

The Meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on Tuesday, December 3, 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, Antonio Goncalves and William Rosenblum

Members Absent:

First Order of Business: The Pledge of Allegiance

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### CORRESPONDENCE

335. Letter from Brian Shameklis, Chairperson, Safety Committee – Recommending Stop Sign on Merrimac Street at the intersection of Merrimac & Cambridge Streets.

**Motion made by Mr. Gennette** to approve the recommended stop sign on Merrimac Street at the intersection of Merrimac and Cambridge Streets. **Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

336. Chief Pease – Request to charge off medical expenses and lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for an injury sustained by a firefighter/paramedic as a result of an incident that occurred on November 19, 2024.

**Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum** to approve charging off medical expenses and lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for an injury sustained by a firefighter/paramedic as a result of an incident that occurred on November 19, 2024. **Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

337. Chief Pease – Request to charge off medical expenses and lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for an injury sustained by a firefighter/paramedic as a result of an incident that occurred on November 21, 2024.

Mr. Silva: Can we vote on both of them together?

Mr. DeBarge: For those of you watching number 338 is a secondary injury sustained by a firefighter/paramedic that occurred on November 21.

**Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum** on both number 337 and 338 to approve charging off medical expenses and lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for an injury sustained by a firefighter/paramedic as a result of an incident that occurred on November 21, 2024. **Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

339. Sharon Martins – Request to be appointed to the Safety Committee vacancy.

Mr. Strange: The Safety Committee is a 9-member committee, 7 members of which are town employees, police, fire, the building commissioner, DPW. Two of the members are specifically for residents. One of the residents' spots is filled by another Town employee who is a member of the Police Department. This is the final opening for a town resident. Obviously Sharon Martins, who I have nothing but good things to say about nevertheless she's also a Town employee. If the Board fills this final opening with Sharon the entire committee is going to be made up of Town employees, whereas the purpose was to have 2 residents. Something to think about.

Mr. Gennette: What does the bylaw state as far as the committee goes? Does it give a criteria for the Board?

Mr. Strange: They're both residents so technically they qualify.

Mr. DeBarge: I'd say it's an issue to have every member of the Safety Committee be a Town employee and not have representation of a citizen not affected by the employee of the Town. That being said, I'm only aware of someone else being interested in it but I have not seen any paperwork.

Mr. Gennette: Is this a posted position?

Mr. Strange: Yes. We advertised for the vacancy.

Mr. Gennette: How long?

Mr. Strange: I'm not sure.

Mr. Gennette: We could delay this another month and see if anybody else comes in.

Mr. Rosenblum: I believe we have some sort of precedent that she could be appointed by exactly how Town Meeting is. You have employees of the Town that are voting on their own budgets. We're already doing it.

Mr. DeBarge: Those are elected.

Mr. Rosenblum: Correct. I would be willing to say yes to it in a temporary position unless there's someone else that is a non-employee resident of the Town of Ludlow to fill the position. They don't need that person to make any decisions.

Mr. Goncalves: I like the idea that anybody volunteers to do anything in Town. We have such a hard time getting people in general that want to step up to the plate in non-compensated positions. If it's been out there and nobody else has applied I wouldn't have a problem appointing her.

**Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum to Sharon Martins to the Safety Committee vacancy. Mr. Goncalves second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

## VISITATIONS

### 5:35 p.m. – 250<sup>th</sup> Committee – History Book Presentation

Ms. Collette: On behalf of the 250<sup>th</sup> Semi-Quincentennial Celebration Committee and the Historic Book Committee, which Brian led, we would like to present each and every one of you with our Town's history book.

Mr. Bylicki: Before I pass the books out, I want to recognize the people on the committee that worked very hard to produce this book. Martin Fanning, who is here, Dr. William Kosher, who couldn't make it, Kathy Ouimette, Diana Roy, who couldn't make it tonight. She joined late but she helped a lot with the corrections, Sandra Stanek, Mary Beth Silva, Bruce Fenney and Nate Venancio, a former student of mine who lives in Tennessee who has been doing research on and off for the last 2 ½ years. We also have to thank Olivia Eberli who is the archivist at Hubbard Library. Now they possess all the glass plate negatives from Mass West and they also have all the stuff I acquired in the last 2 ½ years. The Ludlow Cultural Council, which gave us the money to buy the picture rights. Joe Carvallo and Michelle Johnson from the Republican, who were incredible with helping us out. The Town Meeting members who allocated money for our Celebrate Ludlow and the 250<sup>th</sup>. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the many people who gave all kinds of artifacts, stories, newspapers. The Register disappeared in a flood. We had no Registers from 1946 until 1976 at all. We all know how important the local news is. I did find a few. The oldest one I found was 1947 and it was an article about a failed Town Hall vote. There was a battle over where to put it in town and the design. Somethings never change. We have these copies. I have to thank my wife because she put up with me taking over room in the house. There's over 370 pictures in this book out of 700-800. There's some real interesting pictures in there on various things. We didn't cover everything. We even added on the whole celebration section to cover the 250<sup>th</sup>. Page 13 is something we found in the wood museum in Springfield. It is hand drawn in pencil and paper sketch of Chapin Pond aka Haviland Beach from somewhere between 1868 and 1880. The gentleman who sketched these went all around New England and the museum possess about 20 small sketch pads. That is fascinating. You're looking at a piece of what everybody knows as Haviland Beach and yet it's so different now. 1872 is the best guess we could come up with. There's a lot of cool stuff like that. You can't cover everything but there's a lot of stuff that's covered.

