

The Meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on Tuesday, April 1, 2025, began at 5:30 p.m. in the Board of Selectmen's Conference Room at the Town Hall.

Members Present: Manuel Silva, William Rosenblum, Anthony Alves and James Gennette

Members Absent: Antonio Goncalves

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First Order of Business: The Pledge of Allegiance

TOWN OF LUDLOW

Board to reorganize after election.

**Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum** to nominate Manuel Silva as the Chair. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.** **Motion made by Mr. Gennette** to nominate Bill Rosenblum as Vice Chair. **Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

Mr. Silva: I'd like to welcome Anthony Alves, our newly elected Board member. One of our Board members is missing. Unfortunately, he is gravely ill. We want to wish him the best in recovery and prayers. That is Tony Goncalves

## VISITATIONS

5:35 p.m. – Class III Motor Vehicle License for T&J Auto Body – **PUBLIC HEARING**  
(continued from March 18, 2025)

Mr. Silva: We continued it because there was a couple of issues we wanted to get resolved. Mr. Santos was here and he had some recommendations.

Mr. Oquendo: We went the next day and spoke w/ Amy & Sue. They fixed our hours and said everything was fine.

Mr. Rosenblum: Was there any discussion about the fence?

Mr. Oquendo: I went to the Building Department. We're looking into finding the right person. We're going to have a survey and fill out the permit.

Mr. Gennette: I drove by and it looks like there's a lot less cars in the parking lot. It looks like you've been cleaning up over there pretty good.

Mr. Oquendo: We're busier than ever. We don't go over the maximum we're supposed to have.

Mr. Silva: There's no person from the public that wants to speak. We're all set.

Mr. Rosenblum: We need check for \$80.82 for Turley legal notice. We'll sign this and hold it in the office until we get the check.

**Motion made by Mr. Gennette** to approve the class III motor vehicle license for T&J Auto Body pending the check. **Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

**Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum** to close the class III motor vehicle license for T&J Auto Body at 5:36 p.m. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

5:45 p.m. – Finance Committee – Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Presentation & Discussion

Mr. Silva: You only have 4 members so there's no quorum necessary.

Mr. Strange: I have a few slides. As we're going through this I tried to make it as regimented and step by step as possible. If you have questions about any bullet points feel free to chime in and stop me so we can have a discussion on it. This year the town's budget woes have been driven by the health insurance increase. We put this slide together and presented it to the IAC. It's not just Ludlow going through this. There have been plenty of news articles about other towns being up against it budget-wise. For increases in health insurance this has been an unprecedented year. I wanted to highlight the Berkshire Health Group which represents a bunch of towns from 15-20%

increases in their health insurance premium which is a huge nut considering limitations of prop 2 ½. For Ludlow our medical increase is 11%. This is down from 14.84%, which was the MIIA average trust average. After the 14.84% we met with the Insurance Advisory Committee who to their credit and we thank them for it, agreed to a change in their insurance plan, which increases annual deductibles and copays for prescription. We thought the increases were reasonable per subscriber. In total it added up to about a \$400,000 savings for the town. Even with 11% increase our total dollar increase is 1.137 and we'll try to illustrate how that compares with the total for the town. Dental was much more manageable at 2.57% and vision there was no increase. Increase from FY26 over FY25 is about 3.2 million so that 1.137 for the medical insurance represents about 35% of the total general fund increase. The total insurance costs for fiscal 26 are 11.5 million and that's about 14% of our general fund. The schools are at about 8.1 million for health insurance and the town is at 3.3 million. Here is a summary page of where we are for the town departments and school department. Our debt service payments and employee payments highlighted there and what our total general fund increases are. The employee benefits increase is 1.7 million and that's a 10% increase. That's health insurance, retirement benefits, workers comp and some other line items. We still have the school at 3% and the town department's increase total was 3.6% putting our general fund increase just below 4%, which all things considered is a pretty reasonable increase in the budget. A quick 101 on where towns can get their revenue from. There's 3 main sources, property taxes, state aid and local receipts. Our property taxes are limited by 2 ½ law which went into effect in 1980. We can only increase our property taxes by 1.3 million. In addition to the 1.3 million we also generated about \$150,000 in new growth. The total tax levy increase for fiscal 26 over fiscal 25 is about 2.25 million, which is a 4% total tax levy increase and that includes the debt exclusion payments. State aid increase has been paltry. We've averaged about 1% every year and this year \$150,000, which is .8% fiscal 26 over fiscal 25. Local receipts last year were 8.3 million so we try to be conservative because that's a source of free cash for the town. The state forces you to be conservative because you have to put in your numbers through DOR and they don't allow you to anticipate an increase without a really good reason. Our fiscal year 26 increase is \$660,000 which adds to our budget on the revenue side. Our current budget deficit is \$739,119 and that's down from \$795 because we had some discussion today about the cost of trash and realized that one of the line items we budgeted for disposal was a little bit high so we adjusted that down. Some fiscal 26 budget highlights are both the school and town departments maintain level service. The town is getting a new automated trash and recycling service beginning July 1, 2025. Residents will receive a 65-gallon container for weekly trash pick-up and a 96-gallon container for bi-weekly single stream recycling pick up which means all recyclables go in the same barrel. The new containers will have a UPC code that the town and USA can identify and connect the trash containers with the owner of the residence. The service is going to be a lot better than what we've had and part of that is increasing the trash fee from \$100 to \$200 annually. We will be billing that quarterly starting in fiscal 26.

Mr. Mullin: Do we start paying on this contract on July 1?

Mr. Strange: Yes.

Mr. Mullin: When do the barrels get delivered to the residents?

Mr. Strange: May or June.

Mr. Kelliher: What do people do with their old barrels? Is there going to be some way they're collected?

Mr. Silva: The old barrels belong to the person.

Mr. Gennette: I think I've been pretty clear that I hate this whole trash bill system. This is the worst thing the town ever did. The committee talked about going quarterly. We're having a problem with billing now so we're going to multiply that problem times 4?

