

The Meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on Tuesday, July 9, 2024, began at 5:30 p.m. in the Board of Selectmen's Conference Room at the Town Hall.

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

Members Absent: William Rosenblum

First Order of Business: The Pledge of Allegiance

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CORRESPONDENCE

262. Our Lady of Fatima Parish – Applications for All Alcohol One Day permits for Thursday August 29th, Friday August 30th, Saturday August 31st, Sunday September 1st and Monday September 2nd, and a Sunday Music & Dance for the Annual Festa. Board to waive the fee if approved.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to approve and waive the fee for the All Alcohol One Day permits for Thursday August 29th, Friday August 30th, Saturday August 31st, Sunday September 1st and Monday September 2nd, and a Sunday Music & Dance for the Annual Festa. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

263. Brian Shameklis, Chairman Safety Committee – Informing the Board of their recommendation to place “No Parking Here to Corner” and “No Parking Corner to Here” signs on Lawrence Street at the intersection of Lawrence and Laconia Streets.

Motion made by Mr. Gennette to approve the recommendation to place “No Parking Here to Corner” and “No Parking Corner to Here” signs on Lawrence Street at the intersection of Lawrence and Laconia Streets. **Mr. Silva second.**

Mr. Goncalves: Is this for Festa or permanent? The kids being picked up at school are relying heavy on that intersection of that whole street for the parents. Are we pushing people up to Winsor Street or 2 blocks away on East Street by eliminating half.

Mr. DeBarge: We could ask for written clarification or meet if you like.

Mr. Silva: This is safety. If the Safety Committee studied it and they feel that it is a safety issue to have cars parked right up to the corner for vision.

Mr. Goncalves: It's no parking here to corner. Where are they putting them?

Mr. DeBarge: It's only 20'.

Mr. Goncalves: If it's one or two spots but otherwise we need parking in that area.

Mr. DeBarge: To Manny's point, being close to that corner...

Mr. Goncalves: We'll see how it goes. We can always undo it.

All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.

264. Brian Shameklis, Chairman Safety Committee – Informing the Board of their recommendation to place a “Dead End” sign at the intersection of Andrew Street and Massachusetts Avenue.

Motion made by Mr. Gennette to approve the Safety Committee's recommendation to place a “Dead End” sign at the intersection of Andrew Street and Massachusetts Avenue. **Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

VISITATIONS

5:35 p.m. – Barburrito – New Beer & Wine Application – PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Silva: I think we need to postpone this meeting to a later date if he's not here because it is a hearing. We have to either open it at 5:35 if there's anybody here for the meeting.

Mr. DeBarge: Which there is.

Mr. Silva: I think we need to postpone it or do something with it.

Mr. DeBarge: You don't give a little latitude? 5-10 minutes. I haven't run into these.

Mr. Goncalves: If we had gotten into Barburrito and we ran past 5:50, the 5:50 hearing would have to wait until we're done so I don't think it's a problem waiting a little bit to make sure we address it in a timely fashion

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to open the meeting as much as 15 minutes late than was originally designated. Mr. Gennette second.

Mr. DeBarge: You want to give it till 5:50?

Mr. Goncalves: Before we start the next one. To 5:50.

All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.

265. Chief Valadas – Request to charge off medical expenses and lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for an injury sustained by a Police Officer as a result of an incident that occurred on June 20, 2024.

Motion made by Mr. Gennette to approve the charge off medical expenses and lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for an injury sustained by a Police Officer as a result of an incident that occurred on June 20, 2024. Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.

266. Tom Barbeau, Committee Chair Cub Scout Pack 180 – Requesting approval from the Board to use the field at the old Veteran's Park School to launch model rockets on the morning of July 20, 2024.

Mr. Strange: We received an email from a gentleman who was saying it's restricted air space.

Mr. DeBarge: The email said because of Westover. Was that email from Westover?

Mr. Strange: The gentleman's name was James Taylor so I don't know.

Mr. DeBarge: He said we need waivers from the FAA.

Mr. Strange: That's assuming this gentleman's statement is correct.

Mr. DeBarge: Does anybody want to entertain approving this now if the waivers are sought and it's approved the FAA so that Tom and the scout pack doesn't have to come back to us?

Mr. Gennette: Would Mr. Sady be able to help us out in this area?

Mr. DeBarge: He gets his own waivers.

Mr. Gennette: He would have points of contact.

Mr. DeBarge: That's up to Tom and the scout pack. If the Board would approve this it would stop them from coming back here.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to approve subject to getting all the proper approvals and clarifications from the FAA and Westover because it's probably an event that's been planned for a while and it's July 10th and we won't meet before that. Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.

267. Commission on Disability Reorganization.

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Mr. Gennette: The Commission on Disability's reorganization. Please accept the following as a newly re-organization of positions on the Commission on Disability committee, voted on and effective as of the July 27, 2024, meeting date. Chairperson Christopher Harkins, Vice Chairperson Tamara Huntley, Secretary Joanne Odato-Staeb, Treasurer Diane Shea Walton.

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

268. Michele Alves, President/Founder Breathe Free, Ride Hard – Requesting approval from the Board to run the Breathe Free Ride Hard motorcycle ride to benefit Cystic Fibrosis on Sunday July 21, 2024, weather permitting.

Mr. Gennette: Do we know what their path is? Is it going to be like a Molly Bish ride where they have hundreds and they need police?

Mr. DeBarge: I talked to Chief Valadas this morning. This is going from Chicopee Moose Lodge on Fuller Street and coming down to our West Street, taking a left and going up to Granby East Street, back to West Street to Russell and back to Granby. With this small area they'll be operating in Ludlow. As I said, I talked to Chief Valadas about this. It's a detail officer that will be needed because we can't just take away a patrol officer from the street to do this. One will only be necessary for such a small route, which is acceptable. I'm sorry, I said detail officer. It will be an over-time officer.

Mr. Gennette: This is the same run as the Molly Bish ride. They come through the same area.

Mr. DeBarge: I don't know the route. We have different routes for different bikes.

Motion made by Mr. Gennette to approve Michele Alves request to run the Breathe Free Ride Hard motorcycle ride to benefit Cystic Fibrosis on Sunday July 21, 2024, weather permitting. Mr. Goncalves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.

VISITATIONS

5:35 p.m. – Barburrito – New Beer & Wine Application – PUBLIC HEARING

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to open the public hearing at 5:45 for the Barburrito, Inc for the beer & wine license transfer. Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.

Mr. DeBarge: Mr. Collins, welcome. You are here for a beer & wine license for 319 East Street for your restaurant Barburrito.

Mr. Collins: Yes sir.

Mr. DeBarge: I see that you have everything in order.

Mr. Silva: We're going to need to check the abutters.

Mr. Collins: We do have one issue with the abutters and I do have an email from them dated signed by them to us saying they were notified in advance and they are actually very happy that we're coming but they have not picked the slips up at the post office. They've been notified the slips were there. I did reach out to them with the prior notification which I have to submit to you. I also have the emails from the Roman Catholic Church. I reached out to everybody in addition to sending out the certified mail. There are only 3 abutters and Armand and Deb were the couple at Arbor Street that I notified.

Mr. Silva: There are only 3 abutters on that corner?

Mr. Collins: That was the list that I was given from the Town.

Mr. Goncalves: Cumberland Farms across the street and anybody within 300.

Mr. Collins: This is what the Town sent me.

Mr. Silva: My sister lives right behind it.

Mr. Collins: With all due respect, I submitted the application with what I received from the Town of Ludlow. It listed 3 abutters that needed to be notified and those are the 3 certifications we sent out. That is what I was given from the Town. It was a spreadsheet that was sent along with the notification. When I spoke to Armand and Deb they mentioned they thought it was funny because they didn't feel they were abutters. Not being from the area, I notified who I was sent from the Town.

Mr. Silva: A liquor license is at least 300'.

Mr. Goncalves: And directly across the street.

Mr. Silva: Some are abutters to the abutters. You got the abutters list from the Assessors office?

Mr. Collins: I was sent that from Sharon LaDuke. And I did forward her the emails because I thought it was funny there was only 3 but since there was only 3 I would go out of my way and reach out to the church and neighbors and it turns out Armand & Deb are customers and frequent my restaurant in East Longmeadow. They're there often and it was a really nice email they sent back.

Mr. Silva: One of the abutters is the Roman Catholic Church. That is far from this location.

Mr. Collins: I didn't create the list. It's what I received from the Town.

Mr. DeBarge: You're questioning the list. He did what he was given. What do you want to do?