Ms. Collette: Thank you Brian, very much appreciated.

Mr. Bylicki: This committee has been wonderful to work with.

Mr. Goncalves: A lot of times in my business I start looking at old deeds; searching properties. You go back and find out all of a sudden that one guy owned from the bridge at Wilbraham all the way down to the mills and everything in between. You see it going out to this guy and that guy.

Mr. Bylicki: A lot of rabbit holes to go down. For example, we can't find a picture of the first First Church, the one that burned down in 1859. If somebody sees this and has one, let us know. I cannot find where Abner Hitchcock lived. Abner Hitchcock had the first Town Meeting in 1874. Fuller Street goes from almost the bridge to Granby. Somewhere on there was the farm he had. Those are the problems you run into. The earliest family we know for sure that lived here is the Colton family and there's absolutely nothing in Ludlow named after them.

Mr. Goncalves: Putnam was a big name here.

Mr. Bylicki: Colton was the first. He moved across the Chicopee River right across from the Green Town Bridge from Wilbraham on that little point. There's a house there still. That's the first permanent residence that we can find.

Ms. Collette: There are pictures in here we can guarantee you have never seen before.

Mr. Goncalves: These are available in the Clerk's office for \$32 by check only made payable to the Ludlow 250<sup>th</sup> Committee.

Ms. Collette: We have only so many made and we will not be printing more due to the cost.

Mr. Goncalves: Winding down the year you guys have done an incredible job all year long. I can't imagine all the planning that went into it. It was a fun year. It's going to be tough not seeing that 250<sup>th</sup> emblem all over the place.

Ms. Collette: Our next event is our house decorating contest. We had such a great response from First Night at the High School that we're going to do last night. It will be on February 22.

Mr. Goncalves: That's the grand finale. We have to find another excuse to do this again.

Mr. Gennette: I didn't know how inspired you were going to be and how far you would go. I really didn't know where this was going to go. This past year was amazing. There was always something going on. I think you did the community good service. Thank you for everything you did.

Mr. Rosenblum: I'm a history person and my kids are history people because of me. I can't wait to sit down and look at it. Us, as a board, and individually we worked with some of you throughout the years. The amount of work that has been put into everything has been unbelievable. The 250<sup>th</sup> in general has been amazing. We can't thank you enough.

Ms. Collette: We knew we wanted the history book to be different. It's not what people like to see today and we felt strongly that it needed to be a beautiful, coffee table pictorial with history dispersed through it.

Mr. DeBarge: I feel very lucky to be alive at this point in time and living in this town, for a whole lot of reasons. This book is probably, other than memories, the best thing to come out of the whole celebration, simply because it's timeless. To be able to do this while we are reinventing the mills, which is what made Ludlow, and now we're redoing them to bring new homes to people, to bring new retail to people, to bring new industry to people, at the same time we're celebrating 250 years and we're able to put it into this book. You did a fantastic job. I do not think anyone else could do a better job. Brian, I saw you everywhere I was, and I try to be at a lot of places. I know you busted your hump on this as well as everybody else. It's timeless and you're all part of that. I appreciate everything you've done and I'm more than grateful to be a part of it.

Mr. Gennette: Have you thought about doing a time capsule for this year?

Ms. Collette: There is a time capsule here in the building. It's in the cornerstone where it says 1974. They have things in there that they wanted to be preserved until the 300<sup>th</sup>.

## NEW BUSINESS

Board to discuss and possibly vote to reclassify the two positions and LCTV.

