

Meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on April 3, 2018 beginning at 6:00 pm at the Hubbard Memorial Library, Center Street, Ludlow, MA.

Members present: Manuel Silva, Chairman; Derek DeBarge; Carmina Fernandes; William Rooney; Brian Mannix

First order of business: Pledge of Allegiance.

The Board was given a tour of the Library at 5:45 pm by the staff.

Mr. Rooney expressed his support and condolences to the family of Nate Carreira on his unexpected passing. His grandmother Beverly Tokarz worked for the Town of Ludlow for over 30 years and many of those years for the Board of Selectmen.

The Board voted to reorganize as follows: Manuel Silva, Chairman; Derek DeBarge, Vice Chairman; with Carmina Fernandes, Brian Mannix, and William Rooney as members.

Visitations

The Board met with Chris Davis, Chairman of the Library Trustees; Michelle Gosciminski; Bob Mishol, Trustee; and Pat McGowan, Library Director regarding the Library Strategic Plan.

Ms. Davis stated that the Board is actually helping to accomplish one of the strategic planning goals which is to increase public awareness of the Library what they have to offer. The Trustees initiated the Strategic Planning process in 2016 after ongoing discussions about our lack of space. She stated that one of the requirements for building monies from the State and for grants is to have a strategic plan in place and that they have not had a strategic plan for at least 20 years. They hired a consultant to lead them through the process. They surveyed Library patrons and townspeople, held focus groups and conducted interviews. The results were encouraging, there was a lot of positive feedback and suggestions how to improve. She stated that one their issue is staffing, they are below surrounding communities. More staff would increase their nightly hours. They also fall short in municipal funding compared to surrounding communities. She also stated that there is a severe lack of parking for patrons.

Mr. Rooney stated that he is a member of the Strategic Planning Committee and that the Library is a very active place and it is a gem for the Town of Ludlow. He asked Ms. Villano about the status of adding a municipal parking lot next to the Library. Ms. Villano stated that there was a design prepared by the previous Town Engineer but there hasn't been any funding available to move forward. This topic will be added to the agenda for the next quarterly meeting with the Board of Public Works.

The other Board members expressed their support of the Library and all the programs, materials, and technology that is available for patrons and will review their Strategic Plan.

Mr. McGowan stated that there are several funding sources for the Library including the Town's contributions, State Library Aid, legacy gifts to the Library, and memorial funds for the Library.

Correspondence

78. Anna Lucey, Director Government Affairs, Charter Communications – informing the Board of channel lineup changes

Moved by Mrs. Fernandes, seconded by Mr. Rooney, to file. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

79. Kim Batista, Town Clerk – informing the Board/Committees that they must reorganize after the Town Election

Moved by Mr. Rooney, seconded by Mrs. Fernandes, to file. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

80. Laurie Smith, St. John the Baptist School FSA – request to hang banners at the Mass Pike entrance and at Putts Bridge for the 2018 Warrior Obstacle Race being held on May 19th at Movement Terrain

Moved by Mr. Rooney, seconded by Mr. DeBarge, to approve the request made by Chris and Laurie Smith for the 2018 Warrior Obstacle Race. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

81. Barry Croke, Senior Arborist - Eversource Energy Western Massachusetts 2018 Yearly Operational Plan Submittal

Moved by Mrs. Fernandes, seconded by Mr. Mannix, to file. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

82. Jonathan Gulliver, Highway Administrator – MassDOT Highway Division's edition of the 2015 Top Crash Locations Report

Moved by Mr. Rooney, seconded by Mrs. Fernandes, to file. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

83. Kim Collins, Town Accountant – informing the Board of the Overlay Reserve balances as of March 19, 2018

Moved by Mr. DeBarge, seconded by Mrs. Fernandes, to file. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

84. Pioneer Valley Financial Group application for One Day Beer & Wine permit for an Open House to be held on May 17, 2018

Moved by Mr. Rooney, seconded by Mr. DeBarge, to approve the One Day Beer & Wine permit for Pioneer Financial Group for May 17, 2018. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

85. Karyn Polito, Lieutenant Governor – congratulating the Town of Ludlow on having completed the best practice chosen as part of the Community Compact program and congratulations for being selected for a future compact program.