Mr. Strange: We don't have a problem with billing. We hired a consultant to go into Munis and create new accounts for every resident so we can send out a bill like you receive your property tax bill. Now we're connecting the collector's office with the DPW so those who were delinquent on their payments we'll have to work out a system where we send out reminders and 2<sup>nd</sup> bills and eventually withhold the service if they get too far behind. The expected collection is \$710,000/year. What we budget over the past 4-5 years is about \$650,000 so we're losing about

\$60,000 in revenue so we'll be cracking down on that. We haven't worked out the process for that but that will help us bridge that gap.

Mr. Gennette: That's a full-time job for somebody just to do trash billing.

Mr. Strange: It has been. It will be better in 26. There's also a new HVAC system being worked on for the public safety complex being planned for fiscal year 26 planning on going out to bid April 9<sup>th</sup>. It was originally 2.4 million, it went up to 2.8 and now it's at 3.8. A lot of that is the delay in the project and inflation. We asked the consultant about the potential impacts of tariffs and they haven't seen much yet. We're hoping the impacts will be minimal but we'll keep an eye on that. Short-term bond payment will be due in fiscal 26. We removed the funding for the Haviland Pond lifeguards. They tried to reopen the pond over the last couple years but it's been difficult to find lifeguards so we suggested we pull the funding for that line item this year.

Mr. Silva: Are we closing or just not opening?

Mr. Strange: We can put a swim at your own risk sign. The lack of parking down there has hampered it. After discussions with the police department about the overtime budget we did increase their budget from \$300-\$400,000. We're hoping we can work with Chief Valadas to pare down our police overtime cost so we can stay within that. Recent outlays have been between \$450-\$475,000. We've been in discussions with the Chief on that and I think if we work together we can stay within the \$400,000. COLA's we have at 2%. No new town positions are proposed. There are a few employee reclassifications, the assistant assessor, admin in the Board of Selectmen office who was in the union but now out of the union for confidentiality purposes and 2 police department employees, which is all contractual. There is a member at the library, an admin at the DPW and the assistant town engineer and operations supervisor were kept on the old pay scale when we did the classification study in 2022 so we have to get them onto the current pay scale. At veterans there's currently a part-time position and this budget proposes a full-time employee based upon need. Revenue changes are .8% in state aid, tax levy increase is a total of 4%, which is 2 1/2% which we've maximized, plus new growth, plus debt exclusion. Local receipts we've increased \$660,000 and that's an 8% increase. We tried to increase those local receipts because we think we could justify it based upon trends over the past 2-3 years. There's the \$100 solid waste and recycling fee increase. The enterprise fund has increased 7.4%. There is a big assessment for Springfield Water & Sewer which drove that increase. The free cash number is \$739,119. Fiscal 26 expenditures. 3% school budget increase. 4% increase for general government. 3.7% increase for public safety and a lot of that was driven by the police overtime. Public works essentially has a flat budget. Human services goes up 8%. Culture and recreation had a decrease of \$16,000. Our health insurance and retirement increase and we had to increase the overlay amount to account for recent trends. Of note, the fiscal 26 cost increases for the health insurance and retirement assessments total 1.8 million which is 80% of the tax increase. For the most part the health insurance and retirement assessments, which we have no control over ate up most of our prop 2 1/2.

Mr. Alves: A lot of those bigger increases are self-explanatory. The one that stands out to me is the human services at 8.1.

Mr. Strange: The increased amount isn't that much relatively speaking. That includes the full time from part time admin at the vets center. Also, in this fiscal year Jodi at the Senior Center needed another admin because the front desk person was a volunteer and she retired so we had to hire a person, which is half funded by the senior center grant allotment. There are some notable financial articles. Article 3 is the budget article. Article 5 is the bond increase for the public safety HVAC. Capital improvements are article 10. Article 11. Our financial reserves is articles 12-15. This year we're incurring for the first time our annual fee for the radio communications maintenance which is about \$81,000 and we're proposing to use free cash to pay for that to ease the impact on the operating budget. There's 2 articles for the HEROE's act, which would apply COLA to the annual veteran's exemption. Article 21 is a request for \$35,000 in free cash to do a feasibility study for the Hubbard Memorial Library which would set them up for a bigger grant award. Article 22 is the prudent investor rule which would allow the Town to use cemetery funds to pay for operations. Our fiscal 26 capital improvements, the Town Hall elevator is way out of compliance and needs a bunch of repairs to become compliant. The Fire Department asked for CPR devices that are automated. The ladder truck payment is in the schedule as is the new ambulance. Our police annual allocation for replacement of 2 patrol vehicles. DPW is asking for a Bobcat Bandit to replace a very old one. All these were approved and recommended by the Capital Improvement Planning

Committee. The F350 super duty, the plow, the 2<sup>nd</sup> of 3<sup>rd</sup> payments for the wheel loader, and we're also proposing to pay for the trash and recycling containers out of free cash. The Vets Center uses volunteer vehicles to transport food and other items so this vehicle would be used for that.

Mr. Gennette: The Veterans' Center raised money and got gift money from the VFW to compensate for the majority of the price of this vehicle and purchase the trailer.

Mr. Strange: The schools have been chipping away at their HVAC at the various schools. Capital has been trying to approve a couple a year. There's 2 for Baird, a fire panel replacement at LHS.

Mr. Gennette: The HVAC units are similar to the police vehicles. They have so many of them that if you don't repair some of them or take care of them in good time then you have a lag of them over time. I think there's 50 for the schools.

Mr. Strange: The schools also asked for electrical work to run power to their network closet in the event of a power outage. Total free cash expenditure is 1.486 million. There's \$100,000 for the new ambulance that is being paid out of the ambulance subscription fund. All of these projects were recommended for approval by the CIPC and the Board of Selectmen will be considering whether to fund these. Recently we started doing a separate article for the Westover Golf capital improvement requests because that's paid out of their operating budget or retained earnings. The golf course has its own enterprise fund. The only new purchase is a rough mower for \$101,000 which will be taken out of retained earnings. The rest of these purchases were already approved by Town Meeting. These are the capital improvement requests that were submitted but not funded this year. The community center submitted requests for locker room renovations and repair of the pool floor. CIPC bounced those out to fiscal 27 on our 5-year plan. DPW asked for a 2<sup>nd</sup> F350 which was also moved to fiscal 27. Our facilities maintenance also asked for an F150 with a plow. He's primarily here but we do have a truck here already that he does use so capital pushed this to fiscal 27. The Hubbard Memorial Library submitted a request for new computers which ultimately did not qualify so we're working with them on how to replace their computers in a phased way. The Police Department asked for a Chevy Tahoe for their Detective Bureau which was moved to fiscal 27. Also, the Animal Control Officer asked for a Ford Explorer and that was pushed to fiscal 27. Lastly, the schools have been asking for classroom upgrades over the past couple years and the Capital Committee determined those were not worthy and were denied.