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Mr. Hill: What I'm looking to do is at LCTV there are 4 positions. Mine have a production coordinator full-time position and a production assistant part-time for the meetings. That's a 19-hour a week position. The 4<sup>th</sup> position is unfilled. It's budgeted for. I'm seeking approval to reclassify the full-time production coordinator position and the part-time production assistant. They are both in the non-union, non-management wage scale. LCTV funding is somewhat different from some of the other funding. It's a grant that comes from Charter. I came in requesting to have it approved for January 1. It would not raise the LCTV budget this year. I have that 4<sup>th</sup> part-time position similar to Evan's position. I haven't needed to fill it. I budget for it every year, about \$18,000. That's been in every year's budget for the past couple of years. I used to have 2 of those positions filled. I was able to work it to manage to have 1 person to do all the meetings.

Mr. Gennette: Are you going to dissolve the 4<sup>th</sup> position?

Mr. Hill: I would leave it unfilled. I don't imagine needing it to get filled anytime soon unless we went through another Covid where we had 3 times as many meetings to film at the same time and I would need that part-time position to have the manpower of different meetings at different locations. I would leave it at this time. I budget for it every year. What I do budget is less than what we get for a grant from Charter each year. I haven't run the risk of going over budget. Every year I've been under budget, mostly with staffing. I budget the part-time production assistant for 19 hours a week and it's not always a full 19 hours. Quick math I did for the rest of the year, if these reclassifications were approved for the rest of the half year, January – July 1, it would come out to \$1,856 increase overall. And then the full year would be \$3,700.

Mr. DeBarge: Which you have in your budget.

Mr. Hill: Right. That's why I led with that other position unfilled and budgeted for. It's about \$18,000 we budget for that.

Mr. DeBarge: You have always budgeted everything well ever since I've been involved with the Town. If you think this is warranted and it's in your budget.

Mr. Rosenblum: In a lot of things, we retro back to the fiscal year.

Mr. Hill: We could retro back. I was looking to have it approved for January 1. The reclassification request came in over emails. I submitted it and said I'd like to do it for January 1 not to get preferential treatment over another department but because we have plenty in this year's budget. It would be effective 1/1/2025 and yearly after that. The full-time production coordinator position; over the years that position has slid into an assistant manager role. That position has filled in for me on many occasions. It's now in the job description that the manager acts on occasion as a manager when I'm unavailable. The duties and responsibilities over the years have been increasing for that position. Being in the school we're asked more and more to help out, AV wise, auditorium, side projects, teachers filming. That falls on me and I pass a lot of it down to the production coordinator. A lot of other departments have LATOSS positions, L4 administrative assistant position. This is what I'm going towards to make it an equivalent. The part-time production assistant position, in my opinion, is an incredibly low wage. To be competitive to attract candidates that's one of the things I've found over the years is there's a lot of turnover with that position. The past couple years I've had a great employee in that position and I think moving the pay up to be somewhat comparable. I don't like to compare my positions to other positions in town but it's actually less than a LATOSS 1 and I don't remember the last time we had a LATOSS 1 and I don't know if there's a LATOSS 2 anymore.

Mr. Silva: You're going to leave a position open? What's the process you go through to fill that position? If somebody comes in and they decide they want to fill the position, is that something that's going to come back.

Mr. Hill: That's why it's budgeted for. If someone wanted to fill a position and I wasn't around they could fill it. Each year we get the Charter grant and it's generally more than what our whole budget is. Even if that position was filled to the max still wouldn't cost the town money. I'll repeat, it's not the general fund money. Our money is coming from Charter. Down the road the one thing

that could drastically change is if cable went away and there wasn't a cable company to provide the funding that would be a much bigger issue.

**Motion made by Mr. Gennette** to reclassify two positions at LCTV as follows. ~~The part-time production/studio assistant from an NU5 step 5 to a NU7 step 2 and the production coordinator from NU9 step 5 to NU11 step 1 starting January 1, 2025.~~ **Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

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#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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Board to approve and sign the Selectmen Meeting Minutes from November 12, 2024.

**Motion made by Mr. Goncalves** to approve and sign the Selectmen Meeting Minutes from November 12, 2024, all members present. **Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Board to approve and sign Executive Session Minutes from November 19, 2024.

**Motion made by Mr. Goncalves** to approve and sign Executive Session Minutes from November 19, 2024, all members present. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Board to approve and sign the Selectmen Meeting Minutes from November 19, 2024.

**Motion made by Mr. Goncalves** to approve and sign the Selectmen Meeting Minutes from November 19, 2024, all members present. **Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Board to discuss and potentially reconsider vote to allocate opioid settlement funds for use by Tapestry.

