

The Meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, began at 5:30 p.m. in the Board of Selectmen's Conference Room.

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

Members Absent: Derek DeBarge

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First Order of Business: The Pledge of Allegiance

VISITATIONS

5:35 p.m. – Heidi Mahoney & Dave Allen from GONETSPEED Q&A

Ms. Mahoney: I've got a slide deck that answers some questions.

Mr. Allen: Dave Allen, GM and SVP of Network Operations for GONETSPEED. I've been with the company about 7 years and I'm in charge of the teams that do the market analysis and engineering and planning to build fiber networks as well as all the folks that keep it up and running and make the blinking lights stay blinking.

Ms. Mahoney: My name is Heidi Mahoney. I've been with GONETSPEED for about a year and half. I'm the manager of government affairs. I meet with towns before we build networks in those towns to build a relationship with them. I'm also in charge of any legislative tracking that we do and grant funding that is out there. Those are a few of the things that I do.

Mr. Gennette: It's nice to see you guys moving around the town so much. Your trucks are hooking the place up.

Ms. Mahoney: Have you heard anything? We had a little bit of an issue in the beginning with a line getting cut but other than that have you heard things around town about GONETSPEED?

Mr. Goncalves: Nothing negative.

Mr. Silva: All I heard was what's going on. We didn't notify and put it out there quick and long enough and let people know. We did do some.

Ms. Mahoney: It's nice for people to feel like they have a choice.

Mr. Allen: Do you think there's anything we could or should do at this point to help get the word out?

Mr. Silva: By this point I think everybody is almost there.

Mr. Allen: We're getting close to completing this phase.

Mr. Silva: The biggest question is, is everybody going to have it and the answer is no.

Mr. Allen: That tends to be the biggest question. We'll talk about that but we like to look at it as an initial phase of investment and we need to see how it goes. Then evaluate what if anything comes next. We try to go into the most cost-effective areas to build initially where there's poles first and foremost. Denser population helps a lot. If you look at what we've built compared to what we haven't I think we're probably around 60% of the town by the time we're done. What's left is primarily buried facility neighborhoods and very low-density neighborhoods and outskirts neighborhoods. Those present tougher economics for us and it's very expensive to put fiber in the ground and disruptive and it's expensive on a per home basis when you get into the lower density areas. That's not to say we won't ever get there but we need to demonstrate success of what we've done and identify strategies to get our investment per home. We're working on a lot of things we can control. We feel like the regulations to get the poles is part of that. Part of what we feel like we can influence. We'll talk about how we have 2 different builds making it easier to get on the poles less costly and more predictable. We see that as an important part of bringing the cost down and making it more feasible for us to expand.

Ms. Mahoney: We'll use this as a guide to speak and if you have questions throughout please feel free to jump right in. A little bit about us, Marc some of these will seem familiar to you because we went through them. The companies that are GONETSPEED have been around for many years. In 2021 we all came under the umbrella of Oak Hill Capital, who is our investment company and we are now GONETSPEED. In this particular area you may have heard of Granby telephone, that's one of the traditional telephone areas that we have had in the past. We're building in a couple of different ways. We're building in the traditional territories where we already have facilities on the utility poles where we're already providing phone service to customers. Also, CLEC, which is a competitive local exchange carrier where we can go into anywhere and build a network that we want to. In Granby, MA for example, this year we're building, but we're also building areas like Ludlow, Agawam, Easthampton, Amherst and places like that. Massachusetts is a bit of a challenge in terms of timing and how long it's taking us to get on the poles. This is a representation of the 9 states that we serve. Alabama and Missouri are a byproduct of a combination of those companies. There's some ILEC territories or traditional telephone territories that are in those areas that were upgrading to fiber service. Most of the work we're doing is in the Northeast. What you see in green is what we've completed or almost completed. Amherst being our first market that we completed a network in. Ludlow being our 2nd. Ludlow is almost finished and we'll talk through that in the next couple of slides as to what our build looks like and where we're at with that build. We're also doing work in Easthampton and Agawam and Springfield are coming up right behind. Our distribution center and warehouse is in Agawam. As we expand we've had discussions about moving on the eastern side of Massachusetts. We will open additional areas so that there is a local presence for us. Not necessarily a service center but a warehouse where our trucks can roll from those places so we are local and our customer service centers you can call into are in New England as well. In upstate New York.

Mr. Allen: The build and installation is one of the most interesting logistical challenges that I didn't necessarily expect when we started doing this a few years ago. You have to have a warehouse and how much inventory you have to have there vs another location to stage everything and get things built out.

Ms. Mahoney: This is what the numbers look like for Ludlow. Phase 1 is locations that we pass, 4,800 locations. Currently we've passed 3,200 with total miles of fiber constructed at 51, that's all aerial fiber. You'll see the map on the next page. It looks a little bit like Swiss cheese and I'll explain why. That's a fully private investment from our investment company of 5 million dollars. That's no money coming from anywhere except from a private investment. With current subscriptions, we released our first portion of Ludlow 2 weeks ago and we're at 162 subscribers with a 5% penetration rate. For penetration rate we typically try to go between 30-40%. We've only been doing it for a couple of weeks so there's room to grow and we still haven't opened up the whole town.

Mr. Allen: That is a terrific initial response for us.