Mr. Mullin: What are we doing to cover the deficit? Are we continuing to scrub departments or do we have any additional revenue streams that we're looking into?

Mr. Strange: The level 2 I put together is using free cash to cover that. That was just so we could get to this point so FinCom and the Board could have a discussion about how we bridge that gap.

Mr. Gennette: There was increases to the DPW expenses.

Mr. Strange: That was in the calculations we looked at today. That will be a local receipt. The initial local receipts estimate we had was low so I bumped it up \$150,000 to try to get us to a balanced budget so those additional fees will help.

Mr. Gennette: What if we do not fill vacated positions this year?

Mr. Strange: If the Board says we're not funding open positions then we're not funding open positions. Short of that mandate I would go back to the departments that do have open positions and see where we are. Sometimes we try and we just aren't able to find somebody. I think you've spoken to the DPW so they may be able to get through the next fiscal year without filling that one position. That's probably a \$75,000 savings.

Mr. Gennette: If we look into fiscal 27 and we have to lay people off maybe we shouldn't have had the positions filled in the first place.

Mr. Mullin: If the position has been vacant for, I would assign a date like 6 months, rather than laying someone off the following year just eliminate a vacant position saves a person.

Mr. Kelliher: Any of those vacant positions we're going to fill with free cash and I am not comfortable with \$739,000 in free cash. I don't think anybody here is.

Mr. Gennette: You're just compounding the problem.

Mr. Silva: Going back a few years, the Finance Committee met with every board on what their recommendations are and what they would like to see. Has that happened?

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Mr. Sanches: Since I came on board, we are a recommending body. We're following the bylaws. Mr. Strange is responsible for meeting with the department heads. He puts the budget together and it's the Board of Selectmen's budget. We've been operating as an oversight committee. If we needed expertise Mr. Strange would bring them in.

Mr. Strange: We've been meeting every month with updates as to where we are in the budget. We also send a year-to-date expenditure report to the FinCom. We feel like the committee has up to date information always. They wanted to meet with Fire & Police so they came in so it's as necessary. It's kind of changing the process with FinCom meeting with departments when I started. There was ambiguity and uncertainty as to who took the lead on it and I wanted to define what the process was. Next year it's probably time for us to go back to a budget subcommittee.

Mr. Silva: I think something like that would be beneficial.

Mr. Gennette: We're putting the squeeze on the community. There's only so much money we can get from the tax rate. Next year I regret 2027.

Mr. Sanches: Mr. Kelliher, you said you're not a big fan of using free cash. Do you have a suggestion?

Mr. Kelliher: My first thought was to go to those unfilled positions. If we've done without it for 6 months or better part of a year.

Mr. Gennette: If they're vacant now, even if it's been 6 months or a month, if it's vacant, we just don't know what's happening in the future and we're under the gun so we've got to keep those vacant.

Mr. Strange: If we're active in the recruitment process do we still want to wait or stop those processes.

Mr. Gennette: The only department that needs attention right now is the accounting department. The Treasurer/Collector's office. They're under fire and there's open positions there that have to be filled because we're not getting tax bills out on time. Other than that, if it's vacant right now, unless you've got somebody that you're already in the process of hiring I would say don't fill that position. Hiring freeze.

Mr. Strange: I want to make sure I'm clear on what the directive is.

Mr. Alves: I think we do need some sort of date threshold. Anything below that should be reviewed on a case by case basis. Marc and I had some discussions this week. I combed through the budget and shared with Marc \$22 or \$23K in general expense reductions that I thought were manageable across the departments. Is that reflected in that deficit?

Mr. Strange: No. I want to make sure. Are we looking at positions that have been vacant for 6 months or is there a period of time? There's a vacant police officer position and a couple other relatively important positions that are vacant so I think it's important to nail this down.

Mr. Gennette: Does HR have a position?

Mr. Strange: Technically no because we have an agreement that if Anita Goncalves doesn't go on to be the Treasurer/Collector she reverts back to that. I can resend the open positions to everybody.

Mr. Gennette: Do we have another meeting before we have to sign off?

Mr. Strange: April 15<sup>th</sup>. Kim has to send it out the 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Gennette: Let's put together what the list is and we can review it at that point.

Mr. Strange: Do you want to do a joint meeting with FinCom that night?

Mr. Gennette: I don't think that's necessary.

Mr. Silva: Maybe FinCom can identify areas they think.

Mr. Rosenblum: Are we going to be able to see the dollar savings on those positions?

Mr. Gennette: If we had to go to free cash I'd rather compound \$400,000 than \$739.

Mr. Alves: My other hesitation in terms of public safety is if someone were to leave then we're dealing with promotions and that could create a gap as well. I think that's more of a reason to assess those. Secondly, any job description out there that we put a freeze on I would want to keep that listing so they have right of first refusal so when we do have funds available and we are expanding new staff those should be the first ones back.

Mr. Mullin: In talking about the overtime for the Police, if there's overtime incurred for a private function, are we passing that expense along to the private organization that is bearing the expense for covering the event?

Mr. Strange: In the past, they would ask for the Town to provide overtime. It's been a case-by-case basis for the Board. Recently, we've made a stink about that and I think the last 2 events that have come in we told them they have to provide their own OT but we don't have a policy on that. This is not going to balance the budget so I don't want the conversation to end here because we only have 2 meetings left.

Mr. Gennette: What's the balance of Chapter 40?

Mr. Strange: Thank you to Cheryl Allen who uncovered this. Back in 2024 the rules for 40R changed. 40R money can only be used on capital expenditures. We have a couple contracts that are 40R so we're going to have to figure that out.