Mr. DeBarge: Last meeting we voted to approve a requested amount from the opioid settlement funds to Tapestry Health. Upon some further information by one of our Board members that was brought to our attention, there are some that wish to reconsider that vote.

Mr. Goncalves: I'm a big fan of what we're hopefully able to do with the settlement money; however, I really want to see it go specifically to organizations that are dedicated for that purpose solely. In Tapestry's case there's a lot of other things going on within that organization. We can't be assured that money is where we want it to go for the intended use. I would ask the Board to reconsider that donation.

Mr. Silva: I believe we voted subject to the Board of Health's recommendation. Did we get anything from them?

Mr. Strange: No.

Mr. Goncalves: I think they should have been here up front, not just send them here.

Mr. Gennette: I concur with Mr. Goncalves. Tapestry Health is huge across many towns and communities and I would like to make sure these opioid funds that were given to Ludlow stay specifically in Ludlow. Tapestry does some things in Ludlow but they operate on a grander scheme.

Mr. DeBarge: I am also in full agreement with this. In our position we need to make sure the opioid settlement funds go to exactly that without a lot of other things.

Mr. Rosenblum: I agree. Those monies I would like to go solely to what they're earmarked for and not to possibly go into other areas. I agree with Mr. Goncalves.

**Motion made by Mr. Goncalves** to rescind the motion we previously made to allocate money to Tapestry from the opioid settlement funds. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

#### NEW BUSINESS

Board to discuss and possibly vote to appropriate \$7,200 in Building Infrastructure Funds for HVAC air duct cleaning at Town Hall and the DPW.

Mr. Strange: They're in pretty bad shape.

**Motion made by Mr. Goncalves** to appropriate \$7,200 in Building Infrastructure Funds for HVAC air duct cleaning at Town Hall and the DPW. **Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

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Board to discuss and possibly vote to appropriate \$9,750 in 40R funds to update the town website and create a new website for the Hubbard Memorial Library.

**Motion made by Mr. Gennette** to approve to appropriate \$9,750 in 40R funds to update the town website and create a new website for the Hubbard Memorial Library. **Mr. Goncalves second.**

Mr. Goncalves: Where are we at with ARPA money because 40R is available any time and we need to make sure that we spend all our ARPA money in 3 weeks.

Mr. DeBarge: We're waiting for a quote on bleachers so it might be expended.

Mr. Strange: They were out there today to look at the bleachers. I sent Bill some samples. I feel like the bleachers are going to be too expensive for what we have left. I think we probably have \$30-\$60,000. I just got another request from Veterans. There's no question that we'll spend it all.

Mr. Goncalves: Is it ok to do this now or should we wait?

Mr. Strange: I would say do it now and if I see that we're going to have this much in ARPA by the 17<sup>th</sup> we'll bring it back and you can rescind it and allocate ARPA.

Mr. Gennette: What's our position for 40R right now?

Mr. Strange: It's good, above \$300,000.

Mr. Silva: I absolutely agree on this. I find that website cumbersome. Hopefully this is going to work some of the kinks out.

Mr. Strange: JGPR does the Police Department website, they're doing the Fire Department website. They're definitely more user friendly, not as clunky. We have a good relationship with them. If something comes up I can call them. They also offered to do the library website for free so it's a good deal.

**All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

## VISITATIONS

6:10 p.m. – Liquor License – New Beer & Wine License for TCO Party Occasions, LLC, Selenia Cruz PUBLIC HEARING

Ms. Cruz: My name is Selenia Cruz. I live at 108 Loopley Street in Ludlow.

**Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum** to open the public hearing for a new beer & wine license for TCO Party Occasions, LLC Selenia Cruz. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Mr. Silva: I believe at the last meeting we checked that all the abutters and everything was in order for that.

Mr. Goncalves: Is this a continuation of last meeting?

Mr. Silva: No. Reopen.

Mr. DeBarge: We had a meeting with you a couple weeks ago that we didn't meet on and we checked the abutters and paperwork and as Mr. Silva said nothing seemed to be out of order.

Ms. Cruz: I apologize for not being here. I never got the notice in the mail.

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Mr. Silva: What exactly are you going to be doing?

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Ms. Cruz: TCO Party Occasions is going to be a venue for banquet space for events. I want to offer a full package deal. We're booked at the bridal show in January for mostly weddings and big events. I want to do small stuff. My kids are in Ludlow Public Schools. They're always looking for banquet places to do their banquets and things like that. I have small little things I want to do throughout the week to get people in there.

Mr. Silva: How many seatings are you going to have there?

