from 3-8. Leagues have now popped up since I put in the request with Pioneers and some others, but there's no games. It's strictly training 3-8. My daughter is 5 years old. Many people in town have asked me to train their children. I have a beautiful pitch on the side of my house. If I could show you guys a video of it you'd be pretty surprised at it. Aside from doing it at my house I thought the Boys and Girls Club would be the best spot for this to happen. We would not use any of the LYSA stuff. Andy has already told me I will be supplied with all the balls all of the pug goals. Again, there's no teams, there's no games, strictly training. To be honest, my son plays for LYSA and I'm going to want kids to go play for LYSA as well. The more soccer you play or football you play the better you're going to be. As a town resident, class of 2003 I'd like to see Ludlow get put back on the map. We're the 2nd town in all of the US to be inducted into the hall of fame. So, I take a lot of pride in my town and my community, and I have a tremendous amount of respect for Joe Anselmo and for Andy, for Federico, the Pioneers. My son played there. I played for the Pioneers. I'm just trying to do what's best for almost everyone. Everyone has the choice to be able to choose where they want to go.

Mr. Serafino: I do want to make it known that my intention in this as the director and owner of this part of the club is not to start a club in Ludlow. I'm not looking to benefit financially from this at all. We actually lose quite a bit of money. It's got nothing to do with that. It's to provide an opportunity in the town for our members. I don't want to start another LYSA, I'm not looking to start another league in Roots. It's a training environment.

Mr. ____: To add the that, IFA has these Future programs in multiple towns; Monson, Wilbraham, Palmer, Suffield, Agawam, Westfield, East Longmeadow.

Mr. Gennette: Joe, do you have anything you'd like to add to all of this?

Mr. Anselmo: No, I know Manny very well.

Mr. Rosenblum: This is for Marc. I know where I work, the rec department has to be 80% residents in order to reserve a field. Do we know if we have any kind of...

Mr. Strange: I've never heard of or personally seen it, but we did have a meeting recently to talk about the fields in town and Sean McBride was part of that meeting. I don't know if they have a

written policy or if it's an unspoken policy that it has to be at least 80% of Ludlow residents to qualify for use of the fields.

Mr. ____: We get that in almost every town. That's standard. It's not written but that's a protocol that you follow.

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Mr. Serafino: For us, if I was to go their training session, kids that wouldn't be from Ludlow would be my own kids that I had to bring with me.

TOWN OF LUDLOW

Mr. Silva: Is it a requirement that you have every Monday? You said 8 Mondays.

Mr. Serafino: That's the only thing we're planning that we requested. We're open to LYSA and whoever. We have no problem with that.

Mr. Silva: That's what I'm looking at. Obviously LYSA has precedence. They're a town team. I'm looking at possibly communicating together and saying we're going to allow them to use the field 8 times, but you have to check with LYSA in case you have to book a game there. Booking a practice over a game is not as important. I would like to see you work together. To move a practice is probably not as hard as moving a game.

Mr. Serafino: As long as we have a week or few days' notice I think we could accommodate that. I've known Joe for a while. I didn't know this was even happening, that there was a conflict. I would have picked up the phone to Joe and said what's up.

Mr. Anselmo: You kind of got caught in the middle of this and we're trying to work it out.

Mr. Serafino: I don't think there's going to be any issue.

Mr. DeBarge: To me, this just seems very easy. Mondays from 8/28-10/23, excluding September 5th and LYSA knows about it. I don't see an issue with this.

Mr. Goncalves: With the understanding if there's a game that needs to be scheduled.

Mr. DeBarge: That's up to them. I'm not going to vote on that.

Mr. Anselmo: I'll know what the days are. If there's a problem and I see we need a Monday then I'll communicate with them.

Mr. Strange: I just want to verify. You guys would know better than I would, to make sure the request is true. If LYSA uses the field every day. I don't know what the history has been. Maybe no other organizations that come through. I just want to make sure the paperwork...if this is the first time we're doing it, typically the board doesn't approve these requests if somebody else comes in we want to do something on the fields Thursday night, September whatever, technically LYSA has precedence over that, and I just want to make sure we're covering our bases.

Mr. Anselmo: We've always worked, I know the Sheriff has his K9 unit there and we schedule off of Nick. That day we know it's his field. We work around that. We have no problem with that. When our schedule comes out then we know what days we need there. The paperwork we always file. Even when we used Harris Brook indoor gym we supplied the appropriate paperwork, certificate, insurance binder from the state. We haven't supplied it yet because they officially start at the end of August.

Mr. Strange: Once you have the schedule worked out, can you just send it to the Boys and Girls Club?

Mr. Anselmo: Yes, we always forward it to them.

Mr. Rosenblum: That was my only thing, that you were working together because you could be sitting there, and he goes oh no I've got something scheduled.

Mr. DeBarge: Are we looking for a motion for Ludlow Youth Soccer with specific days or are you going to give us a different list, not just 9/2-11/4?

Mr. Strange: My suggestion is if you guys want to make a motion, it's got to be what's representative of the paperwork, which is September 2nd through November 4th, excluding I don't know if it's Monday 5-7 or including a night of the week for IFA to do their practices, then at least you guys have the motion, excluding Mondays. That gives LYSA 6 days a week to go over there.

Mr. Gennette: This is only the youth soccer one, I don't know if you're going to say anything about the football academy.

Mr. DeBarge: Soccer, football, same thing.

Mr. Serafino: We're all here so I do want to make it...the way we do our programming is we do these little programs that we run. It's one day a week. It's not all year, it's like 10 weeks a year, 8 weeks in between. Spring is usually shorter because of the weather destroys the grass fields. Fall could potentially be 9-10 weeks. In the winter we'll do 6 weeks as well. It will probably be the same thing, like a Monday on the court for an hour with the kids. I just want to make sure there's no paperwork for that. I'm sure nobody wants to come back every season.

Mr. Strange: You guys are obviously indoors for that.

Mr. Serafino: Because it's in Ludlow you would probably use, why make them go to Westfield. It would just be for the little kids. It wouldn't be there. I just want to make sure that's ok with everybody.

Mr. Goncalves: This is strictly 3-8-year-olds.

Mr. _____: If they're older they should already be playing on a team or premier.

Mr. Serafino: You do have to take into account siblings. Because a lot of people bring their siblings and they're going to be older. If they're there, they're already in a club. It's not going to be a recruiting player.

Motion made by Mr. DeBarge to approve the request from Ludlow Youth Soccer Association for the use of the Community Center, excluding Mondays from 8/28-10/23 saving 9/5/23 for the International Football Academy, also with a caveat that both organizations will communicate with each other should changes need to be made.

Mr. Goncalves: The fee for the LYSA is no charge.

Mr. Strange: That's right. The lease agreement we have with the Boys and Girls Club says town organizations get to use the facilities for free or for a nominal fee.

Mr. Silva: Could we add that any other organization that may want to use the facility would have to clear it with LYSA because at this point it would be LYSA's time so any other organization should check with LYSA.

Mr. DeBarge: You need that in the motion?