Ms. Mahoney: This map is from our website. You can put in an address and it will tell you if that address is serviceable. What you see in green is where we have fiber currently. The lower southeast portion is where we have those subscribers that I just mentioned. Last week we opened up the area across from the turnpike. We don't have any subscribers there yet but we opened that late last week. The orange area is in construction as we speak and should be getting released by the beginning to middle of next week. This might be where you folks have some questions. You can see there's some areas that look a little bit like Swiss cheese. There's some blank areas and those are likely underground areas. We do try to focus on those aerial locations first. That isn't to say that those areas are off the table, we just need to get that return on investment before we can move on to other parts of a build. There are opportunities here as well. For example, a neighborhood that has an HOA we're happy to have a conversation with them if they're willing to petition their neighborhood members to see if there's interest in bringing us there. It's not off the table. From your perspective you're like we want you to build the whole town and we do understand that but as a business we need to get that turn on investment first.

Mr. Allen: We've had a few projects like that in other regions where there's say 50 homes and we know we can get 30 customers, they would build and that really changes the economics for us.

Mr. Goncalves: There are subdivisions in this town that there's conduit put in for the phone company and the association or the owner decided not to do the phones and there's open conduit.

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I know of 2. When you're looking at the underground, bigger newer ones you may find there's conduit there that was set aside for the phone company that was never used because they weren't immediate with their lines. The phone was expensive and there was big charges behind it for them to lay their line. There's empty pipe sitting in the ground in a couple of these bigger ones.

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Mr. Allen: If you know of a couple I'd love to connect with you on that. That's something we could take a closer look at. You're going to find that with some of the newer subdivisions. It was pretty expensive to do the phone. I happened to have done one and I know the line is sitting there. There was a couple after me that followed suit.

Ms. Mahoney: If you have those contacts of the people from those neighborhoods and they're reaching out to you, please feel free to reach out to myself or Dave. We can put them in touch with the right people.

Mr. Gennette: You sent out pre-subscriptions so people could prescribe? Is that accurate?

Ms. Mahoney: Yes, so that we could get a read on who might be interested in service. We were likely going to build there anyway.

Mr. Gennette: Do you typically do that ahead of going live in a specific area.

Mr. Allen: We tend to start sending that mail 60-90 days before we go live. It encourages folks to go online and enter your contact info and qualify your address for service. That tells us this person really wants it, make sure we reach out to them as soon as we go live.

Mr. Gennette: I ask because we're on the air and if anybody watches this right now they'll know if they get a piece of mail saying it's time to presubscribe if you want.

Ms. Mahoney: I may have already mentioned it, you can go onto our website and put your address in and it will tell you if you're in the build area.

Mr. Allen: It's also great for any of the neighborhoods if you go online and put your address and you don't qualify for service now registering that interest is great for us because it gets us to a point that says if this neighborhood built there's already 5-10 people that are interested.

Ms. Mahoney: We track that information.

Mr. Rosenblum: I just looked up mine. I'm in the neighborhood above the country club. Is that area going to be done? I know there's poles on my street and if people have poles is there going to be a build out?

Mr. Allen: I would say it's more likely. In your neighborhood it's probably a relatively good density. There are a few streets like that where we had to back off on our plan because we encountered very expensive pole attachment costs where if we had to replace 5 poles to get down your street we might have backed off on that and said we'll revisit that later once the power company has done some upgrades.

Mr. Rosenblum: I saw the truck go through my street. That's a general question. If there's pockets where it might not be dense around it but it's dense in that area. My neighborhood is a dense area but if you go up another street or 2 it's not dense. The density is going to be a big thing.

Ms. Mahoney: That's a good segway to the process of getting on these poles. What we do well ahead of any physical work that happens is we do a route selection where we do the formula of the density. Where is going to be the most economical place for us to deploy. Then we send folks out to do a field survey of those poles. From there we would contact the town if there's any permitting that needs to get done from the town's perspective and we submit an application to the pole owners. In Massachusetts it's Eversource and Verizon. They're jointly owned poles so we submit an application to both those pole owners. They are then required to go out and do a make ready survey. That's basically what do we need to do on this pole to make it ready for someone else to attach. A lot of times the case Dave was just describing, if they tell us they have to replace a pole it's much more expensive than moving a cable down or up a little bit. They do that process and say this is what it's going to cost you to do this work. We pay that invoice; they do the work and give us a

license to go on the pole. Typically, in all the other New England states, that entire process takes 6-10-12 months. In Massachusetts it's taking us 3-4 years. The reason is there's legislation in the other New England states that Massachusetts doesn't have. I wanted to put this in here because we did just have a summit about it. There is current legislation in front of the TUV as well as the House Ways & Means on bringing one touch make ready to the Commonwealth. Essentially one touch make ready allows the applicant to take on some of the task of the survey and the simple make ready moving the cable up and down on the pole without necessarily having to make the pole owners go out and do that. The contractors that are used for that work are approved by the pole owners. They follow whatever safety regulations the pole owners have. It greatly reduces the amount of work the pole owners have to do to get us on those poles and allows us to deploy a lot faster. It's been very beneficial in the other states that allow one touch make ready. I am going to send you the information that is out there on the bill right now. There is a link to the website that tells you about the bill and how you can participate by sending an email. We started doing the work in Ludlow in 2021.

Mr. Allen: October or November 2021 is when we submitted the applications. If we followed the process we have in Maine it would have been completed in early 2022.

Ms. Mahoney: We're still committed to doing it, it's just taking a lot longer to get the competitors. This isn't just for us, it's for any competitive internet service provider out there that wants to come in and give people a choice.