Mr. Silva: The problem with the list is not having the right abutters but if anybody claims they didn't get notification and they are within then the meeting is no good.

Mr. Gennette: We're going to have a problem with the abutters that didn't get notified whether it was an incomplete list or not. If abutters come back saying they were never notified we have a different issue.

Mr. Collins: If it were the case, I would be surprised if it was given the fact that this beer & wine license has been in tact at this location in the past, and with my track record of having no liquor license violations, not having a full liquor license, operating multiple units within the Commonwealth could we say we would address any unforeseen issues that might arise and make sure things were dealt with properly in order to make sure any concerns were met? Our hours are mirroring what was intact in the past. We anticipate being out of the place by 9:00 p.m. We're serving a small amount of beer and wine in a tiny location. This is not going to be a nightclub. It's a family establishment. We anticipate doing 70-80% in to-go and carry out. The dining is a very small area. I don't foresee us rocking the boat in any way, shape or form. I think we've already enhanced that corner quite a bit. Being an operator, I've signed up to be in the area for a while. One way or another I'm happy to address any concerns and mitigate them.

Mr. Strange: All the abutters have a right to be notified and an opportunity to be heard. So, if one of the abutters that didn't receive notice object to it it's going to throw a wrench in things and can really elongate the process more than if we just tabled it and sent out the right notices and reschedule it. Would a month put you back?

Mr. Collins: Yes, quite a bit. I pay \$2,700/month in rent and I've been paying that to renovate the place so I was hoping within a month's time we're going to be open & serving.

Mr. Silva: You can serve your food; you're just going to have to hold off on the beer & wine. This is for you.

Mr. Goncalves: If it comes back a month from now and you didn't have the proper notification it's going to be another month vs if we table it now and make sure notices are in place and this meeting we opened will be continued.

Mr. Collins: Would you be open to doing a quick Zoom meeting if we got your abutters list tomorrow. It was advertised. The ad did go out.

Mr. Gennette: We understand where you're coming from and we want to be able to do what we have to do for you but legally we have to do it the right way. There was a mistake because the list wasn't provided to you correctly but the abutters still have to be notified.

Mr. Silva: This is protecting you.

Mr. Collins: Is there no way to do a special hearing in 7-10 days.

Mr. Silva: If you get your abutters list in time and the mailings.

Mr. Goncalves: We could potentially do it 2 weeks from today.

Mr. Collins: The list I received I assumed was the list I was to follow. So, I'm clear in the process, should I be going to the Assessors office myself and drawing a 300' circle on the map and asking whose property.

Mr. Goncalves: You can press a button online.

Mr. DeBarge: If the incorrect abutters list was given to you, that's on us. We will correct that and get that to you tomorrow or as soon as possible. This will be tabled and if it can be done within 2 weeks we'll have you back in 2 weeks. If not, we'll have you back as soon as we can. We usually don't meet sooner than every 2 weeks. It's not our practice to have a special meeting for one item. If we can get it done our next meeting is the 23rd.

Mr. Collins: Is there a way to get a conditional approval so we know we're moving forward based on the abutters being notified so we don't have to go through the whole hearing again?

Mr. DeBarge: The hearing would take no time at all because we're doing all this now so if you have the list of the abutters we'll be done in 5 minutes.

Mr. Collins: I didn't know if there was any questions about the concept.

Mr. Gennette: If you were looking for a brand-new liquor license we'd probably have a different problem but since there was already a liquor license in that location it's pre-existing. It's a completely different scenario.

Mr. Goncalves: If you're a minority partner, do the other 2 partners have experience?

Mr. Collins: Manfredi Carballo has been my right hand for 15 years and I'm a firm believer in high tide raises all ships so I've been working with him for a long time. He's my partner in my Big E location at the Eastern States Exposition. This is not a normal practice for me. High Brow restaurant in Northampton I purchased with another staff of mine and got him going as a minority partner. It's something I feel is really important to help people reach their career potential that have worked with me for a long time. Nesto is a really good friend of Manfredi's. He was the chef de cuisine at Cal's Woodfired Grill in West Springfield. A lot of career experience and this would be his first ownership position. They're going to be under the guidance and umbrella of my company.

Mr. Goncalves: The other 2 guys will be in there?

Mr. Collins: Absolutely. Nesto is going to live there but Freddy and I will have a presence in the restaurant, Freddy more than me. I'm going to be the person overseeing the operation and bills and making sure we're following the policies and procedures.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to continue this hearing until July 23rd at a time to be decided. Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.

5:50 p.m. – Class II Hearing -Sewall Street Auto Center – PUBLIC HEARING

Motion made by Mr. Silva to open the Class II hearing license for Sewall Street Auto Center at 5:58 p.m. Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Federico: All the abutters received their mail on the 2nd between 10:34 – 11:00 a.m. I have the receipts and the check on the bottom is for the publication.

Mr. Silva: Do you have the signatures from the post office?

Mr. Federico: The post office did not attach them. When I asked them why they said it was because they were blank, so they gave me a list of all the times they were delivered. They didn't fill out the top also.

Mr. Gennette: I wanted to make a point for the record that the Planning Board approved this site plan for the auto repair and auto sales located at 330 Sewall Street August 27, 2020.

Mr. DeBarge: We have an abutter that has a question about the area.

Mr. Federico: The new floor plan was updated in 2022.

Mr. DeBarge: You were there before for 5 years; you're coming back and you have a license for 5 cars.

Mr. Federico: Correct.

Mr. DeBarge: There are also other businesses in that area.

Mr. Federico: We share the building. The tattoo shop is a separate address at the far end of the property.

Mr. DeBarge: Do you have cars there now?

Mr. Federico: I do, for them to be serviced. They do my detailing there. There are no signs up. I haven't jumped the gun. I want to wait to do it properly and get it properly approved.

Resident: Why is he allowed to bring those cars there now? Why is he allowed to sell cars? He sold a car without a license.

Mr. Federico: I haven't sold any cars there.

Resident: The red car you pulled out there yesterday morning was a trade in.

Mr. DeBarge: How long have the cars been there?

Mr. Federico: 4-6 weeks. I have them detailed when they can get to them.

Mr. DeBarge: Do you have issue with the paperwork?

Mr. Silva: If there's going to be an issue with no signatures and no names on them.

Mr. Strange: Can we ask the 2 abutters if they received them?

Mr. Federico: If I have to do another mailing and get a signed receipt I'd be happy to. I don't have a problem doing it again.

Mr. Silva: For your protection if they didn't get it there's nothing to prove it.

Mr. Federico: I understand.

Mr. Silva: If they don't get it, there's a letter from the post office that comes back and states they never picked it up.

Mr. Federico: I do not have a problem redoing the abutters list once again. The post office never fastened the green card because they were blank.

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Mr. DeBarge: Does this paperwork have to be redone or is this paperwork sufficient?

Mr. Strange: To be safe, I haven't seen those. Are they not filled out?

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Mr. Federico: They're mailed and stamped but blank on the top.

Mr. Gennette: What property is this exactly?

Mr. Federico: The old auto body as soon as you come around the corner on the left right under the underpass.

Mr. DeBarge: It looks like we're going to table this.

Mr. Federico: I understand. I should have double checked it.

Mr. Goncalves: Can we listen to the abutters as long as we have them here?

Resident: He has junk cars over there. If my bedroom window is open the fumes go in my room. He parks the cars and goes through my yard because he has so many cars he can't go the other way. This guy is not helping my neighborhood. That is not a body shop. Nothing works in that place. I don't believe one word this guy says. One day he cleaned the snow and put it in my yard.

Mr. Federico: The guy who did the plowing is not me.

Resident: I don't care.

Mr. Federico: The owner hired the plow operator.

Resident: Who wants a neighbor like this. I've been in that place 20 years.

Mr. Goncalves: Is there an auto body in any portion of that building.

Mr. Federico: There was at one time many years ago. The new owner, Mr. Santos, said there would be no more body work, no light painting because of neighbors that can smell the odor because the system is too old to circulate the paint and put it back into a filter. The body people are no longer there. All my body work I farm out to professional people that do it the right way.

Mr. Goncalves: Are you saying there's been painting in the last 2 years?

Mr. Federico: I haven't been there in 4 years.

Mr. Goncalves: When was the last time somebody painted a car there?

Resident: I don't think this guy ever painted a car there.

Mr. Goncalves: So, this gentleman is not painting there, he takes the cars out? When was the last time a car was painted?

Resident: 5 years ago.