Mr. Strange: I don't think we need that in the motion, but I would want those requests to go through the Boys and Girls Club because those people would be charged a fee and they know how to handle all that stuff.

Mr. Gennette: That's a pretty messy motion.

Mr. DeBarge: I'll do it again.

Motion made by Mr. DeBarge to approve the request of Ludlow Youth Soccer Association for the use of the Community Center fields excluding Monday's from 8/28/2023 – 10/23/2023 for the International Football Academy and we are waiving the fee for LYSA for use of the fields. Exception September 5th. **Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

6:15 p.m. Zoning Board of Appeals – to discuss Member Advertising on the Facebook page and LCTV.

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Mr. Gennette: We kind of know you but we'll have you introduce yourselves anyway and we'll let you have the floor.

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TOWN OF LUDLOW

Mr. Lopes: I'm Manny Lopes. I'm chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Mr. Wlodyka: I'm Joe Wlodyka. I've been a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals for approximately 13 years.

Mr. Lopes: Basically, we're here to discuss the Zoning Board of Appeals. We just want to bring attention to the Zoning Board of Appeals and how we're operating and running and bring some attention to it to the public. This will be on television tonight. Hopefully there are some viewers that are watching, and we can get their attention as well. It's a 5-member board and supposed to be 2 associate members. We've been running on 4 members and sometimes 3. We desperately need to try to get some members onto the board so that we can function the way we're supposed to. We put together a letter that you have in front of you. I'm not sure if you've seen it before. I'd like to have Joe read it and it kind of sums up the situation.

Mr. Wlodyka: Dear Board Members, the Ludlow Zoning Board of Appeals structure consists of 5 permanent members and 2 alternate members. The structure ensures a balanced board for all hearings. Currently, the Zoning Board of Appeals is in need of 2 people to fulfil the needed number to effectively perform our duties. As you know, this board is an all-volunteer group which conducts hearings for the residents of our towns should an appeal to the Building Inspector's findings of a permit, a variance or special permit be requested. A board of 4 voting members is required to establish a quorum. Currently we have only 5 regular members leaving us in a deficit of the 2 alternate members. This lack of membership could put the town at risk. This puts the board and town in a precarious situation. The board must act on any application within 45 days of being received by the town clerk. A public meeting must be scheduled and advertised as per the laws of government open meetings. If for some reason the board cannot establish a quorum for the hearing the application will pass without a proper review from the board. This defeats the function of the board. At this time, should a board member become unavailable for any reason or should 1 or more of us need to recuse ourselves from the hearing the applicant will be able to proceed without the board's approval. Instances of a need to recuse oneself would be the applicant is a neighbor to a board member or the applicant is a family member of a board member, or the applicant is a business associate of a board member. Other factors, such as a personal opinion or other dispute between an applicant and board member are all reasons that might require a recusal. It is only a matter of time before one of these scenarios may come into play. We, the Zoning Board of Appeals, respectfully ask that the Board of Selectmen consider the following possibilities in order to bring the Appeals Board to its full compliment. #1, increase the presence of the current advertisements on the town's website. #2, establish an advertisement for members in the town's social media pages. #3, advertise on Ludlow's cable TV channel, both written and spoken ads. #4, consider a contingency plan of other qualified town employees, such as an ad-hoc, who would be able to sit in on the Zoning Board hearings should a need arise. #5, establish a stipend payment per hearing for all board members. #6, any other alternate solutions that the Board of Selectmen might consider viable. We feel that these solutions would generate more interest in the residents of the town to become involved in the appeals process. Board members welcome any input and would be available for questions or comments as needed. Sincerely, Zoning Board of Appeals, Ludlow, MA.

Mr. Gennette: Any further comments?

Mr. Lopes: Let me just pass this out. This is a page from the Massachusetts practice manual which describes a quorum and what we need for a quorum for the zoning board. The zoning boards are regulated a little bit differently than other town boards. Just so we're clear on it.

Mr. Gennette: Marc, do you have anything?

Mr. Strange: I just want to read what was handed out for a second, but I think I do have something.

Mr. Goncalves: How many times, roughly, have you been meeting in the last couple of years?

Mr. Lopes: We typically meet every other week, twice per month, on a Thursday. Depending on the applications that come in. We might have a couple months that we don't meet. It depends on what's going on.

Mr. Goncalves: Maybe 20 times a year?

Mr. Lopes: Yes.

Mr. Wlodyka: Some of the hearings may have more than one applicant.

Mr. Lopes: We could be hearing 1, 2 or 3 applications some nights.

Mr. Goncalves: Marc, for instance, when our billing goes out for taxes, can we stuff envelopes?

Mr. Strange: I know that's been done in the past. We could probably do that. It would just be the cost of the paper and printing, which we can do internally.

Mr. Goncalves: We could print something and get it out to everybody.

Mr. DeBarge: We could do a robo call.

Mr. DeBarge: The robo call was big for the charter commission.

Mr. Lopes: Anything that can try to...the Zoning Board of Appeals is kind of a quiet board. We only meet as needed and applications come in for things that they're trying to do with lots of houses. For a while it wasn't even televised on our town channel, and I believe now it is, and I believe it's live. It's kind of a quiet board. I believe a lot of town members aren't even aware that there is a Zoning Board of Appeals.

Mr. Silva: I'm still wondering about the 4-member quorum. Is that a special chapter? A 5-member board you need a 3-member board. Also, the question is, you do have votes of necessity, which even if you don't have it and it's necessary to get a vote you possibly don't need that extra vote.

Mr. Lopes: The Mass General Law states that the Zoning Board of Appeals, if it's a 5-member board in order to open a public hearing you need 4 members, so we can't open it with 3, then to vote on it you need a majority vote. If somebody is absent...if we have a 5-member board, which we have not. We have no associate members right now. In the past year we've had some members retire, some members couldn't attend because of medical issues they're going through or personal issues or they can't make that particular meeting night for personal reasons: vacations, a lot of different things come up. Now we're down to 4 members and sometimes 3. It puts us in a precarious situation. With a 4-member board, we can open a public hearing. We can't with a 3-member board. We can't vote on special permits with a 4-member board.

Mr. Goncalves: I don't want to get away from what we're talking about, but with the charter review and everything we're doing right now, do you think it would make sense to change it to 3 members?

Mr. Lopes: It certainly could be done. I'd have to look into how it would operate with 3 members.

Mr. Goncalves: It needs a charter change, a town bylaw change to go to 3.

Mr. Lopes: I believe you would need some back up with some, not a board member from the Zoning Board, but someone from another board that could step in if need be. The Planning Board, Selectmen. I believe with a 3-member board there's a little talk about that in there.

Mr. Wlodyka: Is there any state guidelines we'd have to adhere to as far as the number. It's come up in a question before, as far as things put forward to Town Counsel about a quorum. I forget exactly what the circumstances were.

Mr. Lopes: I had reached out to Town Counsel because we were running low with a 4-member board, and we had some cases before us and I needed some guidance on it. She pretty much summed up that for special permits you can open a public hearing, but you can't vote.