Ms. Cruz: I'm approved for 150.

Mr. Goncalves: Which space is this? The back of Pizza Corner?

Ms. Cruz: It's the corner on the building where Pieroway's is.

Mr. Goncalves: You've been through Planning?

Ms. Cruz: Yes, I've got my certifications and everything that requires me to be in compliance.

Mr. Goncalves: Everybody is going to be TIPS certified?

Ms. Cruz: Yes. And Serve Safe.

Mr. Goncalves: Hours of operation?

Ms. Cruz: That's going to depend on the clients I get. Some people want to start a wedding, for example, at 5. We can go from 5-10, 6-11. I would like to be done by 12. That's my goal and out by 1.

Mr. Silva: The Planning Board gave you hours of operation when you got your approval, didn't they?

Ms. Cruz: It was 11 and 12.

Mr. Silva: It's probably the same as bar rooms and restaurants. You know this is beer and wine. A lot of these venues want to have cocktails as well and you can't have those.

Ms. Cruz: I understand.

**Motion made by Mr. Goncalves** to approve the beer & wine license for TCO Party Occasions, LLC Selenia Cruz, manager. **Mr. Silva second.**

Mr. Gennette: Do we have a number of licenses?

Mr. Strange: After this there will only be 1 left. Barburrito has it but they keep on having trouble with ABCC. Once they get it there will be no more.

**All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

**Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum** to close the liquor license new beer & wine license for TCO Party Occasions, LLC Selenia Cruz at 6:15 p.m. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

## NEW BUSINESS

Board to approve and sign the agreement with Pride Operating, LLC for fuel cards.

**Motion made by Mr. Gennette** to approve and sign the agreement with Pride Operating, LLC for fuel cards.

Mr. Silva: What are the fuel cards for?

Mr. Strange: For the police vehicles.

Mr. DeBarge: If this goes down and they or fire has to fill up.

Mr. Silva: That's why I'm asking. I want the public to know we're not going to have fuel cards for everybody in town. This is for the police and it's regulated.

**Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Board to approve and sign contract with USA Waste and Recycling.

Mr. Strange: We expected to have the contract tonight by Mead, Talerman but she couldn't get to it so we're going to have to push this out to the 17<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. DeBarge: I did have a conversation with Marc. Since we are ready to approve and sign this new trash contract with USA Waste and Recycling I think we need to put an effort in to get that information out to the public better than what has been so far. I think it's a great contract. I think the trash committee did a fantastic job but I think we need to get the information out to the public so they understand what's coming and the changes.

Mr. Goncalves: Maybe we could ask Jamie or Jimmy to give us a snapshot.

Mr. DeBarge: I talked to our Town Administrator to see if we could have the committee in and we will effort that as we speak.

Mr. Gennette: Didn't they say they would do something. They're going to pay for something as part of the contract to reach out to the community. There's going to be more than just us talking.

Mr. Strange: Financially every year they're going to donate \$5,000 to whatever we want for whatever we want for the community.

Mr. DeBarge: We're going to table this and start disseminating information to the public on what a great change this is for our town.

Board to discuss and possibly vote to adopt a policy to prorate liquor licensing fees for new licensees or transfers.

Mr. Strange: This came up with Brookside Café. They got approved by the ABCC on November 1. The previous owner of the license had paid the full fee for 2024 and then on November 1 the town sent them a bill also for 2024 for the full \$1,300. Through their attorney they requested the town prorate the 2024 fees. If not, they would have to pay \$1,300 November 1 and in January, which to me seemed like a reasonable request. Essentially we get double payment for 2024 in transfers. I reached out to Town Counsel. He said communities do this. Some prorate by month, some by quarter, some don't prorate at all. It's common sense to me. That's my opinion so I wanted to put that in front of the Board.

Mr. Silva: It sounds like a good idea but when we initiated the fees is there something we need to go back and change before we decide on this or will this suffice?

Mr. Strange: You would have to adopt this policy. We don't have a formal policy. We have guidance for the various types of licenses and we would add it to that guidance.

Mr. Silva: If we do this it's for every liquor license.

Mr. Strange: My initial thought was to do it for only transfers because with a transfer you've already had somebody pay for the license for the year. We've already gotten our money for the

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year. With a new one regardless of when they come in a new license the town wants to get our full fee for the year. The way I wrote this up is for new and transfers just to give you options.

Mr. Gennette: We're just trying to improve the guidance. We're creating a little better policy.

Mr. Strange: Right now, there is no policy. Right now, if somebody comes in and gets their license December 1 they owe us \$1,300 and on January 1 they owe us another \$1,300. It just doesn't seem fair. Brian wrote this up.