Mr. Silva: How quick does it happen? People that have email have all their stuff on whatever system they're using, Charter or Verizon. What happens to their email? Does it need to be switched to another email? All your stuff that's out there is gone.

Mr. Allen: We're finding so many people using Gmail. We've found that offering an email service it's really hard to compete with free and google. For us to keep pace with what google can offer is really challenging. We've encouraged folks that that's where you probably want to go because you're not going to lose that if you change providers 20 years from now. It sticks with you. We try to stick to what we're good at, what we can control, what we can do extremely well and we feel like email is not one of those things.

Ms. Mahoney: In terms of the process, if somebody wants to sign up for our service, they'll call or get on the website and they'll pick a time. Within 24-48 hours they'll get a phone call. We'll send a field technician to do the drop from the pole to their house. They do not need to be home. That allows us to attach the NID, the box on the outside of the house to make sure it gets lit from the pole to the house. Then we would come in, it's a 2-hour time slot we give people when they need to be home for a technician to be able to come into their home. They'll put the router in which is no cost to the subscriber, and they'll make sure it runs throughout their house. If there needs to be extensions we offer that as well. It's a pretty painless process. We have really good customer service reviews and most of those are coming from the technicians that are going to people's homes and walking them through it. We do community engagement events and one of those events is cut the cord class. We can come in and show people how to use streaming devices or services that suit them better.

Mr. Allen: Do we cover email in topic in those?

Ms. Mahoney: I think we do talk about it and I can double check.

Mr. Silva: Are your bills going to be one price rather than tiered? It's annoying when you're talking to somebody and they only pay this. Why is that?

Mr. Allen: We try to be pretty transparent about pricing. There is a 12-month promotional rate and you can see below what the rate becomes after 12 months. We don't want to mislead anyone. We think people will stick with us longer if they know what they're in for.

Ms. Mahoney: That's for all of Massachusetts.

Mr. Goncalves: Voice line? Land line?

Ms. Mahoney: It's voice over internet. VOIP. I think we can import your number.

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Mr. Goncalves: Which speed am I getting now if I've got the best speed from Spectrum?

Ms. Mahoney: Remember, that's not symmetrical. You're getting 500 download but only 35-50 upload. If you're doing streaming or video calls it starts to buffer and become more challenging.

Mr. Allen: It varies from communities. Some the top is 500, some the top is 1,000 but it's always limited on the upstream.

Ms. Mahoney: I had a competitive cable provider at my home and we had 2 large storms a couple weeks ago. With fiber, if you have power there is a very high likelihood that you don't lose your internet service. With a cable provider, if I lost power it didn't matter if I had a generator and I lost my cable until it could get back up and running. I had just as much download and upload speed during that storm and nothing was disrupted because I have a generator. It's pretty amazing in that way as well. Especially these days when people are working from home more and kids are learning from home.

Mr. Allen: I live in rural Maine and I lose power all the time and it's predictable that once I lose power 3 hours later the cable goes out. It's because there's a box on the pole that requires electricity and once the battery runs out I'm dead.

Mr. Goncalves: \$59.99 + tax, universal fees and all this other stuff.

Mr. Allen: Yes. Just the required taxes.

Mr. Silva: Any questions you really need answered let's get those out of the way because we need to go into a hearing.

Mr. Gennette: I'm all set. I'm excited.

Mr. Goncalves: If you want to get to the senior center I'm sure Jodi would be more than happy to set something up.

Ms. Mahoney: I would love to have a conversation about how we can get more involved in the community.

Mr. Goncalves: Language wise, Turkish, Portuguese, Polish, French, Russian. I like my cable channels. Can I buy a package from them to go to my smart tv?

Ms. Mahoney: You would get YouTube TV or Hulu TV, which is a live streaming service but you would get it as a streaming service you would get off of your smart tv.

Mr. Allen: You could still get just video from Spectrum.

Mr. Goncalves: There's certain channels there I'd like to have from Spectrum so I can go with the internet and buy a Spectrum app.

Mr. Allen: You can. You'll find they're going to try to incentivize you to stay.

Ms. Mahoney: There are apps you can download onto your smart tv like Hulu TV.

Mr. Goncalves: I have 17-year-old twins at home and they know. When I'm looking at the smart tv I have the Roku, Disney, Spectrum, Netflix. Does my Spectrum go away?

Ms. Mahoney: If you get rid of Spectrum it would go away.

Mr. Goncalves: I can't get a package?

Ms. Mahoney: You could if you wanted to but the streaming apps you can get are just as good as keeping the Spectrum service.

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Mr. Rosenblum: Spectrum is on Roku. If you have the bundle, the triple play and drop the internet it's going to go down a little. If you drop your phone the price almost doesn't change but you could still keep your cable as long as you have one box and you can download the app.

Mr. Goncalves: It's \$270-\$280/month to have everything. If I can get \$15 plus the middle rate plus taxes I'm looking at \$100. That's huge.

Mr. Allen: We appreciate the warm welcome we've received in this community.