Mr. Goncalves: Because you need 4, right?

Mr. Lopes: Yes.

Mr. Wlodyka: We could open the hearing, but the 3 members could only vote to continue the meeting until such time we had 4 members.

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Mr. Silva: In here it also says that a board member may miss a meeting if in writing he certifies he has examined the evidence and come back and vote.

Mr. Lopes: Yes they can come back and vote. That's so we can do a continuance until we get a full quorum. It involves kicking the can down the road sometimes to be able to accomplish that. If we're running tight on time we only have a limited amount of time to vote on cases if we kick it down too far then we're in a precarious situation.

Mr. Goncalves: Your alternate has the same power as a regular member, as long as they're there for the opening of the hearing, etc.?

Mr. Lopes: Yes. If there's 5 members present, they're there and they listen. They do not vote if there's a full 5-member board. If we're short then the chairman can request an associate member be present to vote. But they have to be familiar with the case.

Mr. Goncalves: Only special permits?

Mr. Lopes: Yes.

Mr. Goncalves: Like the Planning Board. The Planning Board alternate only steps in for special permits. A regular business you can't use an alternate.

Mr. Wlodyka: We basically deal with special permits and variances. Those are the 2 issues. And appeals to the Building Inspector's findings on certain permits. What we're trying to do here is, there's a lot of arms and legs to the laws, Chapter 40 Section 6 and all the town bylaws that we need to have, what we're trying to do is have some people in the wings that are trained, because nobody knows it all. I've been on the board 13 years, and I learn something new almost every week. People are always looking to the older members of the board for guidance and a little bit of explanation as to why this thing went that way or why we couldn't do that. It's helpful. That's how I started, as an alternate member, and it was very good because I had a lot of good talent that was ahead of me. Unfortunately, a lot of that talent has moved on to other things. Stuff pops up and now I'm the old guy. I don't have all the answers but if I can I'll find it. That's what we want to do. We want to have somebody in the wings coming up. I understand your comment about rewriting the charter and everything. It's a good time to figure out where we should be standing, what we're going to have, where we want to go with it.

Mr. Gennette: I was going to make mention of that. Once we had a charter change I think this is one of the committees that sticks around through the charter change. It's a pretty important one.

Mr. Silva: This is a committee that's appointed. Is this a voted...

Mr. Lopes: We're appointed by the Selectmen.

Mr. Silva: I believe as the Selectmen we could possibly consider just changing it to 3 members. If we can't get 5 members and they're having these issues...

Mr. DeBarge: Unless it's statutory.

Mr. Silva: Right. Unless it's statutory. But if it's appointed by us I think we can probably change it to a 3 member... Before we do that I think maybe we need to, like you're saying, advertise and get the word out. I think each one of us could know somebody that could possibly fill that seat and have some kind of knowledge of real estate and building codes. Maybe we can ask them to fill the seat.

Mr. Wlodyka: As an ad-hoc I don't see asking anyone from the Planning Board, I don't believe there would be any kind of mix up or you'd have a conflict of interest.

Mr. Silva: There's certain things you can't serve on 2 committees but some you can.

Mr. Gennette: Let's try to get the word out and see if we can't pound the pavement a little for you and get on the website.

Mr. Goncalves: How about you Mr. Kapinos?

Mr. Gennette: We'll see if we can't attract some attention first before we start. I'm talking please. Thank you. We'll get it out there.

Mr. Goncalves: Who does our Facebook page?!

Mr. Strange: Mike Hill.

Mr. Goncalves: Can we get it to him?

Mr. Strange: We've been posting it periodically. I'll have him recycle it.

6:30 Ann Van Aller, Resident – Regarding the rat issue.

Mr. Gennette: We actually have the Board of Health and Building Inspector here. Ms. Van Aller, I'm going to prompt this a little bit and say that we've had a lot of conversation with multiple departments over this but the floor is yours.

Ms. Van Aller: I'm here because the rats are not getting better. The rats are getting worse. We're getting them every single day. I already came to you in June and I'm back here again to see what, if anything, was happening with the town going forward. I have pictures if you need them.

Mr. Goncalves: I'd like to see them.

Ms. Van Aller: I'm sure you would.

Mr. Silva: Have you seen what the Board of Health has sent out?

Ms. Van Aller: Yes I got the letter in June.

Mr. Silva: It seems like the Board of Health is doing what you can. I don't know that there's anything else that you can or can't as far as trying to combat this.

Mr. Gennette: I'm going to interrupt you here for a moment. I don't think you know some of the lengths that the Department of Health has been going through already to take care of this. Already the DPW, we've stepped up cleaning up trash barrels along the riverwalk and things like that. We've met with WestMass and Jeff Daley came out and he gave us a brief of what he's seeing in the mills, which was very nice, and of course now Paulina has stepped up, so Paulina if you wouldn't mind.

Ms. Matusik: Ann and I actually met before the meeting. She called me a couple times and we've spoken a lot. We've been working together, and I've been keeping her in the loop. We went over already the things that the Health Department has done, and we continue to do. I did let her know that I also spoke with DPW, the Department of Public Health. Multiple different parties got involved and they're asking the town to do a rodent control plan. That's something I'm meeting with them about tomorrow with an expert to start the process and get information. What that entails, how long it's going to take, who gets involved and more information. I told Ann this was something that I would update her with. Something the town should also know, what's on the Board of Health agenda as well. Kind of next steps. The board will also get involved in this, but this is a community issue and a town issue, and I know I spoke with Ann, but the residents need to know that there's multiple different things that are going on. I went through all of our complaints, and we have a lot of correction orders out and there's some addresses that have multiple on the same street. If residents aren't cleaning up and aren't doing their part it's not going

to help the issue even if we do provide more and do more. People still have to clean up. It's tick season, not just rodent season in Ludlow right now. There is also warmer winters which contributes to rodent population. I spoke with Ann and Leslie and Tony, and we went over. Those who don't know, the rodent's reproductive system shuts down when it's cold out in the winter months and because the winters have been warmer they've been able to produce another litter or 2, which can contribute to the rodent population. New construction of old abandoned buildings can also contribute to that. People not cleaning up. There's multiple issues that are going on and it's not just one. I think doing the rodent control plan and figuring out our key hot spot areas and putting more focus on that will help. I know this is going to take time and people don't like to hear that, but Leslie can speak to this herself, we've been working closely together. With the construction going on over at the mills, they've actually been great, and they have worked closely with Leslie and Leslie is working closely with myself. They're providing us with monthly reports for their rodent control plan that they have in place. That way we know they are doing something and helping with at least having an inspector come out and make sure there isn't a bigger issue going on. We're having monthly meetings. Since we do all the code enforcement we have code enforcement meetings. If Leslie wants to talk more to that she's more than welcome.