Mr. Gennette: Do we budget money for 40R?

Mr. Strange: No.

Mr. Sanches: Capital expenses as in this?

Mr. Strange: It's probably \$275,000.

Mr. Kelliher: With the schools over the past 3 years that's an anomaly. We're not going to see that ever again.

Mr. Gennette: I'm not taking any department off the table. I've gone at the Police Department, the school and DPW and if I can save money for the taxpayers I'll go at any department so you better get ready because I can hit anybody at any time.

Mr. Strange: We're not even close to balanced.

Mr. Silva: At least make a little headway so at the next meeting with their recommendations. If we move the 40 money to capital then we'll have the extra money to put to free cash theoretically.

Mr. Alves: That's only if you have the appetite to use the free cash.

Mr. Rosenblum: It's a recipe for disaster. We did it a few years ago and we had such a spike to the taxpayers because we held it low and we had to catch up. I'm going to give you these numbers just to think about. I'm only putting it out there because it's been discussed before. The trash fee right now at \$200 we're at \$739,000. If we went to \$250 it puts us at \$415 in free cash. The \$300 trash fee leaves us at \$89,000. I'm not saying doing it all at once but we can't be taking \$739,000 out of free cash. These positions aren't going to solve the problem.

Mr. Gennette: You're saying the taxpayers can cover the expenses instead of fixing your spending problem.

Mr. Rosenblum: We're going to address the spending at the same time. I understand it's a burden across the boards.

Mr. Gennette: All these departments have the same problem. They want to throw money instead of fixing it. Someone has to hold all the departments accountable to deal with the budget they can afford.

Mr. Rosenblum: Then go to the boards and start cutting positions.

Mr. Gennette: We have to cut budgets. If they decide that's what they have to do then that's what they have to do.

Mr. Strange: I want to push back when you say the spending is out of control. Our increases are very reasonable. The school at 3, the town at 3.6, total general fund at 4% and that's with a 10% increase in our employee benefits. We have no control over that. If you ask any town department, we are operating very efficiently. I don't know where the irresponsible spending is. We went through that a couple years ago and cut a lot out. I can't speak for the schools but if you go through our budget there is not a lot of fat to cut. Anthony went through and found \$22,000.

Mr. Silva: The whole problem is the insurance. That's a crazy increase we have to make up. Now that we're faced with this bill we have to pay it. Hopefully it doesn't happen next year like this.

Mr. Rosenblum: I gave you those numbers only because there has been discussion. I'm not subscribing to it.

Mr. Silva: I don't like it because only the residential people are paying for it. I thank the committee that got us the contract.

Mr. Mullin: As one member of the Finance Committee, I wouldn't vote to recommend this budget moving forward at that number. I think we need to go back to every department, sharpen the pencils and find opportunities where you can reduce expenses or generate additional revenue so you can get to a better number for borrowing from free cash. If there's no strategy to replenish that free cash we're setting ourselves up for a financial cliff in 27.

Mr. Gennette: That includes the school too.

Mr. Silva: We might have to use free cash but understand that we've funded those significantly.

Mr. Strange: To go back to the departments and say sharpen your pencils, they're going to need some sort of standard.

Mr. Silva: Instead of 2% increase, go down to 1.

Mr. Strange: That's not going to be much. There aren't that many non-union employees.

Mr. Rosenblum: Is there any insight as to what next year could hold?

Mr. Strange: I was in the room when MIIA unveiled the 15% average and the whole room gasped. This is not a Ludlow problem this is a state problem.

Mr. Gennette: It doesn't matter if they don't do it, if we use free cash we create a fiscal cliff. At some point we're going to have to cut. I don't want to tell the departments how they should cut or what they should do. I don't want to see anybody lose. If we do free cash this year and we go into headwinds again next year and we're looking at this, we're going to have massive layoffs. We've done ourselves a disservice. We basically buried our heads in the sand and hoped for the best. It's a mistake.

Mr. Rosenblum: I agree with Mr. Mullin's point and the open positions. If I'm putting a number to free cash it's \$350-\$400. You're not going to cut the moderator position at \$582. You need to look at the bigger budgets.

Mr. Kapinos: Matthew Kapinos, taxpayer, resident, born and raised in Ludlow. I think there's a lot of fat you could cut. What upgrades were denied to the schools in the classrooms and what will the F350 truck be used for at the DPW?

Mr. Strange: The DPW vehicle is a replacement. It's in really tough shape. It's completely rusted out on the bottom.

Mr. Gennette: They've had a bunch of requests over the past 3 years. All the departments have. If we can put vehicles on a lease or sometimes we can buy it outright we come up with a plan for replacement. All the departments would love their equipment replaced today. But we do it strategically so we don't end up with an influx of vehicles that need to be replaced all at one time and we stretch it down. The stuff that was denied for the schools; I don't want to speak for my entire board, but from my perspective the schools were denied for white boards. To me, those are an operational expense. Capital for me is more of a facilities expense. So, when they say they need a new roof capital will help them out. When they need a new wall because bricks are falling we'll help them out. A new parking lot at East Street school we'll help them out. Fire panels, emergency doors, phones we'll help them out. There's a point where you have to draw a line between operational and facility. Getting whiteboards for your classrooms, which is a never-ending thing, is a want not a need. If they want them and they can afford them they can pay for them.

Mr. Strange: Those are capital items paid with free cash, that would not have any impact on this number right here.

Mr. Gennette: Free cash is money that's unspent from the budget that's back in the town. What Manny is trying to say is if we have that money why don't we just pay that?

Mr. Silva: No. I said we're going to get it down to a reasonable amount and if we need to use free cash we don't use as much because we're putting free cash into reserves. Are the reserves where they should be? I wouldn't say to put \$739 as free cash.

Mr. Gennette: That's what it comes down to. The problem using free cash is you have to do it again next year. You still have to create the system that's going to pay for \$739,000 next year because it's a one-time fix. We took cash we had available and fixed it. We didn't fix the problem we just pushed it off to next year.

Mr. Silva: We're assuming the situation is going to be the same next year.