6:00 p.m. – Iron Duke Brewing – Alteration of Premises and change of DBA – PUBLIC HEARING

Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum to open the Iron Duke Brewing – Alteration of Premises and change of DBA – PUBLIC HEARING at 6:03 p.m. Mr. Goncalves second. Roll call. Mr. Gennette yes, Mr. Goncalves yes, Mr. Rosenblum yes, Mr. Silva yes. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Morin: I'm doing a lot of things. Nothing too surprising. The primary reason for initiating conversation was to make permanent the outdoor patio space we initiated in 2020. A lot has changed in the mills. Roads, rights of way and parking are different. We formalized our site plan last week with the Planning Board and we went through that process. We also bought the parcel we reside on. Our building and the addresses are little funny, I'll still refer to it as State Street. We're in building 122, 222 and building 120, 220 are right next door which is part of our parcel and the 3rd building is Movement Terrain Gym that's 118, 218. We amended our site plan and that's all good with the Planning Department and part of that was the outdoor patio space, which is exactly the footprint we resided on for the last 4 years or so. That was the initial reason. On top of that, we are at the tail end of what we are happy to say is a rebrand, not by choice. We're changing our DBA name to get rid of the word Duke because a certain university has taken exception to that. We're no longer going to be Iron Duke in short order. Our pouring license is getting amended to reflect that. The business is essentially exactly the same. Same ownership, same everything just different DBA. Iron Duke will cease to exist on paper.

Mr. Silva: That's sad.

Mr. Morin: It is. It's unfortunate. We've been dealing with this situation for well over 6 years and we've done everything we can do to try to navigate it without losing it. It's a losing battle we can't continue to fight. In that regard, the business is primarily Western Mass. We don't do a lot outside the area. It's our word of mouth we're going to get out there and let everybody know what's going on. Those 2 reasons are the primary purposes for coming in.

Mr. Silva: Marc, this is a hearing. Did we send notices to the abutters and if so do we have that? Was there advertising? Is there a check due?

Mr. Morin: This is the list Sharon provided me. The only one missing is me. I didn't mail one to myself.

Mr. Silva: Good to see you stayed in Ludlow.

Mr. Morin: We similarly had both challenges at the same time between the situation at the mills and with Duke University. At least one of them worked itself out in a positive way. We're really happy that ended up being the case.

Mr. Silva: How many buildings do you have?

Mr. Morin: It's 3. They're all connected with connectors. Hallways that go between the 3 stock houses. On the edge right where the new parking lot is.

Mr. Gennette: He's good here.

Mr. Rosenblum: I've been a mug club member since day 1. I know Nick pretty well and the fact is that I'm happy the business is in town still, first and foremost. I am a little bit...I guess all my mug clubs will be collector's items now with logo changes. I've seen him doing the work. I know

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what's going on there. I think overall everything that's being done there, Nick and his family are invested in the property and staying is only going to make the mills as a whole better. I think it's great. I'm glad everything has worked out over the years for you.

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Mr. Gennette: This is exactly what we're looking for out of the mills. Development and growth and progress. This feeds into it. I love them being part of the town so much. I see any reason why we wouldn't go for it.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to approve the plans for the alterations of 100 State Street, Suite 122 and affiliated buildings as per the plans submitted and also approve the name change from Iron Duke Brewing DBA Sole Syndicate Brewing as submitted. **Mr. Rosenblum second. Roll call Mr. Gennette yes, Mr. Rosenblum yes, Mr. Goncalves yes, Mr. Silva yes. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum to close the public hearing for Iron Duke Brewing at 6:11 p.m. **Mr. Gennette second. Roll call Mr. Goncalves yes, Mr. Gennette yes, Mr. Rosenblum yes, Mr. Silva yes. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

CORRESPONDENCE

247. 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 May 5, 2024.

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 Firefighter/Paramedic as a result of an incident that occurred on May 5, 2024. **Mr. Goncalves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

248. Chief Pease – Request to charge off medical expenses and lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for injuries sustained by two Firefighters/Paramedics as a result of an incident that occurred on May 8, 2024.

Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum to approve the request to charge off medical expenses and lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for injuries sustained by two Firefighters/Paramedics as a result of an incident that occurred on May 8, 2024. **Mr. Goncalves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

249. Peter Brennan, Executive Director – New England Convenience Store & Energy Marketers Association – Informing the Board of the “Nicotine Free Generation” (NFG) regulations to ban the sale of all nicotine products locally.

Motion made by Mr. Gennette to file. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

250. Administrative Review Committee – Reorganization.

Mr. Goncalves: The Administrative Review Committee voted to reorganize as follows: Doug Stefancik Chairman, Chris Coelho Vice Chairman, Joe Queiroga Secretary, Jamie Tomas Member, James Goodreau Member, Erik Wight Member, Angela Tierney Member, Seth Falconer Member, John Moll Member, Brian Shameklis Member.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to file. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

251. Michelle Goncalves, Chair – Ludlow Cultural Council – Requesting permission to post lawn signs advertising their free summer concert series at the following locations from June 1st through August 25, 2024.

Mr. Silva: She's requesting signs to be placed at these locations, but the actual series is at the gazebo, correct?

Mr. Goncalves: Yes.

Mr. Silva: Turnpike Entrance, West/Holyoke, West Ave/Center, Putts Bridge, East/Miller, Chapin/Center, West/Russell.

Mr. Goncalves: Do we know how big these signs are normally?

Mr. Rosenblum: 18 x 24.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to approve the signs for the Ludlow Cultural Council at the locations requested for the period of June 1, 2024, through August 25, 2024. **Mr. Gennette second.**

Mr. Gennette: I think there's a sign ordinance in town, but people are putting signs out all over the place. There's new business signs popping up. How do we manage that?