Ms. Ward: One thing that we used to do in the municipality I was in, I'm not sure if it's still happening but there was a monthly code enforcement task force, which was made up of a representative from the Board of Health, Fire Department, Fire Prevention and Building Department and we had an in-house City Counselor so they would also attend. We would go over various different properties, problem properties that could be causing issues within the town for whatever reason. Either on town property, vacant and abandoned buildings, right up to some of the violations of the town bylaws. That would help us all stay on the same page and keep everyone informed so that we're not duplicating efforts within the departments. We would all have shared information, and we wouldn't be each looking for various different bits of information on certain properties to help us build a case if need be, to then take to our city council and in this case our town counsel, so that if necessary these things can be escalated to resolve. We're going to try it here in town for a month at first and if we find that we need to do it more often then we will increase the frequency of our meetings and we're hoping to have a good result with that. Another thing that is coming up is the first week of September the administrative review committee for the Planning Board is going to be meeting with the new owners of building 44 at the mills, who are doing construction, for a site plan review and one of the stipulations I'm going to make is they also submit a rodent control plan for their construction throughout their construction project. It will apparently be a restaurant in the future, although this will also hopefully open their eyes to the need in that area specifically to control the population. Anything they can do to help us would be appreciated. I've brought back some demolition requirements that have not been enforced in the past and rodent control efforts and plan in place prior to demolition is going to be a stipulation of the permit application process. That's what the building department is doing in conjunction with and in cooperation with the Department of Health and Fire Department.

Mr. Goncalves: Paulina, do we have a map somewhere so when calls come in we can see where it's happening?

Ms. Matusik: Virtual or a printed map with pins?

Mr. Goncalves: Either. Something where we can get an idea where the reports are coming from.

Ms. Matusik: We don't but that's easy enough to do. It would probably be easier for me to do it virtually.

Mr. Goncalves: This is blowing my mind. James is going to tell you a story that he shared with me. Between James' story and the brewery doesn't seem to have an issue, HealthSouth doesn't seem to have an issue I'd love to see that little thing with all the locations of the rats. I think it's probably not as complicated as we think.

Mr. Gennette: You're talking about outback?

Mr. Goncalves: Yes.

Mr. Gennette: I live right on Franklin and State, right on the corner in the apartment complex. On Wednesday night my wife made fish, on Thursday night she cooked a turkey. We bagged up the

trash. It was raining that night, so we put it on the back step. I forgot it out there. The next morning, I went out and that thing wasn't even touched. It wasn't bit, it wasn't scratched, it wasn't torn apart or anything. It was completely clean. I was completely amazed. I thought for sure hearing about all of the rats that this was going to be an absolute epic mess and that wasn't the case.

Ms. Van Aller: You're lucky because last Friday night I had the news out. They hadn't even got their camera up on the tripod less than 5 minutes in my backyard and a rat ran through. My yard is clean, you've been by my house. I've invited all of you to see and sit in my yard if you don't think there's a rodent problem. That was Friday at 11:15 in the morning with 9 people in my yard when rats were still running through not even caring. My yard's this big. 9 people in my yard, cameras, they don't care. There's no mess, there's nothing for them to get into. Friday night, caught a rat in a trap, sent them the picture. Saturday night caught a rat, sent them a picture. Woke up Sunday morning, another rat in a trap, sent them a picture. There's nothing else I can do.

Mr. Gennette: By my story, I don't want you to think I'm dismissing you. I'm not. I'm not saying there isn't a problem or anything like that, but it looks much like Tony is saying, we've got spot problems. We certainly don't want to turn a blind eye to what a potential problem could be and I think that's why we're all here. We're talking about this. We're certainly sympathetic to the situation you're in. We think there's pockets of problems that we have to figure out what the pattern is and go from there.

Mr. Rosenblum: To Mr. Goncalves point about a map. What you're looking for is the hot spots. I know that we've had some literature floating around with smart boxes. Once we can identify some of the hot spots, maybe those are something we can look into. Smart boxes and putting them in those locations and see what happens. To your point, there may be a nest that's somewhere near you. I have no idea. It just may be the path they have. If we do something like this and we look into it. The committee you're talking about, I've talked to Marc about this and maybe include in the ACO, Animal Control Officer, maybe down the road it becomes part of their purview in the same sense instead of hiring another person to be doing it. I don't know the certifications but it's an idea to have that person on your board. They can be more of a point person when you're doing it once a month, but I think smart boxes and being able to identify hot spots and obviously looking into what the smart boxes cost and the funding.

Mr. Goncalves: Are all you guys here for this?

Ms. ____: I've lived here for 30 years. I've never seen one rat. I've seen an occasional opossum or racoon. Never one rat. I have been complaining to the Board of Health since the beginning of the year to get a new trash barrel with a safety lid. They chew through the bottom of the barrel. I tried mint oil. They come through the fence between me and come cala te. They come under the fence from there and you can see their holes. I've tried bleach. Bleach lasted almost a day. I have tried traps. They get the food out of the trap without getting hurt. I have tried everything that I possibly can. I can't use poison. I have animals and grandchildren. I didn't ask for this problem. They're talking about codes and everything in these mills. Why didn't they enforce them back when all of this was going on? When they started doing all these adjustments to the mills. I'm trying everything I can to get rid of them.

Mr. Goncalves: I think what confuses the board is that we went through the other mill, and we didn't have this issue. Again, there's a hospital there that cooks 3-4 meals a day, there's a brewery and none of this has happened before.

Ms. ____: I've caught roughly 15. Most of them were babies. I can't seem to catch the big ones. Their pregnancy lasts 21-25 days. I don't know what else I can do.

Ms. Van Aller: When I talked to the Massachusetts Board of Health.

Ms. Matusik: It's the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

Ms. Van Aller: I spoke with Scott. He was the community sanitation. He said it's often times, can't say if that's the case this time, the vibration from the work. If the rats are burrowed down by the river the vibration from the work often sends them into the community. At this point, I don't even care if it's the messy properties, if it's the mills. I just want one day without the rats. We bought new trash barrels because maybe they have an odor in them. They're not eating my trash but they're

running through the yard every day. You can't cook. You're seeing them every single day. It's a lot.

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Mr. Silva: I spoke to a contractor, and he said it's in the sewer system. You can do whatever. It's in the sewer system and somehow something happens with the sewer system, whether it be a crack, a hole somewhere, and they're getting out of there. That's why it's concentrating in just that area. If we could somehow get somebody to check on these sewer systems and see if that's a viable thing that might have happened. Because this is so unusual.

Ms. Van Aller: We need to get somebody that actually does this and get in and do the inspection. It sounds like that's part of your meeting tomorrow.

Mr. Goncalves: A rat czar?

Ms. Van Aller: Don't even make a joke because I'm not in the mood.