Mr. Gennette: We have no idea what's happening at the federal level and what it's going to do to the state and what the state is going to hand to us next year. We're planning for the worst and hoping for the best. If things turn around, that's great, but if we don't plan for things that are coming our way now we're doing ourselves a disservice and to the taxpayer. We've got to get it under control now. Throwing money at our problem is not going to work anymore. The taxpayers can't cover it.

Mr. Alves: I agree with most of what Mr. Gennette said on the free cash. What I wanted to go back to going back to the bigger departments and dividing the number by 4 and cut from those departments. A better way to do it is to figure out what our delta is after these changes and spread it over those departments. Leave the autonomy with those department heads. Ideally they're focused on general expenses and not people and that's how we get there.

Mr. Strange: So, we're looking at vacant positions, the \$22,000 you identified and whatever is left between the \$739 and that new number, look at the percentage of the total budget for each department and say you have to cut by this much.

Mr. Alves: Let's say that number comes down to half a million, what percentage of that is the total budget over all departments so it's equitable.

Mr. Rosenblum: So, the Treasurer's office isn't taking the same dollar hit as everyone.



Mr. Silva: That's what we had in Wilbraham.

Mr. Gennette: That's the way it should be. You're limiting your spending. You're not going to the community and you're in line going into next year.

Mr. Rosenblum: However, we didn't see coming into budget season that we were going to get whacked. Looking forward worst case, we look at we could be 2025-12% next year. There's communities paying 20-22% but we negotiated the average. Can we negotiate again? It could be 12 again so we have to prepare ourselves now for that. We're tight now but once this budget season ends the next budget season starts 2 months later. We have to start looking at insurance ahead of time the moment this budget closes.

Mr. Gennette: Maybe it's all roses and butterflies and we're just doing this to be protective but at least we've gotten ahead of the game and put the town in the best possible position we can.

Mr. Kelliher: I would suggest we start with the open positions and see where that gets us. Let's look at insurance on those 2 buildings. Then we look at using a little bit of free cash so we don't hit all the departments really hard. We're kind of late in the budget season. To suddenly go back to schools and say cut \$40,000. At this late stage that's going to be challenging.

Mr. Gennette: That's part of the reason we need to figure out what are the open positions and anything else we can find because I don't think I'm done with the DPW yet. If we do get it down to about \$500 that lessens the blow to all the other departments. We have to figure out what that number is.

Mr. Strange: Does the board want to consider meeting again to make sure there is enough time? On the 15<sup>th</sup> it has to be settled. I can't be here Tuesday but you can meet without me. I can send you the information and you can talk about it. Will it be a joint meeting?

Mr. Gennette: I don't think we need to do that.

Mr. Kelliher: We're going to have to get buy in from a majority of 9 not 4 so I think it would be better for us to have our own meeting.

## CORRESPONDENCE

51. Letter from the Planning Board about a noise complaint at the Fish & Game Club.

Mr. Silva: The letter stated they just forwarded to the Building Inspector so we'll wait to hear the developments on that.

**Motion made by Mr. Gennette to file. Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 3-0.**

52. Letter from Hubbard Memorial Library requesting permission to use the lawn adjacent to the library for the following events: Saturday April 19<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. for the Annual Eggstravaganza; every Tuesday 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. for Sing with me reschool program beginning end of March through end of September; June 17<sup>th</sup> 12:00 – 4:00 p.m. for Summer Reading kick-off party (rain date Friday June 20<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.); June 12<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. for Fever concert (rain date June 24<sup>th</sup>); June 26<sup>th</sup> 7:30 – 10:45 p.m. for outdoor movie on the lawn Princess Bride w/ live sword fight demonstration before; July 24<sup>th</sup> 8:00 – 10:15 p.m. for outdoor movie Babe with petting zoo or live pig before; August 19<sup>th</sup> 7:30 – 9:45 p.m. for outdoor movie Finding Nemo; August 28<sup>th</sup> 4:30 – 8:00 p.m. with the Spoon Man; September 18<sup>th</sup> 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. for outdoor movie The Sandlot.

Mr. Gennette: Have you vetted these dates? The live sword fighting?

Mr. Strange: I don't think there's anything else on those days.

Mr. Gennette: This is not a lot different than what they had last year. I'm kind of worried about the liability with the live sword fighting.

**Motion made by Mr. Gennette** to approve the request for Hubbard Memorial Library to use the lawn adjacent to the library for the events listed. **Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

53. Charter Communications – Required Annual Notification.

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

54. Lt. Governor Kimberly Driscoll – Office of the Governor – Congratulating the Town of Ludlow for completing the third Community Compact Best Practices grant.

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

55. MASS DOT – Underwater Bridge Inspection for East Street over the Chicopee River – September 13, 2024.

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

56. MASS DOT – Bridge Inspection for Piney Lane/Broad Brook – November 1, 2024.

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

57. Chief Valadas – Request to charge of medical expenses & lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for injuries sustained by a Lieutenant as a result of an incident that occurred on March 11, 2025.

**Motion made by Mr. Alves** to approve the request to charge of medical expenses & lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for injuries sustained by a Lieutenant as a result of an incident that occurred on March 11, 2025. **Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

58. Chief Pease – Request to charge off medical expenses & lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for injuries sustained by (2) Firefighter/Paramedics as a result of an incident that occurred on March 19, 2025.

**Motion made by Mr. Alves** to approve the request to charge off medical expenses & lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for injuries sustained by (2) Firefighter/Paramedics as a result of an incident that occurred on March 19, 2025. **Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

59. Chief Pease – Request to charge off medical expenses & lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for injuries sustained by a Firefighter/Paramedic as a result of an incident that occurred on March 25, 2025.

**Motion made by Mr. Alves** to approve the request to charge off medical expenses & lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for injuries sustained by a Firefighter/Paramedic as a result of an incident that occurred on March 25, 2025. **Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

60. School Committee Reorganization.

Mr. Gennette: At the school meeting on March 25, 2025, the School Committee reorganized in the following manner. Jeffrey Laing, Chairman, Sarah Bowler, Vice Chair, Amanda Coddington, Secretary, Jeffrey Stratton, Member and Christopher Manfredi, Member.

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

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Board to discuss and possibly approve Project Manager description. (tabled)

Mr. Silva: Should we approve the description and keep tabling before we decide if we're going to hire?