Mr. Goncalves: The Building Inspector is in charge of that. We have the right to pick them up and take them out of the ground and store them.

Mr. Gennette: It's getting a little ridiculous out there.

Mr. Goncalves: At the corner of Fuller/West is a barrage of them there. Not what the intent of the bylaw is by any means.

All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.

252. Denise Hurley Zrakas, Treasurer – 250th Semi-Quincentennial Celebration Committee – Informing the Board of her resignation from the 250th Committee effective July 1, 2024.

Motion made by Mr. Gennette to accept the resignation of Denise Hurley Zrakas, Treasurer of the 250th Semi-Quincentennial Celebration Committee effective July 1, 2024. **Mr. Goncalves second.**

Mr. Goncalves: Thank you very much Denise. That whole committee has been incredible. They should market themselves as a team. Denise was quite involved beyond the treasurer part of it. Thank you Denise and good luck.

All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.

253. Shane Mortimer, Resident – Requesting the Board recognize May 2024 as ALS Awareness Month.

Mr. Gennette: Is May already designated as an awareness month for anything else that we know of? Did we put the lights on for anything?

Mr. Strange: It's mental health awareness month.

Mr. Silva: There's no reason not to have 2.

Mr. Gennette: We're almost at the end of May already.

Motion made by Mr. Gennette to approve the request for the Board to recognize May 2024 as ALS Awareness Month. **Mr. Goncalves second.**

Mr. Goncalves: Whereas Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), known by many as Lou Gehrig's disease, is a progressive fatal neurodegenerative disease in which a person's brain loses connection with the muscles, slowly taking away their ability to walk, talk, eat and eventually breathe; and whereas every 90 minutes someone is diagnosed with ALS and someone passes away from ALS; and whereas on average, patient's diagnosed with ALS only survive two to five years from the time of diagnosis; and whereas ALS has no cure; and whereas people who have served in the military are more likely to develop ALS and die from the disease than those with no history of military service; and whereas securing access to new therapies, durable medical equipment, and communication technologies is of vital importance to people living with ALS; and whereas clinical trials play a pivotal role in evaluating new treatments, enhancing quality of life and fostering

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assistive technologies for those living with ALS; and whereas we celebrate the 1th anniversary of the Ice Bucket Challenge through a renewed commitment to galvanize public awareness and support funding leading to significant investments in ALS research; and whereas the ALS Association, as the largest philanthropic funder of ALS research globally, has committed over \$154 million to support more than 550 projects across the United States and 18 other countries; and whereas our commitment to accelerating the pace of discovery remains unwavering, fueled by the hope that one day ALS will be a livable disease for everyone, everywhere, until we can cure it; whereas ALS Awareness Month increases the public's awareness of people with ALS' dire circumstances, and acknowledge the terrible impact this disease has, not only on the person but on his or her family and the community and recognizes the research being done to eradicate this disease; now, therefore we, the Ludlow Board of Selectmen, do hereby proclaim the month of May 2024 as ALS Awareness Month. We call upon all Americans to join in supporting ALS research, advocating for increased funding, and standing in solidarity with those affected by this relentless disease.

All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.

6:25 p.m. – Joanne Odato-Staeb, Commission on Disability – To Discuss a memorial/dedication for Beverly Barry who recently passed away.

Ms. Odato-Staeb: Bev served on the Assessor Board for 23 years and on the Commission on Disability for 21 years. Fifteen of those years she served both. I did reach out to the Assessor Board as well if they had any comments they wanted to share. What we'd like to do is some kind of memorial. We were thinking about a tree but because of the work that's been happening with parks & rec we'd like to do some kind of handicapped accessible item, whether it be a picnic table that's wheelchair accessible or a lot of the communities need adult swings for individuals with disabilities because the typical children's size doesn't hold them. We were looking to use some of our budget that's currently remaining to purchase one of those items. We would reach out to the parks & rec. We have had some conversations with them about accessibility and we thought we would identify a park that isn't getting a lot of funding right now, Electric Park or West Street Park to bring some inclusion in the community so people could access or use it. We would have to work with how that gets installed. We have some leftover funds. We put aside funds for specific training that our new members needed to do and I've been able to work with the Mass Office on Disability and we can get that training free so we have funds remaining and we thought we'd like to do this for Bev but also bring something to the community, so Marc suggested I come in and talk to you guys about it.

Mr. Gennette: I love the idea of having handicapped picnic table at West/Cady.

Ms. Odato-Staeb: Either that or Electric Park doesn't have a lot of things. Some funds were going to enhance some of the other parks and we thought let's do something in memory of Bev but also bring something to the community for handicapped accessibility.

Mr. Gennette: We don't have any legal issues using operation budget? You think it's going to be under?

Ms. Odato-Staeb: I did some searching on ADA compliant picnic tables and we can get something for under \$1,000, but it's the installation because it does need cement. There's a wheelchair swing and a swing that can sustain 300 lbs. and those are also around \$1,000. Installation is additional. We'd have to work through DPW when they're doing cement at the cemeteries.

Mr. Goncalves: Maybe get a hold of Jamie Tomas or Jim Goodreau.

Mr. Silva: I don't see any issue. I think it's a great idea. I think it would be better suited to be at Whitney Park.

Ms. Odato-Staeb: We did think about that because it was more exposure but we also like there's other parks in our town that don't have the exposure so don't necessarily get the equipment. We can do a survey to say where would it be used most.