Mr. Goncalves: There's no auto body going on there now and no plans for it.

Resident: I'm scared he's going to do the same thing.

Mr. Silva: What exactly are you renting there? An office and bay?

Mr. Federico: An office and 5 spots outside. No bays. The bays are for auto tinting and detailing. There's another company in there now.

Mr. Silva: As far as your sales, you have an auto sales office and the spots outside.

Mr. Federico: No repair work, no auto detailing. The snow plowing was contracted out by one of the owners.

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Mr. Silva: On that issue you have to talk with Paul who is the owner. P 1:12

Resident: Paul is the same as him. Promise one thing and do another.

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Resident 2: When he was there he was running a junk yard. They were going around to people asking them if they had a junk in their backyard that you want to get rid of. They were parking cars on the lawn. They brought one in that the body wasn't even attached to the frame, it was held on by straps. They weren't selling these cars; they were bringing them in and storing them until they called a junkyard company to haul them out of there.

Mr. Goncalves: Was there a Planning Board hearing on this?

Resident 2: When this was going on I went to the Board of Selectmen and there was no site plan. They could do whatever they wanted and that's what they were doing. Parking cars on the grass.

Mr. Goncalves: Has there been a site plan for this particular petition we're looking at now?

Mr. Gennette: As of April 25, 2024, Mr. Federico was approved for his change of occupancy by the Planning Board meeting. There was a site plan approved.

Mr. Goncalves: We're looking at whether or not to grant a 5-car license. Anything that goes on there from the standpoint of window tinting, auto body or auto repair is Planning and the Building Department being the zoning enforcement officer to make sure none of that's being violated. We're addressing him selling 5 cars there and everything else that goes on is Planning and Building. Are we or are we not going to grant a license? Whatever else is happening you should have taken up with Planning to make sure whatever they approved was stipulated fairly clearly.

Resident 2: There are only 5 cars allowed for sale, can he have a dozen unregistered vehicles there?

Mr. Goncalves: I don't believe he can have any unregistered vehicles except the ones he has for sale.

Mr. Silva: He can have other cars there getting ready for sale. You have to have a label on the window that says this car is not for sale. He can have a couple other cars, not many. That's the law.

Mr. Goncalves: Planning should have been clear with that as to what's allowed and what isn't. How many cars and employee parking. Everything needs to be on a site plan and spelled out. If he's violating the site plan that's something you can bring up to Building or zoning enforcement officer.

Mr. Silva: Anything further than what we're doing here is going to have to be policed. The zoning officer will have to go there and check it out and if he's in violation he'll have to come back in. If there's a sufficient revocation process we'll go through it.

Resident 2: The other problem is they were there on Sundays, holidays.

Mr. Goncalves: Site plan and permit from the Planning Board. They regulate hours.

Mr. Federico: At one time there were 3 bays and they were all rented out independently and everybody was doing their own thing with recycling cars. I had no issue with bringing in old, recycled cars. There's no future in that for me. When I sell a car my reputation is behind it. I want to make sure that car is good. New tires, new batteries, new wiper blades and make sure the catalytic passes. I have a policy. If you buy a car from me and you don't like it you bring it back and I'll give you back your money, no questions.

Mr. Goncalves: You have nothing to do with any other business on that property with the exception of what you're applying for. The 5 used cars. Nothing to do with the tinting.

Mr. Federico: Mr. Fernandes has the tinting.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to continue this hearing until July 23rd for the purpose of clarification on notification.

Resident: He still is going to play his games. He has a boat over there.

Mr. Silva: You have to communicate and go to him. Things are different. That was 5 years ago.

Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Federico: Can I do a mailing tomorrow?

Mr. Goncalves: You're going to need to check and see what time on the 23rd.

Mr. Silva: Check with Marc tomorrow?

Mr. Federico: Can I do it tomorrow?

Mr. Strange: Yes.

Mr. Federico: I'll make sure I do it tomorrow and put the return receipts on there myself.

Mr. Goncalves: We'll be back here 2 weeks from tonight. I'm not sure what time.

6:10 p.m. – Lou Casagrande – Recognition for being the Grand Marshal for the 250th Celebration.

Mr. DeBarge: This is a special thing we get to do tonight and I'm very happy to. We have a special guest. Mr. Lou Casagrande is not only a great man to all of us in Town but also was our Grand Marshal for 250th anniversary parade and block party. I did not grow up in this Town. I met you through baseball, a great sport, and you have amazed me since the first day I met you for many things. The one thing I cannot get over is your memory about the kids you have been around all of these years has amazed me. I saw you during the parade and you asked me about both of my sons and I would have never thought you would remember them. I've asked Bobby here tonight because I know how much Bob meant to you and you mean to him. I asked Tony to come as well. He's going to read his letter he gave to the 250th when he nominated you for Grand Marshal. One thing I want to do because we have a great opportunity to all of the listeners, I'm going to read the article that was printed in The Register about your incredible life. The 250th semi-quincentennial celebration parade committee was happy to announce that Mr. Lou Casagrande was selected as Grand Marshal for the 250th parade held on June 15th, 2024. Lou was nominated by Tony Curto and John Diotalevi who are committee members and each committee member and the majority of committee members nominated you. For those of you who don't know Lou, and there's not many in ear shot of me, Lou is a lifelong resident of Ludlow. He grew up on Brookfield Street and then Brimfield Street as a child. He attended Ludlow Schools and graduated from Ludlow High School in 1949 where he served as class president. He took a year off and attended Springfield College where he earned his bachelor's degree and then master's degree in education. Lou was drafted in 1954 where he joined the US Army and did his training at Fort Dix, NJ. He then went on to serve in Yokohama Japan. His assignment was the physical activity director and was tasked with being the baseball and basketball coach for the Yokohama Engineer Depot from 1954-1956. Growing up Lou played baseball as he loved the game; however, Lou held many different jobs saving up for college which sometimes limited his playing time. Lou briefly worked at the Ludlow mills preparing jute. He worked for Pope at Pope's Hardware and with the Rooney family at the Ludlow Register when it was getting started. He worked for the parks and recreation department and went on to work for Mike Pagos and Ludlow Boys and Girls Club to help with the establishment of the club. He returned to Ludlow in 1956 and was hired by Ludlow High School Principal George Russell where he taught history and civics until 1969. Lou was then appointed the Ludlow High School guidance counselor, which he did until 1995 when he retired. Lou was involved with many activities in Ludlow where he served as leader, teacher, mentor, coach, friend, high school basketball referee from 1956-1977 and is a charter member of the basketball hall of fame. He

coached Ludlow High School freshman baseball from 1957-1969 then varsity from 1988-1995. Lou also coached St. Mary's little league teams from 1977-1988. He was the commander of the Ludlow Legion Post for 30 years starting in 1970. Lou was Ludlow Day Camp director from 1959-1969 and was elected Ludlow Park Commissioner in the early 1990's. In the late 1990's, Lou was honored by past and present baseball players who started the Lou Casagrande Baseball tournament where Lou was ecstatic with the honor of having the tournament named after him. Lastly, Lou received the Pius X Award for teaching catechism at St. Mary's for many years. Talk about leaving a legacy in Ludlow. You definitely embodied that Lou and we're very proud to have you as our Grand Marshal and very proud to have you as the embodiment of our community.

Mr. Bohl: Some of the stories I had about Lou are when Ludlow baseball was at its highest point and we used to have opening day ceremonies and we'd line the kids up along the fence along Whitney Park and Lou would walk them into the National Anthem to the flag that has become part of the monument that's Lou Casagrande field now. The kids that looked up to him seeing somebody with such a title and name that did so much before they were involved in Ludlow baseball and their expressions on their face to be guided into the baseball world by a man that's been doing baseball for many years. I don't think they could have come up with a better person to be named Grand Marshal of the 250th.

Mr. Casagrande: Mr. Chairman and members of the Board of Selectmen, I am honored and humbled by your kind words but the Board of Selectmen should be honored for their support and confidence you played in 2 young ladies as Chairperson of Ludlow's 250th Celebration. Their leadership with the help of countless volunteers made our celebration the envy of surrounding communities. Thank you Linda Collette and Kathy Ouimette for a job well done. Thank you Parade Marshal Committee for the honor bestowed on me as Grand Marshal, Tony Curto, Bruce Durand and John Diotalevi. I have been a proud Ludlow citizen for 92 ½ years. God Bless the Town of Ludlow and God Bless America.