Mr. Strange: You should probably vote on the description and the funding piece is separate from that.

**Motion made by Mr. Gennette** to approve the position description for a project manager as presented. **Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

## NEW BUSINESS

Board to approve and sign minutes from meeting of March 4, 2025.

**Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum** to approve and sign the minutes from the meeting of March 4, 2025, with all members present. **Mr. Gennette second. Motion passed 3-0-1.**

Board to discuss and possibly vote to approve Community Center facility usage for Pathways for Parents, Chicopee Galaxy Warriors and IFA.

Mr. Silva: I don't see a problem if Josue at the Community Center is ok with it.

**Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum** to approve Community Center facility usage for Pathways for Parents, Chicopee Galaxy Warriors and IFA. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

Board to discuss and possibly vote on proposed FY26 capital improvement recommendations.

Mr. Gennette: We just went over these and I had made a request to say what was not approved. I don't know if you guys like that or not. To see what didn't make it. I thought it was transparency.

Mr. Silva: It is but I think it raises questions.

Mr. Gennette: We've done a lot of things to become more transparent. We're on LCTV. If you don't like that we don't have to put it in the recommendation. We're only a recommending committee.

Mr. Alves: I think it's great.

Mr. Rosenblum: I think it is good. Maybe instead of saying fiscal year 27 put fiscal year 27 consideration. It looks like you're saying you're going to be good next time.

Mr. Gennette: We've deferred it to 27 for review again.

Mr. Alves: Before I make a motion, I know you gentlemen probably discussed this. One that I would like to see included is for the pool floor repair at the community center. Mr. Gennette, you and I have been on this committee together. I think the committee did a great job spreading the requests out throughout the community. I think what we're missing here is an investment in a tangible amenity that's used on a day-to-day basis. I think a pool floor repair is short money, \$38,500. I spoke with Mr. Strange prior to the meeting and it would still leave us well within the recommendation of free cash available. I would appreciate consideration.

Mr. Gennette: We are the approving committee to send it forward so if we decide to overturn that and put it on, we can.

Mr. Alves: When you look at the postponements, you already explained the school classroom upgrades and some of these departments are getting some of their requests. If I am going to delineate the community center, locker room renovations could be not necessarily a necessity, but a pool is something that is getting use every day. A few of you have mentioned today the condition of our parks and that's essentially an indoor park. I think it would be smart and a wise investment. A lot of times we move things a year out and another priority steps in or that number doubles or triples. That's not a knock on the committee.

Mr. Gennette: If you would like to move the pool floor repair forward, I don't think that would hinder anything. If that's what the board wants to do.

Mr. Silva: Have we decided the pool is in real need?

Mr. Gennette: We usually do the legwork to find out if it needs repair and that's part of the reason it's delayed. We didn't think it needed to be repaired this year. It will need to be repaired.

Mr. Alves: I don't want to run into a situation like the track & field. What was the common refrain there? We don't maintain anything.

Mr. Gennette: That's true. What's the cost today vs the cost tomorrow?

Mr. Rosenblum: I don't have a problem with that. I'd also like to make one more point. I just asked our Town Administrator. We have departments come to us and we never see recreation come before us for bleachers or playscape. We had a grant for \$500,000 and we lost it. In the future we need to think about those going into capital with that also.

Mr. Gennette: I agree with you in regards to recreation. Marc has made it known to all those departments to put those requests in. I have told them over and over in meetings.

Mr. Rosenblum: I would say we ask Debbie or Sean what do you need within our parks and at least give us a list of something and if they don't want to come before us maybe it's something Capital Improvement can still look at. We did talk about buying bleachers and I think we said no to it.

Mr. Silva: It's important to have these things. The tennis match between Minechoag and Ludlow this past week, the Minechoag coach looked at it and said there was no way they were playing on that so he moved it to Minechoag.

Mr. Rosenblum: That's another large capital plan. That almost turns into the master plan for Vets Park.

Mr. Gennette: We combined the long-term capital planning and capital planning into the same meeting. We've done this with several departments now. Tell us everything you need and we will strategize and come up with a plan for all of this.

Mr. Rosenblum: I'm on open space and about 1-2 years ago we made a master plan and prioritized funding.

Mr. Gennette: I'd love to be able to take a look at it. We're not here to shoot things down.

Mr. Rosenblum: If 40R is only capital there's nothing stopping us from using 40R. We tried once with the grant and we're really not getting there and we need to keep pushing forward.

Mr. Gennette: We're talking about shutting down Haviland Pond. What is the cost to keep that open?

Mr. Silva: \$64,000.

Mr. Gennette: Why can't we take that out of capital?

Mr. Rosenblum: That's to pay for lifeguards.

**Motion made by Mr. Alves** to include \$38,500 for the Community Center pool floor repair within our total capital improvement request. **Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

Mr. Silva: As much as I want this and I think we should, I like to have committees that do the work for us and if the committee decided not to do this, I'd like them to have some input. There's 4 members that voted and looked at this and rejected it, to override them I hate overriding committees because they put a lot of work into this.

Mr. Gennette: The CIPC appreciates you saying that. We do a lot of work to try to get this down but it would not hurt their feelings if the Board of Selectmen went over.

**Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum** to approve FY26 capital improvements with the addition of the pool floor repair that has already been voted on for a grand total of \$1,524,864. **Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

Board to discuss and possibly vote on FY26 reclassification requests.

Mr. Strange: The Board of Selectmen and 2 police admin assistants are part of an MOA.

Mr. Rosenblum: This is included in the \$739,000.

Mr. Alves: Some of these go up quite a bit. Are these multiple steps or is this the impact of going one step?

Mr. Strange: I'd have to look. I don't think they're all necessarily one step. The assistant assessor is a reclassification from the M2 to M4 scale. The DPW senior clerk maxes out at 5 or 6. The assistant assessor hasn't had a raise in 20 years.

Mr. Alves: Veterans assistant part time to full time, is that increase of costs included benefits?

Mr. Strange: No, the benefits are separate but they're in the grand total of the budget already.

Mr. Gennette: What's your recommendation?

Mr. Alves: I'd like a little background.