Mr. DeBarge: I took a walk down there yesterday morning. I went up Winsor down Bristol, State, Duke, Essex, Franklin all over the place. I wasn't looking for any rats. What I was looking for was properties because I've been dealing with these properties for a long, long time. Trying to clean up properties on West Ave, trying to clean up properties over here. You have 38 Bristol, 12 Bristol, behind come cale is still trash. There are properties all over the place that do not take care of their surrounding area. Sidewalks, backyards, side yards, all of that. We've had an incredibly high rain season this year. The rivers are up. The rat holes that they go in on the side banks are filled with water, so where are they going to go? I don't know when it started. I know it didn't start when the buildings were falling at the mills because we would have heard about this a lot earlier. I think this is an isolated incident that has been extended because of the weather, because of the rain, and most importantly because we have people in this town that don't care what their properties look like. We have done a terrible job at enforcing that. Long before you got here, long before you got here. Ludlow has been a town that has just looked the other way it seems when it comes to this. Maybe we don't want to offend somebody by sending them a letter saying pick up your trash or we're going to fine you. That's what we need to do. We need to start fining, sending stern letters with a short time of you have 30, 60 or 90 days. 12 Bristol had 7 mattresses for quite a while. Tons of trash. 38 Bristol still trashed. 12 is starting to clean out. My problem with how we work in this town is if 12 is cleaning this out, how much time are we giving them. How much time are we giving them to do it. We can't give them 6 months. I'm not a rat expert but it's pretty easy to see when there is a fescue, not just grass but fescue, trash, and pallets and all that other stuff, they love that. They love living in that. I think this is isolated. I think this time of season didn't help, but we are definitely going on the right track. I commend the Board of Health and Building. We heard the problem. Ann, from you I heard it multiple times and we hear it from a few other people too. The minute we heard it, like I told you, we acted on it immediately. Unfortunately, these things don't mitigate quickly, to Paulina's point. I would just ask anybody, the 8 that watch us, if any of you are in the Winsor/State area, we are working on it but it's not going to be overnight. That's all I have. I am around that area. I'm walking, driving, all of that, making a note for addresses.

Mr. _____: I'd like to piggyback off of Tony's idea, Derek's. I think Tony's idea of finding a hot spot would be great but is there a way to tag these rats to see where they go. Then to piggyback towards Derek's issue with residents not cleaning up their junk, if those rats are traveling to those spots and they're nesting, guess what, it's that property's problem. You're already setting up traps so you're catching them. Tag 3 or 4 of them to see where they go. It's something to consider.

Mr. Silva: Where are we with our ordinance on unkempt property?

Mr. Goncalves: It's gone to town meeting in the past and it doesn't pass.

Ms. Ward: We have an unkempt property.

Mr. Goncalves: Not to the extent that...

Mr. Silva: It went to town meeting twice. The first time it failed and the second time I'm not sure if it passed fully either.

Mr. DeBarge: I'm sorry to cut you off. Paulina, doesn't the Board of Health agent have the authority to fine?

Ms. Matusik: Yes, and we have.

Mr. Goncalves: What's the guideline?

Ms. Matusik: 30, 60 and 90. It depends on the offense. You get 30 days.

Mr. DeBarge: What constitutes the...

Ms. Matusik: It's the state sanitary code and we also site the town bylaw for the unkempt properties. We use both of those together. They usually have 30 days or stricter depending on the property issue going on. It could be 24 hours, 72 hours, 2 weeks, a month. If they don't get that done, if they're working on it we're willing to work with the resident. If they're working and they've done a good 70% then we'll do an extension and we'll work with them. Otherwise, we fine them. Depending on, it's the sanitary code and unkempt property, what it falls under for the properties.

Mr. Gennette: Is there a standard fine? An amount?

Ms. Matusik: We fine based on the town bylaw. I don't remember it off the top of my head.

Ms. Ward: The bylaw states that the first offense is \$100 fine, second offense if they've exceeded the time limitation and the offense still exists its \$200 and they get another time period. If they exceed that then it's \$300 a day.

Ms. Matusik: That's why we're working together because some of it falls under zoning and building codes. We're all the enforcement agents. Fire, Health, and Building.

Mr. Tavares: I just want to follow something that Mr. DeBarge said. Two weeks ago, I had a couple that called me, so I parked and walked, not as many streets as he did, and I went to the last house on Berkshire because one of my employees that works for me lives there. I stopped by there. Her son plays soccer and he's outside every single day. I've asked her and her husband if they've seen any there and their answer was no. I don't know. Some people do call me at the restaurant, and they do tell me. I don't know what else to say. I walked a couple of those streets, and I didn't see anything.

Mr. Gennette: As a fellow restaurateur for a little while, doesn't the Board of Health require businesses to have a pest control schedule?

Mr. Tavares: The first Tuesday of every month they come in, they spray the whole outside, the whole inside, traps in the basement. Many times, I've asked the guy if he's ever seen any and he says no it looks good. We get a report.

Mr. Gennette: I was getting the same thing every month. I'm wondering, do we require all of our restaurants to maintain that pest control.

Ms. Matusik: When we do an inspection that's something we have to check off that they have. That is a question we ask all restaurant owners.

Mr. Gennette: Ann, I have to tell you I'm pretty blown away about how all the departments came together for all of this. A lot of times there's lots of little arguments between with the way things should happen but this is one thing that seems like everyone is coming together on. I know a lot of it's not public facing but we're doing what we can on our side to try to get as big a control on this as we can. I'm really happy with the Department of Health on this. I think you've done a great job on this.

Ms. Ward: Several have mentioned the hospital not having a problem. The hospital, I was just there today for an inspection of the fire alarm system in the back, and they have baited boxes. I believe they have their own plan in place for their facility. I'm sure there are other businesses that have the same thing.

Mr. Gennette: So maybe that's part of the reason we have spots that are having an issue. Because if you get businesses down there that are getting rid of some pests or whatever then they're kind of thriving in your area. I was really pretty happy with everybody. I know you're not happy with the situation but...

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Ms. Van Aller: I'm not happy but a few things are happening. As long as we keep in touch, and it keeps getting better.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Strange: It's a little bit lengthy tonight so bear with me. The charter committee update. The town actually received 21 applications for the charter committee. Fourteen of those candidates were offered interviews. In no particular order they are Bryan Bylicki, Christopher Pelletier, Dana Cormier, Diane Kurtz, George Costa, Jennifer Aldworth, Judy Breault, Kathy Green, Leona Tyrrell, Linda Collette, Marissa Ribeiro Dahan, Martin Fanning, Michael Engel and Michele Manganaro-Thompson. The interviews are scheduled for next Tuesday and Wednesday, August 22 and 23. We wanted to note for the viewers that the August 22 interviews will not be aired live so that the August 23 interviewees do not have an unfair advantage and see what the questions are. They will be available for viewing on August 24. The August 23 interviews will be live because there's no danger in upsetting the process.

Mr. Gennette: The people that didn't get picked; did we send out a thank you letter to them?