Mr. Gennette: Do you know if we have any handicapped children that attend the summer camps? Whitney would probably make the most sense because that's the most heavily used one.

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Mr. Goncalves: Beverly's passing was sad. I worked with Beverly for the last 20 years on first-time homebuyer's seminars. There's a tremendous amount of people that have purchased homes over the last 20 years because of her. 30-40 people a month that she was walking through that first-time homebuyer training.

Ms. Odatto-Staeb: She was definitely an asset to the commission as well, even up to her last days. She was on medical leave but she was still a member of the commission. She would share information and we kept her involved all the way through.

Mr. Goncalves: She was one of the handful of agents for 40B compliance, which is low to moderate income housing across the state. Anybody that was going into those types of units there was a lottery that needed to be conducted and she was probably one of the only ones within a 25-30-mile radius that was approved by the State of Massachusetts to conduct those lotteries.

Mr. Silva: I was on the Board of Assessors with Beverly way back. We don't need to vote on this do we?

Mr. Strange: No, Town Meeting already has it in the budget.

Mr. Silva: So, you have our blessing.

Ms. Odatto-Staeb: So, we'll look at Whitney Park and I'll talk with Jimmy or Jamie and Lisa and reach out to the parks department.

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CORRESPONDENCE

254. Brian Shameklis, Chairman – Safety Committee – Informing the Board of their recommendation to direct the DPW to move forward with the MA DOT application for a commercial vehicle exclusion for Stivens Terrace, Mountainview & Parkview.

Motion made by Mr. Gennette to approve the Safety Committee's request to direct the DPW to move forward with the MA DOT application for a commercial vehicle exclusion for Stivens Terrace, Mountainview & Parkview. **Mr. Goncalves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

256. Brian Shameklis, Chairman – Safety Committee – Informing the Board of their recommendation to allow the DPW to place "No Parking Here to Corner" signs and "No Parking Corner to Here" signs at Winsor/Berkshire Streets.

Motion made by Mr. Gennette to approve the Safety Committee's recommendation to allow the DPW to place "No Parking Here to Corner" signs and "No Parking Corner to Here" signs at Winsor/Berkshire Streets. **Mr. Goncalves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

255. Brian Shameklis, Chairman – Safety Committee – Informing the Board of their recommendation for the DPW to place a 30 MPH speed sign in the southbound lane on Rood Street to increase awareness of the posted speed on this street.

Motion made by Mr. Gennette to approve the recommendation for the DPW to place a 30 MPH speed sign at their discretion in the southbound lane on Rood Street to increase awareness of the posted speed on this street. **Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

257. Clete Kus, Resident – Asking the Board to object to the increase from Springfield Water & Sewer.

Mr. Silva: I don't know that we can object to it.

Mr. Goncalves: I don't know what that contract looks like, Marc. Do they need to come in and discuss it with us? Is there a certain amount of money they can increase? DPU in Boston?

Mr. Strange: This spurred an idea and it's further down on the agenda. There's no Ludlow representation on the Board. Mayor Sarno appoints the members and there's no Ludlow voice, even if there was a Ludlow Ex-Officio member that could advocate for the town, at least information gathering so we know what's coming down the pike.

Mr. Gennette: That's part of the reason the charter would help too. We have resources for the greater Springfield area here and other than MMWEC which is forced by the Governor we have no representation.

Mr. Goncalves: If the water goes up, the sewer may go up in town so it's going to affect everybody here.

Mr. Rosenblum: Springfield Water & Sewer is regional, right?

Mr. Strange: It's only regional because Ludlow is also serviced.

Mr. Rosenblum: I agree with Mr. Kus. There should be some kind of representation from the town.

Mr. Gennette: Can we reach out to Springfield Water and have them come in and explain what's going on?

Mr. Goncalves: Can we have our counsel look at the contract between Ludlow & Springfield because as long as I've been here, 6-7 years, I don't think we've ever really looked at it. Is that something we've looked at or are we just taking it for granted. Maybe there's something in there that forces them to come to the table and maybe only be able to increase according to DPU state level average so we have a better grip on how much of a grip they have on us.

Mr. Gennette: They're probably doing that already but at least we can get verification.

Mr. Silva: We can have counsel look at it and see if there's anything we can do.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to file. Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.

VISITATIONS

6:35 p.m. – Victor Rodrigues – Owner/Instructor, ProRide – To Discuss using Vets Park or Ludlow High School Parking lot for training classes for Police Motor Officer Techniques.

Mr. Rodrigues: I'll clarify that. It's just police motorcycle training for civilians. I can train police officers but I can only do a portion of it because I'm not in law enforcement so I cannot do the 80 hours that's recommended. I can only do the 40 hours. I scale it down for civilians, which is what the program is designed for. We need a certain size parking lot. I've been scoping parking lots out around town. Vets Park works pretty good. The high school is larger and would work better but I understand it's more busy. Vets Park is not there. One of the things I'd like to do if I get authorization to use it is block the 2 entrances with cones temporarily while we're training so nobody comes in.

Mr. Silva: You're blocking the entrance to Vets Park, not the entrance on Chapin Street?

Mr. Rodrigues: The entrance to the parking lot. The entrance to the fields will remain open.

Mr. Gennette: I don't see a problem with this. Do you have a schedule?

Mr. Rodrigues: Yes, I haven't put it up on the website because I'm trying to find a location.