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Mr. Goncalves: Are we going to prorate it 30 days?

Mr. Strange: It's by 12. November would be 2 out of 12.

Mr. Silva: Sounds ok by me.

**Motion made by Mr. Goncalves** to adopt the prorating liquor license memo and policy as submitted and recommended by Brian Winner to take effect immediately. **Mr. Silva second.**

Mr. DeBarge: Is this for new licensees and transfers?

Mr. Strange: It's written into the policy.

**All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Mr. Gennette: Is this something we want to look at for a bylaw?

Mr. Strange: Maybe. I can take a look at it.

Mr. Goncalves: What's the most expensive license we have beyond the liquor license?

Mr. Strange: I'm not sure.

Mr. Goncalves: I don't think we're going to get into it on all licenses.

Mr. Strange: I just didn't know if we wanted to change it in the bylaw.

## VISITATIONS

6:25 p.m. – Class I, II, III Motor Vehicle License Transfer – Matt's Auto Mall, LLC – PUBLIC HEARING

**Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum** to open the public hearing for Class I, II, III motor vehicle license transfer – Matt's Auto Mall, LLC at 6:25 p.m. **Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Mr. DeBarge: You are opening up Matt's Auto Mall at 447 Center Street.

Mr. Goncalves: Ludlow Auto Sales, right?

Mr. Jensen: Yes.

Mr. Gennette: Are you the same Matt from Memorial Drive in Chicopee?

Mr. Jensen: Yes.

Mr. Gennette: Is this a 2<sup>nd</sup> location?

Mr. Jensen: Yes.

Mr. Gennette: I bought a vehicle from you about 5 years ago.

Mr. Goncalves: You've got the experience, right?

Mr. Jensen: Yes.

Mr. Goncalves: How many cars is this license?

Mr. Jensen: Originally I thought it was 25 and he told me they backed it down to 20. Whatever you say that's what goes. My license in Chicopee is for 30.

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Mr. Silva: You had a change of occupancy from the Planning Board?

Mr. Jensen: Yes. That's what I was waiting on. They gave me the certificate.

Mr. Silva: Chances are they gave you the change of occupancy which would carry on from the license before.

Mr. Gennette: You're not planning on changing the site at all?

Mr. Jensen: No.

Mr. Gennette: Are you doing any work there?

Mr. Jensen: No. That's basically why I bought this building. I needed a garage to do my own repairs. The place I have wanted \$200,000 to put up a garage out back.

Mr. Gennette: Are you going to be able to keep the vehicles you're working on not right on site?

Mr. Jensen: Yes.

Mr. Goncalves: Class I, II, III, what does that mean?

Mr. Jensen: Class I is a new car license; Class II is used car and Class III is salvage.

**Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to approve the motor vehicle license transfer of Class I, II, III to Matt's Auto Mall, LLC, 447 Center Street, Ludlow. Mr. Silva second. Motion passed 4-0-1.**

**Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum to close the Class I, II, III motor vehicle license transfer, Matt's Auto Mall, LLC at 6:29 p.m. Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Mr. Jensen: Am I all set to start bringing vehicles over?

Mr. Silva: Are you giving him a new license or are you going to issue the license for 24? Do you want to get in right away?

Mr. Jensen: Yes. I bought extra cars to start up.

Mr. Silva: We're probably going to have to give him a license for a few days and you're going to have to reapply. Check with the office tomorrow morning.

Board to accept Municipal ADA Improvement grant for \$88,000.

**Motion made by Mr. Gennette to accept the Municipal ADA Improvement Grant for \$88,000. Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Board to approve and Chairman to sign the contract with the Center for Living & Working, Inc. (CLW) to conduct the Town's Municipal ADA Improvement Plan.

**Motion made by Mr. Goncalves to approve and Chairman to sign the contract with the Center for Living & Working, Inc. (CLW) to conduct the Town's Municipal ADA Improvement Plan. Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Board to approve and sign the contract between Baker Mason Contractors, Inc and the Town of Ludlow for masonry repairs to Hubbard Memorial Library in the amount of \$28,800.

**Motion made by Mr. Goncalves** to approve and sign the contract between Baker Mason Contractors, Inc and the Town of Ludlow for masonry repairs to Hubbard Memorial Library in the amount of \$28,800. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

## VISITATIONS

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**6:40 p.m. – Recreation Commission- Joint Meeting**

2024 DEC 18 P 3: 54

**Motion made by Mr. Archambeau** to open Recreation Commission Meeting. **Roll Call: Mr. McBride yes, Mr. Archambeau yes. All in favor. Motion passed 2-0.**

Mr. DeBarge: We are here to fill your vacant seat and in light of that seat being vacant and only 1 applicant I think this makes our job very easy. I don't think we need to draw this out. I think we can appoint and move on but if there's anything anybody needs to say you can say it.