Mr. Silva: I'm glad you didn't have anything in there about how terrible I was to you at Whitney Park when I used to go there every single day.

Mr. Goncalves: It's been about 47 years since I left high school and my memory is pretty good but I can't remember 5 people that had an influence on me in high school but you were one of them. Thank you for everything you've done for Ludlow.

Mr. Gennette: I'm one of the people that don't know you. This is the first time I've met you but from the 250th and the amazing job at the parade. I was blown away by the day and the job everybody did and they were amazing.

Mr. Casagrande: My point is you guys gave these 2 young ladies the support and confidence you had in them. We were the envy of all the surrounding communities for the work that is unbelievable. When they drove me in the Arabian Cadillac I could not believe the organization. Everything was perfectly set. They were wonderful. You showed confidence in them and said go ahead whatever they needed you were behind them 100%. That's what Ludlow is all about.

Mr. DeBarge: Tony, you're going to close this section but does anyone else have anything?

Ms. Collette: For those who have not met before, you're meeting a legacy. He's a total legend and we're happy to have him.

Mr. DeBarge: One of the nominations that Lou got was from Tony Curto who was influenced by Lou a big portion of his life so I asked Tony if he would read his letter.

Mr. Curto: As a kid, I was lucky enough to grow up in Ludlow when it was still a small town. I grew up in the 60's and 70's and it was a simple town. I grew up off of West Street close enough to walk to West Street playground. During the summer I went to day camp at West Street. This was where I first met coach. As a day camper I remember he would come to the park a couple times of week just to talk to the campers and see if we were having fun and if there was anything else we could use. I never realized he was part of the recreation department. I didn't even know we had a rec department. At the end of day camp season, the bird would tell stories about the campers and give out prizes. I had no idea how he knew all the things he did but later I found out it was coach dressed up as the bird. I later remember playing little league baseball. I wasn't good

at all, but it didn't matter to coach. He would always take the time to give instructions or encouragement. Coach was always at Whitney Park during little league season. It didn't matter if you played on his team or the other team, he always helped everyone out. One thing I remember coach telling us was it didn't matter if you won or lost, if you were having fun and trying that is what's important. This is a lesson that's stayed with me my whole life. Later in life I coached Peewee football and always told the kids the score wasn't important, having fun and being part of the team was. The next time I ran into coach was in high school and at the time he was a guidance counselor. He always made time for every student, whether he was the assigned guidance counselor or not. I remember coach talking to me and helping me get through high school. The reason I feel coach should be the Grand Marshal of the parade is he was always there for every kid in Ludlow. He never brushed anyone off. He taught us life lessons, teamwork, sportsmanship and above all to be a good person. To me, coach was someone to look up to and what was growing up in Ludlow stood for in this Town. If you see him out and about he would still remember your name and ask how your family was. Coach was a great guy and someone we should all try to be like.

Mr. Casagrande: I have a copy of that letter and they gave it to me in a beautiful arrangement with a picture of the committee.

Mr. DeBarge: This is a keepsake we have for you.

6:30 p.m. – Linda Collette, Chair 250th Celebration Committee – to thank the Town for their help with the 250th celebration on June 15th.

Ms. Collette: On behalf of the committee, I wanted to say thank you to our public for coming out. Our Town really came together in a big way to celebrate our 250th birthday on June 15th with a fabulous parade and a block party picnic that I think will be long remembered for decades to come. My heartfelt thank you to all that came to support us and to come and party with us and have a great time. The block party picnic committee and a parade committee, a huge thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who made this event happen. Their willingness to help is greatly appreciated and we couldn't have done it without them. They're all rockstars. We have an amazing group of volunteers and we're truly thankful to each and every one of them. Our sponsors. We can't forget them. A big thanks to our amazing sponsors who stepped up to help us fund the many great events we have planned for the entire year. We still have a little more fundraising to do to finish up our year's events. As we all know this was a yearlong celebration and we're not done yet, but we're hopeful to be able to fundraise a little bit more and get some more money for our events coming up on October 5th and 6th. To the Ludlow Police & Fire Departments for all their help and assistance in keeping us all safe at the parade and picnic. To the DPW for the guys who helped our committee prepare for this momentous event. They were always there and went above and beyond the call of duty for anything we ever asked. They cleaned up, they beautified the Town Hall, up and down East Street, all of the parks, hanging the bunting and banners and the middle of the night tree removal. And the Board of Selectmen who supported us in everything we did. A heartfelt thank you to all of you.

Mr. Goncalves: That was the easy part, you had the tough job.

Ms. Collette: We're all excited to continue our celebration throughout the rest of the year. A week from yesterday we have our car show at the Elks Club and the Fall Festival is October 5th and 6th. The same thing we had, music, amusements, crafters. Truly, a sincere thank you to each and every one who celebrated with us and came out to party with us. It was a long, hard 2 years of work and planning but we were happy and excited to do it and we hope that showed.

Mr. Gennette: I didn't know what you guys were going to put together. It was a big group of people that you had to work with and I didn't know how it was going to go off but that day said everything you guys have been putting your heart and soul into and I can't imagine having done what you guys did. This has nothing to do with us. You picked up the ball and ran with it. When we were walking and there was marshals in different parts of the parade, you guys went all out. You guys did great. It was inspiring and you should be very proud of what you did.

Mr. Goncalves: I've known it early on. You were very excited and I can't believe how many times you were meeting. A year away you were diligent in getting together and the planning. I have a real good idea the moving parts there. I know what it's like to run a little golf tournament.

Ms. Collette: We came pretty far from you and I sitting in my dining room 3 ½ years ago. Bruce was wonderful with the parade committee for 2 years getting it all done and all the music, Kathy and her sister Denise for getting the picnic going. The monumental hours it took.

Mr. DeBarge: It seemed like all the right people fell in the right place. Right directors, right committee members, right volunteers, amazing day, amazing meetings, amazing years leading up to it. It was a lot of work and you should all be very proud.

Ms. Collette: Thank you. We're happy the Town came out to support us because we received accolades all day and night and still do.

Ms. Ouimette: Around 7:00 I stopped in the middle of Chestnut Street and looked around and it was amazing to see the amount of people with the band playing and all the food trucks. It was very overwhelming to know the 3 years that we've been talking is here and it's gone. It was so rewarding. We saw so many people we haven't seen in years. We did get many people say what's happening next year. People don't realize how much work that's put into this. Everything came together.

Mr. Durand: With the parade, I started with a handful of people and I built the parade committee up to 20 people. Nobody had any experience. I was the only one that ever served on a parade committee. I formulated a little training course. In 2023 I put 6 people from my committee and we went to East Longmeadow to help out to give them experience to learn how to do marshaling at the parade so it worked out tremendously. Each and every member of my committee deserves the credit for that parade coming out as well as it did. We all did the work but they deserve the credit for it. I am so happy and proud to have served with them.

Mr. DeBarge: What did the parade cost?

Mr. Durand: Around \$65,000. You don't get a band to come in and march in a parade for nothing. Especially pulling 3 mummer bands out of Philadelphia. We had some quality musical units. I worked with them before so I knew all of the groups I wanted to bring in. I wanted nothing but quality music for our parade and that's what we got.

Ms. Collette: Same thing for the picnic.

Ms. Ouimette: We had rock stars. They were a subcommittee. Lisa Martin putting the entertainment together, Roz Sousa putting the facilities together, Joe Christoph working with the non-profits and churches, Michelle Laroque working with the 52 craft vendors, Matt & Bobby Costa coming in and helping us with that, Lori and Peter Ostrowski. The hardest part was the 22 food trucks and the plan had changed 3 times. There's a lot of work that goes into that. I commend all my people, everybody on our committees.

Ms. Collette: For October 5 & 6, something similar going on but no parade. We'll have the vendors and crafters.

Mr. Goncalves: That was a great thing for me. The experience of Ludlow lager. We got to go in there that morning when they were canning it. Between now and then, we'll mention October 5th and 6th a million times.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Board to sign the five One Day All Alcohol Permits and the Chairman to sign the Sunday Entertainment License for Our Lady of Fatima Parish Annual Festa.

Board to discuss use of remaining ARPA funds.

Mr. Silva: How much is remaining?

Mr. Strange: About \$550,000 that has to be allocated by December 31, and allocation means under contract. We need to have a contract with a vendor or vendors to spend that \$550,000. As I said in the email I sent out, the track project, Millside Drive, Town Hall roof, Vets Park demo came in on budget. We've been really lucky. LHS wall repair came in well under what we thought it was

going to be. Because of that we came in approximately \$550,000. What do you want to do in terms of prioritizing projects? I just got the change orders on the track today and we're still good.