Mr. Strange: Yes we did. Communications with the public. I think Derek hit on this previously. We're finding that there's a hole in our townwide communications. We do our best to put out press releases to announce certain important events or happenings. The board and I try to give updates at meetings like this. We also post information on our Facebook page and the town's website. However, for residents that do not read the Reminder or Register and if they don't visit the town's online outlets there's a good chance they're not up to date on important things that are happening in town. We have found that robo calls are extremely effective. In fact, it was a robo call requesting applications for the charter committee that produced so many applications. I think we were at 4 applications before the robo call went out and we ended up with 21 applications. We'd like to start using robo calls a little more often for announcements that are particularly important for residents to know about. We're very sensitive to the fact that it can be intrusive, but I wanted to float that to the board and to give a warning shot to the residents that you might be getting more calls, but we'd only do it for calls that we feel are important. Vets Park demolition began today. We have a tentative schedule. This week they're installing erosion controls, temporary fencing and they're going to begin the interior asbestos abatement. Next week the abatement continues. The week of August 28 – September 1 they should be finishing up the interior abatement and submitting a clearance to the town. Once that's approved, the following week, September 5-8 they're going to be mobilizing the large excavator. The town will be issuing a demolition permit and demolition should begin. Demolition should take place for most of September 11-29. By the beginning of October, they should have the building completely down and then they will backfill, loam and seed. We should have some grass popping up later this year and early next year. Whitney Park is also moving along. The town awarded the Whitney Park conceptual design project to Tighe & Bond. This process will include public presentation of 3 conceptual designs where town residents will be encouraged to attend and provide feedback on the 3 concepts so the town can move forward with the best possible design. We look forward to getting started with that process in the coming weeks. The LHS project is also underway. That's out to bid right now. Bid documents went out last week. There's a site visit this Friday at 10:00 a.m. for any interested contractors. The bid opening is September 8 at 2:30 right here in this room. Last but not least, early feedback on the new sign at Sportsmen's Road and Chapin Street is very positive. The one suggestion that we've heard is the lettering is a little bit too thin. I certainly agree with that. We have reached back out to the vendor to address the issue. They're going to send us a mockup of bolder letters that the board will have to take a look at. Once we're comfortable with that example they'll make those changes to that sign and then we'll use that as an example for town signs moving forward.

CORRESPONDENCE

101. Chief Valadas – informing the Board of the Certificate of Commendation that has been given to Officer Stephen Sambor for outstanding performance of his duties.

102. Chief Valadas – informing the Board of the Certificate of Commendation that has been given to Officer Paulo Carvalho for outstanding performance of duties.

103. Chief Valadas – informing the Board of the Certificate of Commendation that has been given to Dispatcher Benjamin Taylor for outstanding performance of his duties.

Mr. DeBarge: Certificate of Commendation for Stephen Sambor, and I might add one of the best on the force, no doubt. Outstanding guy. This certificate of commendation is presented to you for your outstanding performance for your duties as a Ludlow Police Department's field training officer program, or FTO program. As one of the original FTO's from 2013, you played an integral role in shaping and molding the FTO program from its inception to what it is today. Over your storied tenure, your calm demeanor and professionalism influenced the careers of over half the officers of this department. Your steady guidance directly contributed to not only the officer's individual accomplishments but to the achievements of the police department. The legacy you have left on the Ludlow Police Department will continue to reverberate for decades in the future. Your service reflects great credit upon yourself, the Ludlow Police Department, and the Town of Ludlow. Signed by Daniel J. Valadas, Chief of Police.

Mr. Goncalves: Certificate of Commendation for Officer Paulo Carvalho. This certificate of commendation is presented to you for the outstanding performance of your duties as a member of the Ludlow Police Department during a medical emergency call on 19 July 2023. During the initial dispatch the victim was described as laying face down, unresponsive, no pulse and breathing but turning blue. As the first arriving police officer, you immediately took your cardiopulmonary resuscitation from the caller until the arrival of Ludlow Fire Department paramedics. Upon arrival of the paramedics, the victim was described to have a pulse and breathing. Your quick actions were vital in saving the life of this victim. Your service reflects a great credit upon yourself, the Ludlow Police Department, and the Town of Ludlow. Daniel J. Valadas, Chief of Police.

Mr. Rosenblum: Certificate of Commendation for Dispatcher Benjamin Taylor. This certificate of commendation is presented to you for your outstanding performance of your duties as a member of the Ludlow Police Department during a medical emergency call on 19 July 2023. During the initial moments of the 9-1-1 the caller described the victim as laying face down, unresponsive, no pulse and breathing but turning blue. You immediately instructed the caller on how to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation, CPR, and coached the caller through 2 rounds until Police and Fire arrived on scene. Upon arrival of paramedics, the victim was discovered to have a pulse and breathing. Your quick actions were vital in saving the life of the victim. Your service reflects a great credit upon yourself, the Ludlow Police Department, and the Town of Ludlow. Daniel J. Valadas, Chief of Police.

Mr. Gennette: Thank you to Mr. Valadas for making the commendations.

Motion made by Mr. DeBarge to file correspondence items 101, 102 & 103. Mr. Goncalves second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Gennette: Thank you everybody for your wonderful service to our town.

104. Louis Gilli, EH&S Engineer MMWEC – informing the Board that MMWEC will be performing routing inspections and mowing operations on its natural gas pipeline right of way during the third quarter of 2023.

105. Louis Gilli, EH&S Engineer – Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC) – informing the Board of the Herbicide Application for 2023.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to file 104 and 105. Mr. Rosenblum second. Mr. Gennette abstain. Motion passed 4-0-1.

106. Pamela Melbourne – informing the Board of her resignation as an Unenrolled Election Worker.

Mr. Gennette: Pamela, I got to tell you, I think I'm the only unenrolled member of this board. You're bailing out on me. Thank you for your service.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to accept the resignation and thank Pamela for her time. **Mr. DeBarge second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

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107. Jason Coddling, Muscular Dystrophy Association Committee – requesting permission from the Board to hold its annual Boot Day to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association on Friday, September 1, 2023, from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in front of the Fire Station at Chapin and Center Streets.

2023 SEP 15 3:30
TOWN OF LUDLOW

Mr. Rosenblum: Annual event. I literally drive through there on purpose at those times to put money in the boot.

Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum to approve permission from the board to hold its annual Boot Day to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association on Friday September 1, 2023, from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in front of the Fire Station at Chapin and Center Streets. **Mr. Goncalves second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

108. Diane Dryjowicz – St. Elizabeth requesting approval from the Board to put up two (2) 6x3 signs advertising for monthly Spaghetti Dinners at St. Elizabeth's Parish.

Motion made by Mr. DeBarge to approve St. Elizabeth Parish to put up two 6x3 signs advertising for monthly Spaghetti Dinners at St. Elizabeth Parish. **Mr. Silva second.**

Mr. Silva: Where is the request for?

Mr. DeBarge: In front of the library. They've done this for like 10 years.

Mr. Silva: It's for the allotted time, 2 weeks I believe.

Mr. DeBarge: I think they said it's only going to be up for 2 days.

All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.

109. Judith Yando – requesting to be appointed as a Democratic poll worker – Democratic Town Committee Chairman recommends appointment.

Motion made by Mr. Silva to appoint Judith Yando as a Democratic poll worker. **Mr. DeBarge second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

110. Chief Valadas – requesting to charge off medical expenses and lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for injuries sustained by two Police Officers as a result of an incident that occurred on July 26, 2023.

Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum to approve to charge off medical expenses and lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for injuries sustained by two Police Officers as a result of an incident that occurred on July 26, 2023. **Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Board to ratify Police Supervisors Union Contract.