Mr. Strange: I can't really speak to the DPW senior clerk or library. The assistant assessor maxed out at his level. Plus, this year we changed CAMA database systems and it's a move expansive system so his job has changed a little bit. That wasn't his choice. With those 2 things combined we wanted to bring his salary up to date. The vets clerk was a request from the Veteran's Service Officer because that's the only employee and they don't always have coverage. Eric is really involved in state and federal veterans so he's oftentimes gone so they have to have volunteers step up.

Mr. Gennette: In these adjustments, what's the value of the contractual?

Mr. Rosenblum: \$17,500. What's your thought on tabling this until we get the numbers back on open positions?

Mr. Gennette: Will Carrie be here? See if she's available.

Mr. Strange: She might already have the information and just has to put it together.

Mr. Silva: If members need more information we can hold it.

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

Board to review and discuss Town Meeting & Special Town Meeting warrants.

Mr. Strange: We'll start with the special town meeting 2 articles. Article 1 is the annual unpaid bills. It was low at \$3,000. Article 2 is with the difficulties in finding a treasurer/collector we've had to employ a consultant. The consultant has been fantastic. When you have somebody that is that high performing they come with a cost. That personnel expense line item is going to be overspent. We took worst case scenario in terms of budget between April 12 and the end of the fiscal year and it came out to \$91,000. We rounded up so the motion will be up to \$100,000. Going through the annual town meeting, article 1 is the town officer reports, article 2 is town committee reports, article 3 is the budget. In the motion we'll lay out the budget in more detail. Article 4 is revolving funds and there's no change there from last year. Article 5 is the increase in the public safety HVAC bond authorization. Article 6 is the annual appropriation for the Commission on

Disability not to exceed \$4,900. Article 7 will terminate the landfill enterprise fund which we don't use anymore because it's wrapped into the DPW budget.

Mr. Gennette: Back on article 4, \$25,000 for CPR training and the dog park, are we actively using that money?

Mr. Strange: Yes. I'd have to check to see what the outlay was for this fiscal year; it was new last year. It's not really an appropriation, it's sort of an allowance, a revolving fund can't go more than that. The CPR training is funded. They just did a training. There was a gentleman who participated in the training and was so impressed with the trainer Erin that he sent a memo and wanted to commend her on it. There's no harm in having it that high.

Mr. Gennette: Where are these funds coming out of?

Mr. Strange: People will pay for the CPR training. It's not taxpayer money. Article 8 is the annual Chapter 90 allocation this year is over a million dollars, which is the most it's been since I've been here. Article 9 is the authorization to enter into a MASS DOT contract. Articles 10 & 11 are the capital improvement articles. Article 12 is the FinCom reserve fund for \$100,000. Article 13 is the building infrastructure fund for \$100,000. Article 14 is the stabilization fund for \$300,000, which is our minimum. Article 15 would create a stabilization fund for the high school turf replacement and also appropriate \$100,000 into the funds.

Mr. Gennette: On some of these articles you don't have the funds that are normally known.

Mr. Alves: It's right there.

Mr. Strange: It will be in the motion. Article 16, this is the first year that the maintenance agreement funding is kicking in for the radio communications system. \$81,000. It came in a little bit late so we decided to use free cash. We could put that into the operating budget at some point in the future but for fiscal 26 we're proposing to use free cash. Article 17 we're going to be getting rid of because it's not necessary. Article 18 is the feasibility study for Westover Golf to replace the irrigation system and that would come out of retained earnings.

Mr. Rosenblum: Is this to replace the entire irrigation system?

Mr. Strange: I believe so. They're phasing it. Right now, they use the pond to do the irrigation.

Mr. Rosenblum: This is to do irrigation lines throughout?

Mr. Strange: I believe so.

Mr. Rosenblum: I just finished one and it was 5 million dollars. Their retained earnings will never touch doing an irrigation system.

Mr. Strange: I think they talked about bonding it and paying the bond payment out of retained earnings.

Mr. Gennette: What if they don't get the earnings?

Mr. Rosenblum: It's so weather dependent. I'd be interested to see what dollar amount they're looking to do and how much.

Mr. Gennette: This seems like something that should have gone through capital.

Mr. Strange: I was under the impression engineering services don't qualify as capital and it's not in the bylaw but if you look at our financial policies, engineering services for eventual capital projects does qualify as a capital expenditure.

Mr. Rosenblum: You're probably going to have a design fee in this too.

Mr. Alves: It says phase 2. If they didn't proceed with phase 2 does that render phase 1 irrelevant?

Mr. Strange: I'm not sure what phase 1 was. Without doing that project it would probably stall it.

Mr. Gennette: That's part of the reason it should go to capital. All of this could have gotten vetted out.

Mr. Rosenblum: We've been talking about the pump and pumphouse for about 4 years now.

Mr. Strange: Article 19 is the first HEROE's act. It would allow the application of a COLA to the veteran's exemption, which is now \$400/year. Article 20 would increase the exemption by 50% so instead of \$400 it is \$600 plus the COLA moving forward. Article 21 is \$35,000 from free cash matching funds to apply for a Mass Cultural Council grant to conduct a feasibility study for the Hubbard Memorial Library. Article 22 is the Prudent Investment Rule. This is something Brian Jamros from Bartholomew & Company proposed and talked about when he was here. This would allow the town to use some of the earnings from the cemetery fund to offset the cost of the operating budget for the cemetery. Article 23 is changing all references from Board of Selectmen to Select Board. Article 24 would change references from the Board of Public Works to Select Board. Article 25 is the last piece of the Riverside Drive acceptance. This would allow the town to own Riverside Drive in a fee interest. Article 26 we're still working on with the attorneys at WestMass. The ultimate goal is to accept Millside Drive as a public way. The importance of this is right now without it being a public way there's technically no frontage on Millside Drive and WestMass is working with a couple potential buyers on different parcels. The sooner we can get that accepted as a public way the better. More information coming on this because there is some documentation that the board has to review and allow before Town Meeting can vote on it. Article 27 is the home rule petition. We had a bid protest related to a project at the Fire Department but this is one of the options we can use to get the vendor paid. Because we didn't follow procurement laws properly the AG's office is precluding the town from paying the vendor that did the work. This is potentially a way around that. Article 28 is a zone change for 0 West Street. Article 29 is the accessory dwelling unit bylaw. The state mandated that accessory dwelling units have to be allowed by right in all residential zones. They did allow towns to reasonably regulate how they are built and administered. You don't have to close this until the 15<sup>th</sup>. If anything comes up, let me know. We will certainly make changes. We have to take out that one article and expound on a couple.