Mr. Gennette: Do we still have the HVAC with public safety complex issue we need to attend to?

Mr. Strange: That's bonded.

Mr. Silva: Are we all set at Vets Park as far as additional fields, pickleball?

Mr. Strange: We just signed the contract and we have a kickoff meeting for the master plan in a couple weeks.

Mr. Silva: Can we allocate the money for that?

Mr. Strange: It won't be ready. That study is going to take a few months and we'd have to put bid documents together and ask Town Meeting for whatever the bond amount is going to be. It won't be ready by the end of the year.

Mr. Gennette: Where are we with the Whitney Park project?

Mr. Strange: Tighe and Bond is starting work on a preliminary design survey with the hopes of having more defined plans for October. Then we'll have a more definite cost estimate at that point.

Mr. Gennette: What about the library?

Mr. Strange: There's flooding at the library so that's something we can look at. They brought somebody in to take a look and will put together a plan so that's a possible project.

Mr. Silva: With Whitney Park being such a high number couldn't we allocate some money to do some things now before we go into this big project?

Mr. Strange: Yes, we got the cost estimate from Tighe and Bond to do the preliminary work but it didn't make it on the agenda. On July 23rd we'll ask you for \$109-\$119,000 to do the preliminary work so that would be a good use of the ARPA funds.

Mr. Silva: If part of the picture is a baseball field or pickle ball, we're the only community that doesn't have one, couldn't we allocate some money to do a little thing there that's on the plan? Piecemeal it.

Mr. Strange: We won't have the plan ready by the end of December. One thing you could think about is the baseball field needs a new fence.

Mr. Silva: We need to do something with those tennis courts. They're such an eye sore.

Mr. Gennette: Tennis courts and pickle ball is a 5 ½ million-dollar proposal for Whitney Park that's going to be done. We have to use \$500,000 now. The buildings at Whitney Park are decrepit. That's something we can invest in now. The tennis courts at the high school are terrible and something we can invest in now. \$500,000 is probably half of what the tennis courts will need. The library needs a retrofit more so than anything else. Those are the 3 priorities I would put on this because that's something you can do now. Tennis courts are 3rd on my list because you need more money. I was talking to Tim Brillo about matching grants for the tennis courts because that's going to have to be completely taken out and redone at the high school.

Mr. Strange: Maybe bleachers at Whitney Park. There was a discussion about focusing on the playground area and not allocating funds for the baseball field and bleachers.

Mr. DeBarge: \$500,000 to those buildings at Whitney Park where the kids are and staff are would go a long way too.

Mr. Gennette: I would hate to spend money on Whitney Park just to find out something is going to have to get redone. For me, it's the library. It has to get done now. They're under water.

Mr. Strange: The building is phase 2 of the Whitney Park project. They're taking a look at that to come up with a cost estimate, the thought being to take down the existing building and bathroom building and build new and include the bathrooms and better spaces in a new building.

Mr. DeBarge: Linda, since you're here, is there any cost estimate to the library damage?

Ms. Collette: Not that I know of as of yet. Right now, we're in the process of removing the walls that were damaged and books. We had to throw away over \$11,000 worth of books that were damaged. Right now, the downstairs area is not open to the public. They will get the books but it's not open and we have tarps covering a good portion of the books. It is our oldest, in use building in Town. The water problem is not new, it's ongoing. 8" came into that building.

Mr. Gennette: We have to fix it from the top down. The ARPA funds are meant for the entire community and the library is central to the entire community.

Mr. DeBarge: Is insurance going to cover that?

Mr. Goncalves: It's possible that what we need for an estimate or engineering or drawings or scope of services from the insurance company they're in the process of mitigating the claim. We might get some good information from them without going to engineers.

Mr. DeBarge: In time for December 31?

Mr. Goncalves: It should be.

Mr. Strange: I haven't been on the front lines of that so I don't know where they are on the timeline.

Ms. Collette: We are hoping for that.

Mr. DeBarge: Maybe we should draw up a quick hit list for that \$500,000 since we have a short time.

Mr. Strange: I have Tighe & Bond engineering for Whitney Park, library, Whitney Park buildings, Vets.

Mr. Silva: Why does it have to take so long for things to happen with municipalities. Regular business if you have a problem you get it done. Before you know it, you're spending money and when you get ready to do it it's even more money. There's got to be some kind of emergency fund for the library.

Mr. Goncalves: The bigger storage building, are they ok on that?

Mr. Strange: Yes. For July 23rd I'll put together a list for you to consider.

Board to discuss and possibly approve a policy pertaining to use of public facilities. (Tabled from 6/18/2024)

Mr. DeBarge: We have a policy that was amended by our attorney. The introduction of this policy is community use of Cady Street and Whitney Parks. Recognizing that municipal buildings have been created by and are supported by the citizens of Ludlow and the Board of Selectmen supports the use of Town facilities by individuals, groups and associations for educational, cultural, civic and recreational activities. Individuals, groups and associations involved in education, cultural, civic and recreational will be permitted the use of Cady Street and/or Whitney Park on a space available basis provided these do not interfere with Town operations. This community use of Cady Street and Whitney Park policy is put into place for any group or association outside of a Ludlow committee, or town sponsored committee or organization covered under the umbrella of town insurance that is also covered under our police and everything else. We've gone over this, we've amended some of the issues after going over it with one of our applicants, who is also here. I know there are people who may have some comments. I'm more than willing to take comments. Understand that we will take comments from anyone. We are more than willing to engage in conversation with people as long as it is respectful. If there are any comments, please raise your hand. I don't know if any of you are ready to vote on the policy.

Ms. DeGobbi: This has been a long time coming. Last year when I came to you and talked about color Ludlow with love, there was a conversation about free speech zones. It's interesting when I came back this year and asked for the same space it became a conversation of needing to put a policy in place and this essentially is an execution of free speech zones in Ludlow. I'm curious why the use of Veterans Memorial Park is being restricted from public use. I want to verbally say that out loud. This is clear that I can only use Cady Street or Whitney. Last time I was here you asked me if those parks would be compatible with my event and I said no. I'm curious why we're exclusively excluding Veterans Memorial for this event.

Mr. Goncalves: We weren't excluding you for that or any other event. For the last couple of years, whether it was banners at the bridge, signs in general or functions down at that park, we've been uneasy about all of them in general. To me it's a monument. It's what you see when you come into the Town of Ludlow and we want to keep that for special things, town events, a veteran's thing, music on Sundays. If we're going to have events on an ongoing basis then maybe move them to another park. Maybe we can get some more picnic tables in there or canopies or something to make it more conducive. I want to see what other communities are doing with their main park and put something in place we can live with and stand by. Hopefully it will be used by a lot of people with the methods we come through with and approve.

Ms. DeGobbi: Is there a separate policy documented for Veterans Memorial Park?

Mr. Goncalves: It will be incorporated into this, we're just not sure how we're going to structure it. We're thinking maybe the rec department will take care of all of that stuff. I'm unsure.

Ms. DeGobbi: This is not a finalized policy still?

Mr. Goncalves: No. It's something in writing we can at least look at.

Ms. DeGobbi: There's another section that talks about applications may be obtained in person from the Department of Public Works. No longer going through recreation for permitting and that also means the permit I've already requested is still on hold and now falls under this policy that didn't exist when I originally applied for the permit. The policy you revamped says applications may be obtained in person from the DPW office. Originally the applications come from recreation and I worked with recreation on this, and the agenda item I put on in May existed prior to the existence of this policy. The question that continues to be looming is why does my permitting process fall under this policy that did not exist? Why do we keep tabling my request when this did not exist when I applied for the permit. It doesn't make sense.

Mr. Goncalves: I don't think it had anything to do with your permit. It had to do with we kind of run the whole town on Memorial Park and we've had a lot of things going on. Until your request, it wasn't something that was right in front of us that we needed to jump on. May 23rd was 6 weeks ago and we've spent a lot of time on it since then.

Ms. DeGobbi: The original one I got was dated June 6, which means you didn't even cobble together a policy until after I requested a permit and the approval for that space. Why are we tabling the approval for my event over and over again for approval of a policy that did not exist until I applied for things.

Mr. Goncalves: If you didn't apply and nobody applied for anything until next spring we wouldn't be having this discussion until next spring.