Mr. Gennette: How many are you looking to do in a year?

Mr. Rodrigues: Once a month during motorcycle season, April to October, maybe 2. It's a part-time thing.

Mr. Gennette: Five months once a month, 5 times a year?

Mr. Rodrigues: That's it.

Mr. Goncalves: I'm looking at the Chief's letter. It's a for-profit business. Are we allowed to allow people to use for profit, liability is a given, there would have to be proper insurance.

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Mr. Strange: I don't know that we have a process in place for this. We have to do more research. In speaking with Derek, he has taken one of these courses before and he said they have to put their motorcycles on the ground.

Mr. Rodrigues: This is a little bit different. This program does not train you to put your motorcycle on the ground, that can happen while you're doing that in training. It's slow speed training so it's almost like you're learning to ride a motorcycle at a crawl. You're going to be learning to avoid collisions and there's breaking techniques. Everything is under 10 MPH. The only thing that would be 20 would be collision avoidance because you have to get in there and hit the brakes to make sure you're either engaging ABS or not locking your brakes up.

Mr. Goncalves: I get it. I love anytime anybody can learn about anything. If it's safety even better. I just don't know what our position is as a town allowing a for-profit business to come in and use town property.

Mr. Silva: For me, safety and precaution is for the people that are going to learn how to do this stuff. There's a lot of new people coming on with motorcycles and it could prevent something. The safety benefits and the purpose that it's for kind of outweighs for me the use of a parking lot.

Mr. Goncalves: I understand that. Anytime you teach anybody anything if it's safety it's a great thing, I'm just saying are we allowed to do that? Basically, we're renting him a parking lot. Where is our limit? This is seasonal. It's not a big deal, it's not a daily business.

Mr. Rodrigues: It's going to be on a Saturday or Sunday.

Mr. Goncalves: Are we allowed to do that?

Mr. Strange: We'll have to ask Town Counsel.

Mr. Silva: We'll check into it and get back.

Mr. Goncalves: I imagine the insurance is fine.

Mr. Rodrigues: I would put the address under my insurance. One million dollars per occurrence.

Mr. Goncalves: That's the easiest part of all this. There would be hold harmless and indemnification back and forth that would need to be signed and contracts prepared but let's check with Town Counsel to make sure we can legally do this. It's not a town event. Does that make sense?

Mr. Strange: Yes.

Mr. Goncalves: Right away what came to mind was we have the food trucks come in but it's a town event. It's an extension of the high school athletics or whatever else is going on there.

Mr. Rodrigues: What I presented to you I presented to businesses. It's the same dialogue. It's nothing new. Some of the parking lots I've dealt with in Ludlow are a little smaller or are open on Saturday or Sunday so I can't do it then. That's why I said Vets Park. There's nothing there but I have to check with the town to see if I can use it or not. Yes it's public but I'd like to get authorization before I set up shop.

Mr. Goncalves: We'll have Marc look into it with Town Counsel to see if we're able to do it and what would be expected if we go in that direction.

Mr. Gennette: If we can cross our T's and dot our I's, I'm in.

Mr. Goncalves: I don't have a problem with it either.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Board to sign the Licensing Authority Certification form for Iron Duke Brewing, dba Sole Syndicate, if approved.

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Mr. Silva: I thought Iron Duke Brewing is null and void?

Mr. Goncalves: They can't put it out there as Iron Duke. It's going to stay Iron Duke but it's got to be dba Sole Syndicate.

Mr. Silva: They're being allowed to still continue as Iron Duke?

Mr. Goncalves: The State of Massachusetts Secretary of State approved the corporation Duke or any other agency can turn around and tell them they can't have a corporation in that name but they can fight over a trademark for the public and what can be advertised and what you can put in writing to the general public.

Motion made by Mr. Gennette to approve and sign the Licensing Authority Certification form for Iron Duke Brewing, dba Sole Syndicate. Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.

Board to approve and sign the Selectmen Meeting Minutes of May 7, 2024.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to approve and sign the Selectmen Meeting Minutes of May 7, 2024, member absent James Gennette. Mr. Rosenblum second. Motion passed 3-0-1.

NEW BUSINESS

Board to vote on authorizing the Town Treasurer to apply for State Qualified Bonds.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to authorize the Town Treasurer to apply for State Qualified Bonds. Mr. Rosenblum second.

Mr. Gennette: Marc, this is normal, right?

Mr. Strange: Yes.

Mr. Gennette: Ok.

All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.

Board to review and vote on allowing Charter Committee informational mailer to be included in real estate bills.

Mr. Rosenblum: In our meetings, we're trying to find ways to get information out. We've always said no matter how much information you put out it never seems to be enough. Someone will still say they didn't see it. This is something the Charter Committee came up with so we're putting it out to 7,000+ households. You open your bill and it will be there. Whether you file it in the circular file or read it, we're doing as much as we can.

Mr. Goncalves: That's a great idea, but what about people that don't own real estate?

Mr. Silva: In opposition, can they put mailers in there?

Mr. Goncalves: This is informational. Not pro or against.

Mr. Gennette: I'm with Manny. Is it legal to put it in with the tax bill?

Mr. Goncalves: He's saying we're coming off as we're proponents of this and we're stuffing it out there. This isn't proponent or opponent, it's informational.