Motion made by Mr. Silva to ratify the Police Supervisors Union Contract. **Mr. DeBarge second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Board to discuss and possibly vote to authorize \$32,000 in ARPA funding for Mott MacDonald for additional design and construction management due to final revisions to the LHS Sports Complex design and procurement support.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to authorize \$32,000 in ARPA funding for Mott MacDonald for additional design and construction management due to final revisions to the LHS Sports Complex. **Mr. DeBarge second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Board to approve and sign Selectmen Meeting Minutes of July 25, 2023.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to approve and sign Selectmen Meeting Minutes of July 25, 2023. All members present. **Mr. DeBarge second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Board to approve and sign Executive Session Minutes of July 25, 2023.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting of July 25, 2023. All members present. **Mr. DeBarge second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Mr. Gennette: I got a phone call from Albert Crisostomo and he was asking about pickleball. He was very concerned because a lot of other towns around here are doing a lot of it. I did tell him that we were in the middle of trying to figure out how pickleball is actually going to work in Ludlow and that we're discussing it. Then I followed up with Marc as far as where we were with pickleball. Marc, if you wouldn't mind adding a couple comments about what we're looking at.

Mr. Strange: For the public, and I've received a couple calls about this as well, people asking about pickleball courts in town. I think the prevailing thought right now is that with the demolition of Vets Park School that provides an opportunity for the town to put in pickleball courts in that location. We're also going to be going through the Whitney Park upgrade and update process. There's an outstanding question as to how we use the tennis courts moving forward. If we refurbish those and use them as tennis courts or if we use those as pickleball courts. I think there's people on both sides of that. That's why we're excited to be going forward in a public process. Pickleball courts are certainly on the top of the brain in terms of recreation offerings. I think the lowest hanging fruit is probably Vets Park.

Mr. Gennette: Thank you very much. I appreciate that.

NEW BUSINESS

Board to acknowledge and approve the citation for the upcoming 100th birthdays for the following Ludlow residents for the month of August: Marion Moriarty and Reno Mariani.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to approve the citations for the 100th birthdays for Ludlow residents for the month of August, Marion Moriarty, and Reno Mariani. We've got letters here we can send out. The Board of Selectmen would like to present to you the enclosed citation in recognition of your 100th birthday on August 21, 2023. We, the Board of Selectmen, are proud to present this certificate of Recognition to Reno Mariani and Marion Moriarty. The Board of Selectmen would like to wish you a special day that honors your 100th birthday and everything you've done to make the world a better place for the last 10 decades. You've experienced many milestones and have witnessed extraordinary changes in the world over the last 100 years. May your memories continue to provide your family and friends with the insight and wisdom that age and experience imparts. Board of Selectmen, the five of us here present. Congratulations.

Board to approve and sign Gravel Bank Permits.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to approve and sign the following permits for gravel banks. James Banas – 246 Fuller, Lillian Chenier – 405 Munsing Street, Amandio Fernandes – Daniel's Gravel Bank – 466 Miller Street, Ray Haluch – 1014 Center Street, Beverly Nawrocki – Nawrocki Construction – 5 Lyon Street, Granby, MA the mailing address but that's out on Lyon Street. Scantic Lands LLC – 1102 Center Street, L&E Gomes LLC – Ginmar Enterprises – 136 Carmelina's Circle, Ludlow Fish and Game Club – Sportsmen's Road, Matias Goncalves – Caracas Construction – 592 Holyoke Street. **Mr. DeBarge second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Board to discuss and possibly vote to authorize \$27,500 in ARPA funding for Tighe & Bond to create a conceptual design for the Whitney Park upgrades.

Motion made by Mr. Silva to authorize \$27,500 in ARPA funding for Tighe & Bond to create a conceptual design for the Whitney Park upgrades. **Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Mr. Rosenblum: For the record, that's from ARPA funding, that's not from free cash and that's not from the budget. That's going to come up because we've discussed in the past \$25,000 here or there. This is from ARPA funding.

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TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

2023 SEP -6 P 3:30

BOARD UPDATES/MISC.

TOWN OF LUDLOW

Mr. DeBarge: A couple things I want to cover for our listening public about the 250th committee. The celebration for this town's quincentennial 250th, the committee has been going very strong. I've seen comments about the number of events. I'm part of the committee as well but a lot of events going on. The last one we did was at River Hollow. We have raffle cards out now. Cash raffle cards. River Hollow fundraiser went very well, as most of our fundraisers go well. The 2 things I want to cover with people is the people that are involved with this committee. It started off a good size and it's kind of dwindled. They have to meet on a regular basis. Some of the meetings are long. The people that are at these meetings are at all the fundraisers, they lift all the heavy weight. I don't go to every meeting. I don't go to very many but when I do I see the same people. Our Chairperson, Linda Collette, is second to none. There's nobody that could do this better. The Assistant Chairperson is Kathy Ouimette and then we have Bruce Durand, who is the Chair of our parade. The parade is going to be pretty big. Bands and everything. It's a big thing to pull off. Tony Curto. David Sady, who gets my MVP vote. If you haven't bought a raffle ticket from him yet, he's coming. I think he outsold everybody by about 100:1. He's amazing with what he does. If you don't know about these drone footages of the fundraisers or anything else going on in town or outside of town, it's amazing. You should look it up. Regina Stanek, Paul Chrzan, Elaine Hodgeman; always the same faces I see at the meetings, always the same faces that I see at the events and they are there not just because they have to be, they're there because they want to be and they believe in this celebration. The money we're raising is going towards the cost of a lot of events. We all know fireworks cost a lot of money; bands cost a lot of money, materials, advertising, all of that stuff cost a lot of money. Take advantage of the fundraisers if you can please. We have a bunch of them coming up. The raffle cards are cash raffle cards. A total of \$2,000 is put onto this by our Friends of the Seniors committee which is run by John Diotalevi from the Polish Club and he's come into this with his group with both feet and running. I'm very happy to report all this to everybody. Please get involved when you see a fundraiser. The celebration is going to be good. My part of the job is to find the Harley Davidson that we're going to raffle. We will be picking out that model in January 2024, which I can tell you is probably going to be a Street Glide. You will be seeing raffle prizes. We are hoping to have them out before Christmas so that you can buy your loved ones a raffle ticket to win a Harley Davidson. That's all coming. A lot of big stuff coming. I appreciate what everybody does.

Mr. Goncalves: Along with the 250th, their golf tournament is coming up. Their golf tournament is scheduled for September 9th, Saturday at Westover. I've got to believe that if you're a single, call, get your name to Paul Chrzan, call me, call Linda Collette and we'll create some teams if we have individuals. It's going to be a fun day. There is a commitment to Westover so we need to fill it up. It's going to be a great weekend. I believe the Fire Department's tournament is that Friday the 8th, the 9th is the 250th, the 10th is the Luso, Sheriff's is tomorrow. Think about the golf tournament, put a team together. It's \$500/team. It's going to be a fun day. Plenty to eat and drink.