Ms. Anecchiarico: We held the event last year. It was not an overrun activity. We had tables from all of these different events. We felt very happy about the outcome of it. This is like saying you're going to apply for something in January and you're going to come up with a policy in February and your application is going to have to adhere to whatever we come up with. If the application was in before this policy, which doesn't include Memorial Park on it, it should be accepted under whatever policy you did or did not have. There's a little laundry list on this one, but especially in the top part of it, community use of Cady Street & Whitney Park. Coming into town, for both events that were held there last year to see people gathering is what I think you would want to do. To be inclusive. We just heard about all of these incredible events that happened there. People driving into the town can say wow, this is a fabulous thing. The 250th blew everybody's mind. The

cultural festival in the fall is absolutely fantastic. Why would you not want people coming into our town to see something that's making our town look more.

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Mr. DeBarge: The 250th and cultural council are sponsored by the Town of Ludlow. I know you think this is against your group or done so because you applied for this. This isn't that. This is just a policy. If we allow this group at one place, you have to allow everybody. The point for this policy is that anyone that comes to... we're trying to make this as streamlined as we can. It's been a little topsy-turvy and tabling as much as we have. We want to make it so that you go to one office to get the application, return it at the same office. We're trying to get the communication from DPW and recreation and our office to be the same. So, each applicant knows that when they talk to fire, police, board of health, if you're getting a food truck, if you need police detail that you don't have to run around to all these different places. We're trying to get all this put together so it can be a one stop shop. For the venue itself, the reason why the gazebo, war memorial area, we have determined with this policy that it is town sponsored committees and boards only, for the simple fact that it is a town area there. If we allow every group there, color Ludlow with love, the book group that ruined all of this for everybody by preaching in the middle of the gazebo, then you have to let everyone else there. That's something we're not willing to do.

Ms. White: My name is Katie White. Have you received an abundance for use of the gazebo space from other groups where our event was held last year? I think I heard Mr. Goncalves say that's not the case and Kelly's request for a permit is what prompted the conversation for this policy. You're making a slippery slope argument that indicates any other group can come in and start applying for these and yet that clearly hasn't been the case because there's been nothing else that's come forth that's prompted you guys to evaluate this.

Mr. DeBarge: I don't think it's a slippery slope. This book group that came in and subsequently the color Ludlow with love group came in and we approved that because of the group we approved before that. The group we approved before, the book group, which was protested, was one that ruined it for everybody because someone got up and preached. I was there and saw it and was very upset which is why we discussed political and all of that not at the gazebo.

Ms. White: This isn't a political organization. It's an event that's standing to celebrate diversity, inclusion and acceptance.

Ms. DeGobbi: Do you consider our event to be a protest?

Mr. DeBarge: No.

Ms. DeGobbi: How would you classify our event?

Mr. DeBarge: An event that's not town sponsored. Just like it says in the policy. It's not town sponsored. We, the Board of Selectmen, determined that non town sponsored events would not be at the gazebo.

Ms. Kapinos: My concern is there are a lot of town events in other towns and their green space is used regularly for a variety of non-town events. Our event is for everybody in Ludlow. It's not exclusive, it's the opposite. To continue to be able to celebrate Ludlow like we did with the 250th, it's a shame we're not emulating what Mr. Casagrande represents which is loving Ludlow, loving all the people in Ludlow and letting people come into town from outside and seeing what we can do in that beautiful space. That space should not be sacrosanct. I get the veterans there and all that. We were very respectful of that space. We cleaned it more than when we got there. We had no issues whatsoever. We had a disability table. We had a church come in and have a table. They didn't preach or hand anything out. We did friendship bracelets, a kids activity area. The liability you talked about from Vets School that you had a motorcycle person there I understand the liability. We're not doing anything with liability and it's perfectly clear in here that the liability falls on Kelly DeGobbi if she's the one signing for this. And insurance. We've done everything you've asked last year; we're working on becoming a non-profit. I don't understand why. It makes it feel like you're putting us in a corner somewhere because you don't want people to see it. We want to include everybody. I'm going to ask the Vets, the Senior Center, we would love to have the 250th have a table at the event. This is inclusive. It's not a group that wants to do our own thing for a select group of people. This is for everybody. Wherever we have it I would invite all of the Selectmen to come and see what it is and enjoy what we're doing and embrace it because we're

not going away. We're going to continue to do what we're doing and celebrate all of the people in town.

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Mr. Gennette: I see 2 issues here. The first one is the event you're talking about in my view has not given you any reason to not give you the space at this point and I would even move to give you that today because we haven't been able to provide you with rules regarding Veterans Memorial. The 2nd issue is as a selectboard we're here for policies, procedures, budget, that kind of thing. When I see a use for Cady Street and Whitney Park I like seeing the policies and procedures but we don't have one for Memorial Park and that was your request. That's part of the reason I would approve that today because we're delaying you. With the understanding that next year we'll create a policy and that may not get in line with what you're looking for but at least you know what you're getting into just like everybody else. That's my position right now. I don't think we should hold this organization because it's not their wrongdoing to not have this. If we come up with a policy for what are the rules for Memorial Park then we can hold them to those rules. We can't stop people from doing things if we don't provide them with the criteria for what they should be doing.

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Mr. Montagna: A traditional public forum includes public parks, sidewalks and areas that traditionally are open to political speech and debate. Speakers in these areas enjoy the strongest 1st amendment protections. In traditional public forums the government may not discriminate against speakers based on the speaker's views. Doing so is called viewpoint discrimination, which is prohibitive of the first amendment. When the government restricts speech in a traditional public forum, strict restrictions dictate are only allowed if they serve a compelling state interest and are narrowly tailored to meet the needs of that interest. I read this policy and I don't see it being narrowly tailored at all. It's a terrible policy and you should absolutely not pass it tonight. You should make a normal public use policy that incorporates all of the parks and public lands in this area and open it up to whoever wants it. This is America and we believe in free speech. If Ron Saloio wants to have an event there, let him have it.

Mr. Goncalves: It's how it works according to what you just read. I'm not as smart as you so I'm not sure what you said. I can tell you from this perspective how it's going to work is it's going to be a policy we put together when we're ready and you guys can live by it or we'll change it a different time when there's different people sitting on this board. I have no clue what you guys do. I didn't go last time. To say it's anti you or anybody else, no. There's a million organizations that none of us here would want in town on that space. I have to make sure for the better of 22,000 people that we don't bring anything into town that's not good for 22,000. I'm not going to make a harsh decision because you're in a hurry.

Mr. DeBarge: Because we allow one group to do it some think we have to allow everyone to do it because of free speech. Alex, we're not stopping free speech anywhere. We are allowed at this board to designate an area for open speech. It is not stopping free speech. Ms. Kapinos go ahead but I'm going to stop this comment.

Ms. Kapinos: Free speech is not where we're going with this. That is not our intent here today. We came here for an event that we had last year. We don't do big speeches about any particular subject. We don't have preachers. We are here to let people know that you're welcome in Ludlow. We want to include everybody. This is not a protest. That word was used in our last meeting and that is totally not what this is.

Mr. Silva: As far as Memorial Park, I'm not talking about the upper fields which is a great venue up there, at the gazebo should be sacred. There should be only certain things allowed there. We have been looking to spend money down there for parking and make it a little better. The more groups we have down there the more money we have to spend to clean up and keep it nice. You can do free speech anywhere you want. We're not stopping any of that. As far as your concern coming in before we had this policy, it rose a red flag. We said we better look at this and do something with it. We don't have people coming in now but once they see these things happening everybody might want to have something there. We can't have everybody in there. If the board sees fit and you have yours there this year because we don't have that policy I might be ok with that. From here on in I would just say that's a sacred ground for us.

Mr. Gennette: That's my point. We don't have a policy.

Mr. Goncalves: We don't have one that allows it either. We lead by policies. We didn't have a policy. We allowed it without. Did you provide an insurance policy last year?

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Ms. DeGobbi: No. I had my umbrella policy.

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Mr. Goncalves: It doesn't work that way. I'm an insurance guy so umbrella doesn't work. Did you have police presence?

Ms. DeGobbi: Yes we paid for it. There was no vendors. Nobody was selling anything. Everything was free.

Mr. Goncalves: The insurance part is definitely a problem. You need to buy event policies. Umbrellas don't carry over to a business use from your house ever.

Ms. DeGobbi: That was part of the conversation I had with Debbie. She said I was financially responsible. There was nothing saying I had to get insurance.

Mr. Goncalves: That's going to have to be addressed.

Ms. DeGobbi: We had that conversation last time I was here and I agreed that I would do that.