Mr. Silva: Everybody has checked into this candidate? Have you talked to him?

Mr. McBride: Yes. He served on the Westover Golf Commission for 4 years. He had run a write-in campaign for the open seat and fell a few votes short. He applied for this opening. I think he's eager to serve on both the Recreation and Golf Commission again. He provided a lot of value and insight when he was on the Golf Commission. I assume he'll provide the same level of value and insight on the Recreation Commission. I'm supportive of him.

Mr. Goncalves: Is this an unexpired seat? Just till March?

Mr. McBride: I'm up in March so this would be a 3-year term.

Mr. Silva: I believe he's going to have to run. Don't take my word for it though.

Mr. Goncalves: I had to do that when I came onto this Board when Mr. Rooney resigned.

**Motion made by Mr. Gennette** to approve Shawn Lebeau as a member of the Recreation Committee. **Mr. Goncalves second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

Mr. Goncalves: While you guys are here, I got some emails from citizens concerned with something going on with a golf league in the mornings? Did you get that all straightened out? Are the old people happy?

Mr. McBride: Are they ever?

Mr. Goncalves: Are they happier than they were?

Mr. Silva: They're not going to Chicopee?

Mr. Goncalves: The idea was to give them 48 hours to call in.

Mr. McBride: There needs to be rules. We've all been up there and it creates chaos for our maintenance staff. We have to run a business and folks need to know that there's got to be rules. It's not an equity club. You want that, you go down to Palm Beach Gardens and join the preserve. I think they needed to realize that. Sometimes it's hard hearing the truth and getting told no. Change is hard. We have resolved that issue in a way that everybody is happy and it's favorable to our operation.

Mr. Rosenblum: Are a majority of them season pass holders?

Mr. McBride: Yes.

**Motion made by Mr. Archambeau** to close Recreation Commission meeting. **Mr. McBride second. All in favor. Motion passed 2-0.**

## CLOSING COMMENTS

Mr. Gennette: I don't have anything. I'll pass.

Mr. Silva: I want to again congratulate the 250<sup>th</sup>. They ran a couple things this weekend, which was Breakfast with Santa. Mr. DeBarge cooked. It was a nice event. Then they had the tree lighting, which was great. Toys for Tots, which is always welcome. I want to congratulate those that were involved.

Mr. Goncalves: Thank you 250<sup>th</sup>. I can't say it enough. What an incredible committee. Ludlow Boys & Girls Soccer finished up their season. They had their banquet this weekend. The girls did a fantastic job. They squeaked in to the 31<sup>st</sup> spot. They made the State Tournament event. Not so good of a year. They came on strong, won 4 of the last 5 games. They had play in against Agawam. They were losing 1-0 and then scored 5 unanswered goals, which was incredible. What a great way for those girls to finish their season. The boys, for most people who don't know my boys play on the team. Four years ago MIIA changed the structure of the State Tournament and how it was run. Ludlow boys are the only Division I team in the State that made the Elite 8 for 4 consecutive years. Our little school here, by all accounts we shouldn't be Division I because of our size but because of the youth programs bringing them up we're able to play Division I against the best teams in the State, they knocked out the number 1 seed. All things being equal, it's a new tournament, number 32 won everything in the State. You don't know until it's over. I'm going to touch very quickly on schools. We've got some issues going on right now. From our standpoint, the Board is going to do everything we can. I really hope that if anybody out there is uncomfortable with anything going on in the schools they're not holding back. Let the School Committee know, let us know. The more we know the more we can help out. People may know what I'm talking about are the ones that maybe need to come and see us. We're not ignoring it; we're very much on top of everything.

Mr. Rosenblum: Good luck to all winter athletics, as the first Monday after Thanksgiving weekend is the beginning of winter sports. Good luck to all winter athletic teams in the Town of Ludlow. Thank you again to the 250<sup>th</sup>. The amount of work they've done and they keep going above and beyond. Thank you again to Linda and the whole. There's so many people who spent so much time. Seeing the people that were here, 3 of those people were on the Charter Committee as well. Imagine doing 250<sup>th</sup> plus other functions. Congrats to the 250<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Gennette: I had an opportunity to walk over to the new track & field. It's beautiful. They did a great job. Especially the dugouts for the baseball diamond. The community used to be able to walk on that track. We have it closed off right now and the community can't walk on it. Is it going to stay that way?