Mr. Rosenblum: None of this has been approved. Nothing has been voted on or set in stone. The Charter Committee has gone over several articles, 5-6 articles. Between the 11 of us, we discuss everything and we say ok, this is the recommendation of the Charter Committee, this is not set in stone. Many people think this is what we're doing, this is being presented but this is what the committee has decided on. We're having an open forum June 17th at the high school. It's another way of saying this is where it's going and we haven't voted on any of this being permanent, as to

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what's going to be submitted to town meeting. The things we do and the mailer is to get people informed but also open forums and other ways for them to ask questions. It gives you the opportunity to go on Facebook or email with any questions or concerns.

Mr. Silva: Mailers in tax bills are very limited. I think we should check if that's possible.

Mr. Strange: We vetted this with Town Counsel and the rules are it cannot be political and it can't increase the postage.

Mr. Silva: Can we make the charter pay for the postage for all of the bills?

Mr. Strange: There's no additional postage.

Mr. Goncalves: It's too late for our excise. It would hit a lot more people.

Mr. Strange: In the town that I live in we receive additional information from time to time in our bills.

Mr. Gennette: If legal has already vetted it, anyway we can get to the people.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to allow Charter Committee to send informational mailers with any of the subsequent tax bills. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

Board to acknowledge and approve the Certificate of Recognition for the 100th Birthday of Edalina Cormier.

Mr. Silva: Certificate of Recognition. We, the Board of Selectmen, are proud to present this certificate of recognition to Edalina Cormier. 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 have 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. Derek DeBarge, Manny Silva, Antonio Goncalves, William Rosenblum and James Gennette.

Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum to acknowledge and approve the Certificate of Recognition for the 100th Birthday of Edalina Cormier. **Mr. Goncalves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

Board to discuss talking with the Springfield Water & Sewer Commission about representation on their Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Silva: We've discussed this and decided we are going to inform and engage with them.

Board to approve and sign the Common Victualler and Entertainment Permits for KB & Sons Venture, LLC dba Pizza Corner, 70 East Street.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to approve and sign the Common Victualler and Entertainment Permits for KB & Sons Venture, LLC dba Pizza Corner, 70 East Street. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

Board to approve and sign the Vendor Agreement between the Town of Ludlow and Valley Vodka, Inc. for 250th celebration on June 15, 2024.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to approve and sign the Vendor Agreement between the Town of Ludlow and Valley Vodka, Inc. for 250th celebration on June 15, 2024. **Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

Mr. Silva: Marc, is Valley Vodka local?

Mr. Strange: It's V-One.

Board to approve and sign contracts with Water & Wetland to perform pond management services at Harris, Haviland and Alden ponds.

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Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum to approve and sign contracts with Water & Wetland to perform pond management services at Harris, Haviland and Alden ponds.

Mr. Strange: We have not yet received the contracts back. If you want to make a motion to provisionally approve them assuming Town Counsel is ok with them.

Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum to approve and sign the contracts with Water & Wetland once returned and vetted by Town Counsel to perform pond management services at Harris, Haviland and Alden ponds and to have the Chairman sign on behalf of the Board. **Mr. Goncalves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

Board to vote on authorizing \$24,650 in Building Infrastructure funds to purchase and install a new gas fired water heater for the Fire Department.

Mr. Goncalves: Does that come under the procurement amounts?

Mr. Strange: We got quotes. This was the lowest one.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to authorize \$24,650 in Building Infrastructure funds to purchase and install a new gas fired water heater for the Fire Department. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

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BOARD UPDATES/MISC

Mr. Rosenblum: Expanding on the Charter Committee, we met last Thursday. We're going to have an extra meeting this month on the 30th at 6:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's room. We're adding a 3rd meeting for the month to stay ahead of the timeline for getting this in time for town meeting in October. We're looking at ways to get this out to the people. June 17th we have the high school auditorium and we're going to be advertising it in different manners. You will see it up on the flashing sign the police station has. During these meetings, nothing is put in stone, the recommendations of the committee are what we're putting forward and also the ability to email or come into our meetings with the opportunity to ask questions and give your point of view. The next meeting is May 30th, Thursday, 6:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's room.

Mr. Gennette: I want to let everybody know we have a date for our trash discussion with the new committee for trash. We have a date and will be talking soon so more on that's coming up. I wanted to put it out there that the committee is formed.

Mr. Goncalves: Event Calendar. Friday, May 24, 2024 – Wreath Laying Ceremony beginning at Island Pond Cemetery at 3 p.m. Saturday, May 25, 2024 – 250th Children's Bike Parade & Safety Rodeo – 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. beginning at the Mill's Clock Tower parking lot. Sunday, May 26, 2024 – Candlelight Vigil beginning at 7 p.m. Monday, May 27, 2024 – Memorial Day Parade beginning at 10 a.m. Monday, May 27, 2024 – Town Hall Closed in observance of Memorial Day. Saturday, June 15, 2024 – 250th Celebration - Parade & Block Party beginning at 10 a.m.

Mr. Silva: To update the parades, the Memorial Day parade will start at its original location by Fatima Church, Gremio Lusitano on Winsor Street and proceed the same but the 250th celebration parade will be starting at the high school.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Mr. Gennette: The 250th is doing an amazing job and it's not just for the people that work in town, it's for all residents. Please look at the schedule and get out and come to these events. There have been things happening already if you haven't gotten out and participated. This is all of our 250th so it's pretty important.

Mr. Rosenblum: Happy Memorial Day weekend.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 p.m. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

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Chairperson

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