Mr. Goncalves: We don't have a policy against the Boys Scouts blowing rockets off at Vets Park. It doesn't mean they can do it because there's other ramifications that can happen. Just because we don't have a policy about that doesn't mean we have to allow it. Just because we didn't say you can't it doesn't mean you can.

Mr. Kelliher: You may not have a policy right now but you definitely have past practice in place. The same event was approved last year under whatever rules and regulations you have to say no to this event, I've seen a lot of policy. You guys need to spend some time on it, which is fine. A policy should take a while to be done right. To hold all of this up while you work on this policy is dramatically unfair given that right now past practice is events like this were allowed. Why would we not want to have a lot of events there? We want to show a vibrant, energetic community. We want people to come to Ludlow and say this is a great place with lots of great things going on. Why would you want to say we're not going to do that down there we're going to move these things to other places? There's no safety issue.

Mr. DeBarge: To be clear, we're not holding it up. We didn't stop it. If the board accepts the policy you can do it now and choose Whitney Park or Cady Street Park. If the board chooses to go with open then I'm sure we'll vote on it in the next item. We're trying to make a policy.

Ms. Kelliher: Do other towns have restricted use of public space? I don't know if other towns in our region have certain town lands that are available for use in certain uses and other ones that aren't. To me that feels un-American.

Mr. Goncalves: That's something I am going to take the time to find out. I want to know what is Belchertown doing. Besides the town common what else do they have. Is that the only place they can because they have nowhere else. Somewhat centrally located with parking, etc. What does Wilbraham do? Your thing is September 14th? Do you need 2 months to plan if you get the word out a month to 6 weeks before you're good?

Ms. DeGobbi: The sooner the better it's approved. You are approving Festa and we're months away from that. I would like to have this approved so we can move forward and start advertising it.

Mr. Goncalves: Festa is because of the alcohol licenses.

Ms. DeGobbi: We knew about the Festa dates the day after the 2023 event. They plan years in advance. I would like the same respect for my event so I can have the approval and move forward with planning as I intended to do.

Mr. Goncalves: If anybody gets information about what other communities do can you share it with me?

Ms. Anecchiarico: What type of events are you referring to?

Mr. Goncalves: Anything that's not a town event.

Ms. Anecchiarico: Szot Park in Chicopee, West Springfield has a common.

Mr. Goncalves: I know you don't care about the ones that come in behind you. You're more concerned about yours. We're concerned about an influx that could happen the minute we say yes to the first one.

Ms. DeGobbi: You don't have any conversation with the regional board of selectmen?

Mr. Goncalves: No, unless there's something pressing.

Mr. Silva: We do from time to time.

Ms. Kelliher: I'm wondering what you're worried about. You keep referencing you're worried about other groups coming in and I keep wondering what you're worried about.

Mr. DeBarge: I'm not worried about anything.

Mr. Goncalves: I'm not worried about anything. As a representative of 22,000 people, I want to make sure when I make the decision I make it for the best of 22,000 people. Not 12 or 18.

Ms. Kelliher: This is an inclusive event and that doesn't include everybody?

Mr. DeBarge: Not necessarily. I think everybody had a chance to comment on this. What is the purview of the board? We have to discuss and possibly vote to approve on policy.

Mr. Goncalves: I'm not ready to move on this.

Mr. Silva: There's other parks and areas. This is talking about 2. You have Electric Park, upper Memorial. I'm fine with everything else, not Memorial.

Mr. DeBarge: Can we clear up the park names? You're getting them confused. The top park across from the post office is Memorial Park. Can we call the gazebo Gazebo Park for today? Are you saying you want to add Memorial Park on top?

Mr. Silva: Personally, in my opinion all the other areas are fine. That one is just I don't know.

Mr. Gennette: That's my point. This policy says Cady Street and Whitney Park. What about Camp White, the Grange.

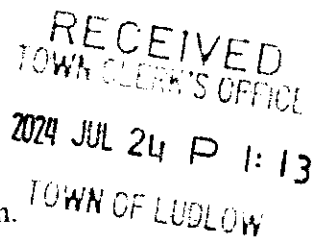
Mr. DeBarge: You all had the packet. You could have gone over this before. This is why people hate this type of government because we kick this down the road every 2 weeks.

Mr. Gennette: I have no problem with putting in place 2 policies but you've only picked 2 parks here. Someone has made a request for use of a park. I think it's wrong to not allow them to use Veterans Memorial Park because their request was in prior to any of this policy being made. There was a precedent set for it. They were there last year and had a wonderful event. If we want to create policies for more parks that's fine, but we can't just pick 2 parks and say everybody can have all of them except for Vets. You're not giving guidance for people to follow.

Motion made by Mr. Silva to table the policy for community parks use until July 23rd. Mr. Goncalves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.

Board to vote and possibly approve the request from Kelly DeGobbi to have the "Color Ludlow with Love" event on September 14, 2024, from 10:30 – 2:00 with a rain date of September 21, 2024. (Tabled from 6/18/24)

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to table making a decision until July 23rd.



Mr. Goncalves: We should have something more concrete by then.

Mr. Silva: Do you have pamphlets or money spent?

Ms. DeGobbi: Not yet. A lot of stuff is donated. We generally don't spend a lot of money.

Resident: We do have a number of community partners we would love to coordinate with. Having those community partners be able to set aside that date is crucial for our event to happen. For this to be pushed along it would be really hard to coordinate with the amount of community support we would love to have from Vets, Senior Center. We'd love to include the Scouts of America.

Mr. Silva: Is another 2 weeks going to put a big...

Ms. DeGobbi: Yes. It already has.

Ms. Kapinos: We haven't spent any money yet but after the last meeting I was in touch with the police department and they gave me the new rates which came out July 1. I talked to them in June and they're waiting for me to firm up the date with them so they can put it on their calendar for the volunteer police to say yes as they did last year. They had 2 police last year and I'm asking for 2 again this year.

Mr. Gennette: Those dates are available and they're going to be held because of this. I would hate to find out we're holding this whole thing up and these dates are given away.

Ms. DeGobbi: The last time I checked with Debbie when I put in the permit I requested 9/14 and 9/21 as the back up rain date. 9/14 is the main date because I'm trying to organize with the boys and girls club and they have their day of kid's event on 9/21 and trying to make sure both events are not running over each other.

Ms. Anecchiarico: They asked us to do a different date so they could participate.

Mr. Gennette: I would recommend those dates get held until this can done. I won't vote to table it.

Resident: It's frustrating to see this kicked along. I see where the frustration is coming from and I share that with you.

Mr. DeBarge: I agree. We are not prepared tonight.

Resident: We are in the same boat. We could talk about this in 2 weeks and have the same conversation.

Mr. DeBarge: We'll be prepared next meeting. I have no problem having the venues held until next meeting.

Ms. White: If you have no problem holding the venue and the date why not just approve it now?

Mr. DeBarge: I don't make the decision. Five of us do.

Ms. Kapinos: Because you're talking about venues, Whitney in September has possible football and soccer. Upper field is packed on Saturdays. West Street Park has soccer every day in the fall. Our opportunities in the fall are slim to none.

Mr. Gennette: You made a motion for the policy. I was going to make a motion for Kelly DeGobbi.

Motion made by Mr. Gennette to approve the request for Kelly DeGobbi to have color Ludlow with love event September 14th, 2024, from 10:30 – 2:00 with a rain date of September 21st, 2024, at Veterans Memorial Park.

Mr. Silva: I don't want things happening there but for this you're right. You were in early; we had no policy.

Second by Mr. Silva.

Mr. Silva: Next year I will not.

Mr. Gennette: That's my only issue. That we don't have clear policy for the community. We cannot hold them up.

Mr. Goncalves: You don't have a policy. You're saying it's ok to have an event. I want to have an event tomorrow, there's no rules, can I have a place and do what I want?

Mr. Gennette: You have been for the past 30 years.

Mr. Goncalves: I think we have an opportunity now, especially since this is the first request we've had this year for anything to put something in place that we can take forward. I'm not saying I'm against this or I'm not in favor, all I'm saying is we're saying we don't have a policy so that's a good reason to do it.

Mr. Gennette: Where you've drawn the line has passed by us.

Mr. Goncalves: Two weeks from now, and you made it clear it didn't make a difference.

Ms. DeGobbi: I would like to know whether or not I can have this done at Veterans Memorial Park as I requested months ago.

Mr. Goncalves: I asked you before and part of where I've been going is you said it didn't make a difference. You needed 5-6 weeks. Five to six weeks from September 14th is the beginning of August.