Board to discuss options for purchasing property on East Street for public parking.

Mr. Rosenblum: We had a letter come in that wasn't from the landowner. I think the landowner did say within a year or 2 they would be open.

Mr. Silva: He's not interested right now. That's tough to take by eminent domain especially if his livelihood is there. If it's taken by eminent domain we have to pay for that livelihood for years.

Mr. Strange: If the Board wants to move forward this is an important part of developing East Street. Putting out an RFP for lots or properties that might be willing to sell. We could do an RFP and make it contingent upon funding just to get an idea of what's out there.

Mr. Rosenblum: If we were to be able to procure that piece of land it would be a home run for that area.

Mr. Strange: It's within our DIF so we could use that money to purchase it.

Mr. Alves: The eminent domain piece is a suggestion from the unnamed party.

Mr. Silva: So, we'll just table it for now.

Mr. Strange: We can put together an RFP.

Board to discuss and possibly vote on a volunteer job description for an Energy Coordinator.

Mr. Gennette: The state is interested in being zero carbon by 2050 and they have a new initiative where they're giving grant money for energy commissioner positions right now but I think there's going to be grant money coming down for different projects and since we have MMWEC in our backyard I thought it was beneficial to us if we had somebody in the position to at least say we've

got an energy coordinator. We don't have money to pay anybody so this is a volunteer position. There's a bunch of towns getting together around us and there's going to be 1 for the county. This is going to be in addition to. I will be volunteering for this position. This is a draft of the paid position. I had a few issues with it but as a volunteer it's a bit heavy. I'm good with it. If it becomes a real position later on we can review it then. I'm already doing this job.

**Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum** to approve the volunteer job description for an Energy Coordinator. **Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

**Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum** to appoint James Gennette as the Energy Coordinator. **Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 3-0-1.**

Mr. Gennette: I'd love there to be an Energy Commissioner's page on the website for information. There's some things coming down and I want to make sure the community has access to them.

Board to review and assign updated Committee Liaison list.

Mr. Rosenblum: I'm fine with them. I believe in the past the Chair was with the police and vice was fire.

Mr. Strange: We gave Anthony all of Derek's as a starting point.

Mr. Silva: I'll take police, fire to Bill.

Mr. Gennette: I'll take DPW.

Mr. Rosenblum: I'll stay with Board of Health. Do you want to give Anthony Town Accountant?

Mr. Strange: Can you guys email me what you took?

Mr. Silva: Chairman to approve and sign all bills, warrants and abatements. A record of all warrants is in the Selectmen's office for perusal until provided to the Town Accountant's office.

## **CLOSING COMMENTS**

Mr. Gennette: I got a little hot under the collar earlier when we were talking about the budget and I want to let anybody listening know that I value our workers in town and it may not sound like I'm trying to keep you in positions but it's going to be difficult. The way I'm looking at it is I can keep you in play today and not give you a raise and keep you in play tomorrow. If I give you a raise today I can't keep you in play tomorrow. We have to be able to plan strategy going forward. We have to be able to draw down our expenses intelligently. At the end of the day, I'm a steward of the residents and taxpayers and that's what I'm trying to defend. I'm trying to get the town back under control. If I get a little hot under the collar or if anybody thinks I'm targeting them I'm trying to make sure everybody is doing everything they can to tighten their belts because we don't know what's happening in the future.

Mr. Rosenblum: Billy Kubinski, who is the golf contractor at Westover Golf Course is being honored as the 2025 honoree of the Rally Jacobs Western Mass Tee Party, which is the official kick off to the Western Mass golf season and honors a local golf personality who has been instrumental to the game of golf. That's on May 1<sup>st</sup> with a meal to follow at Westover and a presentation. For restaurant week I had 3 of the businesses reach out to me. Two said it was great. They saw a lot more traffic and new faces. In talking with Mike Rodrigues at Vanished Valley he said that he saw a 30% increase and the place was packed Monday – Friday. Primavera was also packed. This comes through the Get Lost in Ludlow campaign. We had grants that totaled \$244,000 and included in that was a grant for exactly what we did with Get Lost in Ludlow. It's a marketing campaign. This grant paid for Get Lost in Ludlow, which means there was no taxpayer money. The grant is also going to include outside recreation. It's going to create business traffic in town, which means more tax revenue coming in. We're hoping to do this again next year. We just had an election and I congratulate Mr. Alves on his win. I've discussed with Marc and some department heads the communication, if people have questions, ask. You can direct it to the Select Board office or reach out to us and ask before we see comments that just aren't true. This is where

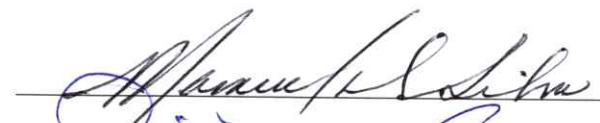


we need to go. For the last 4-5 years everyone is abrasive and we've gone down hill with being a community. I look forward to another 3 years. We're hitting the ground running.

Mr. Alves: I echo a lot of what Mr. Rosenblum said about restaurant week. I made it to 3 which is impressive for having an 11-month-old. I did talk to one of the owners and he found the positive in the traffic that came in the middle of the week. I saw the correspondence this week to congratulate Lt. Kornacki on his upcoming retirement. On a sadder note, the passing of Father Vitor. He was my priest for all my life. He was an asset and did a lot for the community and he'll be missed. May he rest in peace.

Mr. Silva: Congratulations to Mr. Alves for being our new member. One of our members is ill and he's going to be out for some time. We'll have 4 members for the time being. I want you to pray for him. Tony got a lot of messages and emails so hold off for a little bit. You can talk to any one of us or call the office and I wish him well.

**Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum to adjourn at 8:07 p.m. Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

  
Chairperson  