Mr. Strange: I'm not sure what the regs are on that.

Mr. DeBarge: If you ask the Board of Selectmen, and I'm not going to put any words into anybody's mouth, but I can assure you that our understanding is that is open to the public. We handed it back over to the School Committee. I don't know if they have changed their mind about that but it is not under our purview anymore.

Mr. Silva: In our initial looking at this and what we were going to do and spending the money, that was one of the big driving forces. We told the public it was a great community thing. People walk over there all the time. This day in age everybody loves to walk. That was one of the major factors for my decision to spend that kind of money.

Mr. Gennette: This was Sunday about 10:00 a.m. You'd have to jump over the fence.

Mr. Goncalves: I don't believe we had the ability to spend the ARPA money if it wasn't for the benefit of the entire town. We can't sidestep it and say this is for the benefit of the Town because if you don't have children in school how are you benefitting? Those gates should really be open.

Mr. Rosenblum: One of the things that was a concern is if it was a grass field and you could track the chemicals onto the track and sometimes when the grass was getting cut before it wasn't getting blown off of the track. I think it's in a better position to be walked on than any other time.

Mr. Goncalves: Maybe we can look into that.

Mr. Strange: Do you want me to reach out to Tim and Sarah?

Mr. DeBarge: Yes please. I hope everybody had a great Thanksgiving. I was able to work lunch at the Senior Center this past Tuesday as they did their Thanksgiving Day lunch for a packed house. Not an open seat in that place. What a lunch that was. There is no better place than that Senior Center. They served a mammoth lunch for \$2. I love going there to volunteer and interact with everybody there. It's such a great place. Also, Veteran's Services handed out 350 turkeys to go along with 350 grocery bags filled with all the sides and pies on Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Vet's Center. We had a huge area in the rain but it was still a fun day of handing turkeys out to our veterans. I do want to mention Ludlow High School's culinary class, specifically the class with Ms. Adelai Bernard, who baked about 130 pies for the Veteran's handout on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. I wanted to make sure that I can report to you that I sampled each kind of pie and they were outstanding. Great job. Thank you very much. As Manny mentioned, the pancake breakfast was great. The tree lighting next year is going to be a lot better. Take a look out for what we are planning with the space next to us here. It's going to be bigger and much better.

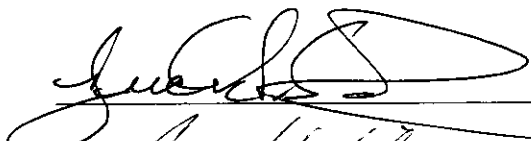
Mr. Silva: Now that the 250<sup>th</sup> is going to be dissolving shortly, I think we need to look at having another committee for town-wide events. We're certainly going to bring back Celebrate Ludlow. I think that committee needs a fund so they can do certain things for instance East Street decorations. There's a lot of things that other communities do. I think we need to get a committee going so they can work on it and get businesses involved.

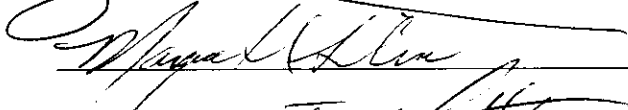
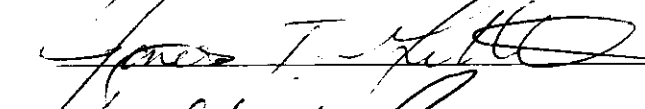
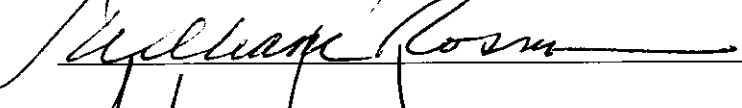
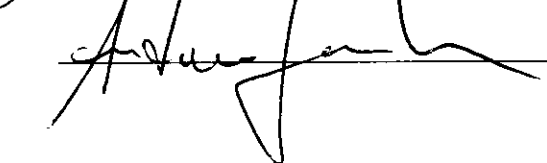
Mr. DeBarge: That's happening. When we dissolve the 250<sup>th</sup> committee, the same people will be transferring over to Celebrate Ludlow. Or they'll name it something else. They will be moving on.

Mr. Silva: Good. I think we need to fund it.

Mr. DeBarge: We can go to Town Meeting and ask for more than \$3-\$5,000.

**Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum to close the Selectmen's meeting at 6:50 p.m. Mr. Silva second. All in favor. Motion passed 5-0.**

  
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Chairperson

  
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