Ms. Anecchiarico: My big issue is there was no policy last year and no policy this year. If you are creating a policy effective 2 weeks ago then anything that came to your board prior to those 2 weeks...

Mr. Goncalves: That's with the Planning Board, not with us.

Ms. Anecchiarico: Mr. Gennette understands. There was no policy in place.

Mr. Goncalves: That's irresponsible. We're going to do something because there was no policy. What if we put a policy in place if we were to still approve it? I'd like to have a set of rules today before anybody steps foot on Town of Ludlow property. I want to set a rule. I won't vote on anything because I want to have a set of rules. You just don't come on to the town's property and have a party and do what you want until I tell you what you can and can't do. Twenty-two wrongs don't make a right. Last year I was irresponsible. Do you want me to continue to be irresponsible?

Mr. DeBarge: All in favor?

Mr. Gennette yes, Mr. Silva yes, Mr. Goncalves abstain, Mr. DeBarge no. Motion passed 2-0-1.

Mr. DeBarge: We'll do the policy in 2 weeks.

Mr. Goncalves: For me to be clear, we're going to come up with a set of rules and your event is going to have to play by the rules. I don't want 10 more organizations coming in behind you. There's a set of rules and everybody is going to live by them. That's my job.

Board to approve and sign Executive Session Minutes of June 18, 2024.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to approve the minutes from the executive session meeting June 18, 2024, with all members present. Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.

Board to approve and sign the Selectmen Meeting Minutes of June 18, 2024.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to approve and sign the Selectmen minutes of June 18, 2024, with all members present. Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.

Board to approve and sign the Selectmen Meeting Minutes of February 27, 2024.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to approve and sign the Selectmen meeting minutes in conjunction with the School Committee and Finance Committee on February 27, 2024, absent William Rosenblum. **Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

Board to approve invoices for the Harris Brook Elementary School Construction

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to approve the Harris Brook Elementary School invoices. **Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

NEW BUSINESS

Board to acknowledge and approve the Certificate of Recognition for the 100th birthday of Jorge Maximo Carranza.

Mr. DeBarge: 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.

Board to review and vote on end-of-the-year transfers.

Mr. Strange: Our town accountant this year did it a different way. She itemized them, put them together which we presented to FinCom the last week of June and they approved all of the requests. Chief Pease's came in afterwards which is why it's separate.

Mr. Silva: If they were all looked at by Marc and they're all in order we probably don't have much we can't justify.

Motion made by Mr. Silva to approve the end of year transfer requests as presented. **Mr. Goncalves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

Mr. Gennette: In the future I'd like some more information about it.

Mr. Strange: The process we've been doing since I've been here is typically the town accountant goes and presents all of them. Next year we're going to have department heads come in and present them to FinCom and then there would be a more robust discussion about exactly what it is.

Board to open the warrant for October 7, 2024, Special Town Meeting. Articles for inclusion in the warrant will be accepted until Friday September 6, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. and the warrant will officially close at the Selectmen's meeting on Tuesday September 17, 2024.

Motion made by Mr. Gennette to open the warrant for October 7, 2024, Special Town Meeting. **Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

Resident: We're here for the rocket event. We're only using class 1 rockets, which don't need a waiver.

Mr. Goncalves: Somebody sent us an email that you might need FAA clearance for those. Class 1 is the size of the engine and it could be with the height.

Resident: This isn't a drone. It's a bottle rocket with the cub scouts.

Mr. DeBarge: Can we get clarification?

Mr. Silva: That's not up to us. We approved to use the site at Vets Park. Just make sure you're ok.

Mr. Goncalves: Do you know Dave Sady?

Resident: I asked him too and he said I shouldn't need a waiver.

Mr. DeBarge: We already approved it as long as you have whatever it is you need and if you don't need a waiver you're good.

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Mr. Goncalves: If Dave says so, I believe it.

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Board to approve and sign gravel bank permits for Chenier's Gravel Bank, Ginmar Enterprises, Scantic Lands, Banas Sand & Gravel, Caracas Construction, Daniel S Gravel Bank, Ludlow Fish & Game and Nawrocki Construction.

Motion made by Mr. Silva to approve and sign gravel bank permits as you have graciously relayed to us. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

Board to accept Mass Gaming Commission Mitigation Grant in the amount of \$244,900.

Mr. Strange: The Mass Gaming Commission has a pool of money that is available to surrounding communities and Ludlow is a surrounding community and every year there is a competitive grant process. This year we submitted an application and a huge credit to Lori Belanger who spearheaded this. We received \$244,900 for a marketing plan for the town, fire extraction equipment, lighter equipment, speed alert boards, solar lighted crosswalks and a message trailer. That is going to go a long way.

Motion made by Mr. Gennette to accept the Mass Gaming Commission Mitigation Grant in the amount of \$244,900. **Mr. Goncalves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

Board to approve and sign contract with John Guilfoil PR for a town marketing plan.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to approve and sign contract with John Guilfoil PR LLC not to exceed \$46,056 for the purpose of marketing the Town of Ludlow. **Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

Board to approve and sign contract with Campora Construction for repairs to LHS wall.

Motion made by Mr. Silva to approve and sign contract with Campora Construction for repairs to LHS wall which came in under budget. **Mr. Gennette second. Motion passed 3-0-1.**

BOARD UPDATES/MISC

Event Calendar: Tuesday July 16th – 250th Car Show at Ludlow Elks Lodge, 69 Chapin Street. Wednesday July 24th – Dine at Villa Rose to raise funds for 250th Celebration. Monday July 22nd 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Ludlow Charter Committee will have an open forum at the Polish Club.

Mr. DeBarge: We have a special meeting July 23rd. I only want one visitation for that night. We're having a night to honor Helen Garrow. I'm going to try to have those hearings at 5:00 if we can. Other than the hearing we had tonight I only want to do that. Can we try to get them both in at 5:15?

CLOSING COMMENTS

Mr. Goncalves: It was a nice, spirited debate tonight and that doesn't happen very often. A lot of times we're on the same page and it was good we all had different opinions. There was a lot of people here and we normally don't get that many people. The idea that you did it a certain way once and for other people a certain way was a poor excuse. We did it last year with no rules. Well, we need rules. If it's wrong it's wrong. We have to make it right. Whatever happens we need to have a policy in place. It's long overdue and I'm glad we're going to get there. Great seeing Mr. Casagrande. Great job to the 250th. They're amazing.

Mr. Silva: The website. We redid the website and it was supposed to be so much greater and better. I don't find it greater and better. If you search you get all kinds of stuff. If I search Selectmen I get all kinds of stuff and none of it is in order. If you search Selectmen meeting you get something from 2 years ago.

Mr. Goncalves: That's your google settings.

Mr. Strange: I have the same experience when I'm searching. There's so many different ways to get to where you need to go. I know what I'm looking for when I do a search so I know what works for me but there's so many drop down menus so if you go into those you should be able to get there in a couple of clicks.


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Mr. Silva: For the public it seems cumbersome. The only thing that works pretty good is GIS.

Mr. Gennette: I think I've said enough tonight already.

Mr. DeBarge: It's embarrassing sometimes when we don't come here prepared. It goes on me too. When we come here with items or issues we have, and it's happened plenty of times. Sometimes we wait on an item because we might want a sound bite because we're on camera and we're elected officials or we might wait on something because we didn't do our homework and don't know what's going on. To come to a meeting and not know what's going on with something, my point is when we read this stuff before our meetings, shouldn't we kind of know what we want for things. Rather than coming to a meeting blind unless the open meeting conversation is what everybody's goal is. What I'm seeing a lot is open meeting conversation for the transparency that everybody likes is causing us to kick everything meeting after meeting. It doesn't seem like we have our information lined up correctly. I'm talking about the individual. I'm not talking about the town not being prepared. I'm talking about me coming in here prepared as well as I should be. I think that showed today. I think we could have been much more prepared for this. I think the color Ludlow with love group had a very good point about it looking like it's being kicked down the road on purpose. Perception may look that way even though it's not. It's a new policy. I agree with you Tony. I think the timing may be bad but it's not a bad position to come up with a policy when you suddenly have an issue that needs a policy. You may not have had it before but now you have a situation that causes the governing body to come up with the policy then hunker down and make the policy. Don't spread it out over 3 months. It's a pet peeve of mine that we're not prepared as well as we should be.

Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to adjourn the Selectmen's meeting at 8:12 p.m. Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.



Chairperson