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. Silva: I'm going to steal some of Mr. DeBarge's thunder. I read some of his comments earlier and I'm with him on what's happening on East Street. I've mentioned this several times. It's such a trip hazard over there. We have to do something with those sidewalks. I'm just shocked sometimes when I walk there. If you go to Primavera you can almost not walk without tripping on something. Like Mr. Goncalves mentioned, that engineering design with the bump outs and the trees in the middle of the sidewalks...anyway.

Mr. Gennette: I don't want to interrupt you here, but is there an update on the survey?

Mr. Strange: The survey closes Friday. The last number we had is what we provided before, a little bit over 100, although I know other people have participated. Some really good feedback on a variety of things. It's going to be an interesting result once we finalize it.

Mr. Goncalves: Keeping in line with the Board of Appeals was here today. We have so many positions in town that require attention. We're short everywhere. Whether it's the Board of Appeals. There's a list online I believe. Finance Committee needs people. I wish half the people that complained would get interested and we'd have an abundance of people for the openings that are available. Maybe you're not interested. Ask somebody. Maybe you know somebody that's bored at home and maybe they can get involved. We definitely need the help. Thank you to all the people that stepped up on the charter commission. I was a little bit nervous there. I'm glad the robo call worked. It seemed like at the beginning 3 people had reached out. It's good to see that going. The rat problem, hopefully we're going to get that straightened out. If anybody else is having an issue let us know. Let the Board of Health know. We'll be back here next week I believe.

Mr. Rosenblum: I wanted to say thank you to everyone that applied to the charter commission committee. Those who have interviews and those who unfortunately aren't going to be in the interview process. The number from what we started with to what we ended up with is very encouraging. It's good to know there's a lot of people that are interested in seeing the town go in the right direction. I always send a lot of stuff to Marc. We text, we talk and it's one of these things where my view, my vision is State Street being areas where you close down and on the weekends you can walk it. State Street you can open up. We have the store fronts on the mixed use, retail on the first floor. Their doors open up to State Street. Maybe there's a band and things of that nature. You look at a lot of the other towns around us, you've seen Easthampton do it, Ware, I think it's also to a point, and I'm not harping on anyone particular, but it is store front owners taking pride in what's in front of their stores. On East Street, there's been a lot of store fronts that you've seen some of the buildings that have really upgraded nicely. It's a start. I think the biggest thing is where do we have parking. I love the ideas and I love where we're going with it. The concept is there and I hope we can continue to improve on it.

Mr. DeBarge: The walk I took that they're talking about, Center and East and all of that, I took a bunch of pictures. I can give you addresses of apartment buildings where landlords are shirking their responsibilities, specifically 82 Center Street, which looks horrible next to All Faze. You keep walking around and then you go up East Street. To Mr. Silva's point you see 5-6 traffic cones on our sidewalks covering tripping hazards. I obviously spoke to our DPW director because one thing I do want to say through all of this is the DPW has changed exponentially and if that's not the right word has changed quite a bit. It has nothing to do with anything other than the direction that they're in from Jamie Tomas. He's a great director. The staff seems to be in good spirits. We are catching up to a lot of things that we fell so far back on for so much time that there's not enough staffing to get to. There's so many things they're doing you can't have a team come out from our DPW and weed whack the entire East Street from Ludlow Funeral Home around to Center Street to All Faze. We don't have a DPW that is that big to do that. What do you do? You call the jail. I called our Sheriff and one of the Sheriff's right-hand man, John D'Angelo, who anytime I call John and ask him for something the answer is always yes. I spoke to Jamie before I did this, asking the Sheriff's office to help us out with some crews before Festa weekend to clean up Center and East Street. As I said, the answer was unequivocally from Sheriff Cocchi through John D'Angelo, absolutely, whatever you need. So, we will be having, and you'll see this in traffic, we'll have large crews out on Center Street to East Street weed whacking and clearing out sidewalks in those areas that are just atrocious to look at. We need to be more involved as far as residents and business owners. The Ware Main Street is a business owner...

Mr. Strange: Is it a business improvement district?

Mr. DeBarge: Yes. All of the business owners on Main Street in Ware are into this committee and they take care of what's out in front of their store fronts. Brand new flowers, painted fire hydrants, their military banners are already up on their light poles. Everything is landscaped. Everything is gorgeous. It's a hard thing to get to but we have to do better as a community. Walk outside your front door and take care of what's in front of your house. Walk outside your front door and take care of what's in front of your business. The last thing I'll say is Jamie told me that the traffic cones and the tripping hazards will be taken care of. I don't want to give it a time frame but they're going to be moving on it tomorrow or this week where they're going to cut the tripping hazards. They're going to remove the grates that are up and they're going to fill it with concrete before Labor Day weekend. You'll see Center and East looking differently. Hopefully we can continue it. I'm going to say this about the charter commission. I want everybody to know the backgrounds of the people that we will be interviewing, the 21 people, the backgrounds are from all walks of

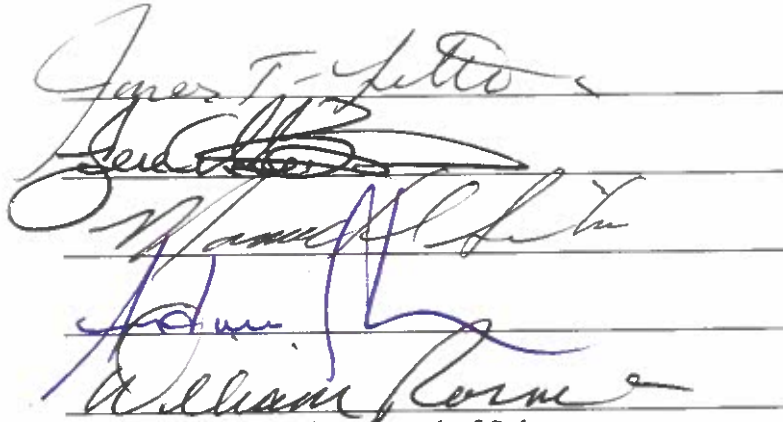
life, all different experiences. I am very excited about this after seeing and reading resumes and cover letters and all of that. We're bringing a wealth of knowledge into this 11-person committee so that we hopefully can give you, the voting public, the best option when it comes time for the ballot. If you want to stay up on this you can contact any of us or when we start the meetings, come to the meetings.

Mr. Gennette: Don't they have a copy of the original 2008 for a new charter? So, they have an original document that was made so they're not starting all over again. They at least have a basis by which they can build off of and improve on. Aggregate electric. We're going to be looking shortly to start posting for member community outreach to be able to let you guys know where we are with that. Things have been moving along. We've been dealing with the state, we've been dealing with the lawyers. Mass Power Choice has really been doing a lot of work and really coming through. I just want to give everybody an update on that.

Event Calendar:

August 31st – September 4th – Festa
September 30th & October 1st – 3rd Annual Community Market @ Memorial Park/Gazebo
October 14th – Celebrate Ludlow @ Memorial Park

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 p.m. Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.


Chairman
Ludlow Board of Selectmen

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2023 SEP -6 P 3:30
TOWN OF LUDLOW