Moved by Mr. Rooney, seconded by Mrs. Fernandes, to file. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

86. Commonwealth of Massachusetts Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission Advisory - Regarding Cannabis in Alcoholic Beverages. The Commission has issued the Advisory to inform the industry on the use of cannabis in alcoholic beverages in the Commonwealth

Moved by Mrs. Fernandes, seconded by Mr. Mannix, to file. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

87. Joe Alves, Assistant Assessor – informing the Board that the Board of Assessors have voted to release overlay surplus funds in the amount of \$50,000

Moved by Mrs. Fernandes, seconded by Mr. Rooney, to file. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

88. Board Reorganizations – Board of Assessors, Board of Health, School Committee, Board of Public Works

Moved by Mr. DeBarge, seconded by Mr. Mannix, to file. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

89. Postponed

90. Sean McBride, Chairman, Westover Municipal Golf Commission - requesting the Board advertise for a vacancy on the Westover Municipal Golf Commission

Moved by Mr. DeBarge, seconded by Mr. Rooney, to advertise the vacancy for the Westover Municipal Golf Commission. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

Visitations (Continued)

The Board met with Attorney Thomas Merrigan regarding Opioid Litigation.

Attorney Merrigan thanked the Board and stated he is very pleased to speak with the Board. He stated that they are participating with several national law firms who are bringing claims and suits against the manufacturers and distributors of opioids to collect damages on behalf of

individual municipalities as a result of this industry created epidemic. The defendants are the distributors and manufacturers. He stated that there are different buckets of economic damages that each municipality stands to collect. One is related to current expenditures that may exist and damage recovery mitigation. He spoke about how the manufacturers and distributors are distributing these drugs. He explained the process of how the claims and suits would be handled and what it would mean for municipalities. He stated it doesn't cost the Town any money. The fee is a contingent fee. If any monies are received from the suit they would belong to the Town of Ludlow, not the Commonwealth.

The Board members expressed their opinions and support of this litigation.

Moved by Mr. Rooney, seconded by Mr. Mannix, that we charge our Town Counsel, which is Doherty Wallace, to be in contact with the law firm of Sweeney Merrigan relative to the Massachusetts Opioid Consortium Lawsuit and to have them come back to us with a recommendation and a plan of action should we take a vote at a, once we get their recommendation, with a plan of action of how to proceed with this lawsuit. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

The Board met with Steve Hicks to discuss his interest in an open position on the Conservation Commission.

Mr. Silva: Steve, thank you so much for coming forward, it's not often that we get young people to step up, so thank you. First we'd like to hear why you're interested in, I know that I read your letter and so on and so forth and just tell us a little something more about yourself for the camera.

Mr. Hicks: So I've been interested in environmental science from a very young age, ever since I can remember I've been outside playing in the dirt and as I grow older and I start to see things change around me, not for the better but for the worse for the most part, that's something that drives my passion and makes me want to make a difference. I'm an avid fisherman, I fish all over the community here, I see pollution and trash everywhere and, you know, I absolutely can see that it's affecting the waterways and everything like that and I'd like to have a voice in that matter, I'd like to be able to do something about that.

Mr. Silva: Thank you. Any questions from the Board?

Mr. Rooney: Certainly no questions but I wanted to thank you for coming in and as Ms. Tierney can attest, it's not always the easiest Board to be on, you have to make tough decisions and so I certainly commend you for coming forward, thank you.

Mr. Hicks: Thank you.

Mr. DeBarge: Same here, thanks for coming forward, again it's nice to see young faces come up here and go for jobs like, or volunteer, I'm sorry, for jobs like this, thank you again.

Mr. Silva: You said it right the first time, it's a job. At this time, we'll take a motion.

Angela Tierney stated she would like to speak. I'd like to endorse our newest member and he is going to be a member. Steve took it upon himself to come to Conservation Meetings and sit in and we invited him to look at a set of plans and he dazzled us with his knowledge and expertise of what was on the plan, he's gonna be a wonderful asset to the Commission and he's part of our next generation of our Conservation Commission and the Board is a hundred percent behind Steve and I'm here to say the vote should be yes.

Mr. DeBarge: Wow, dazzled

Ms. Tierney: We were dazzled, we were actually dazzled, he came right in and he was very comfortable asking questions of the presenters and had no hesitation to point out something on the maps that he didn't think was exactly right and spoke his peace and really was an asset to the Board that evening because it was another voice coming out with some expert knowledge and we didn't have to wait for a consultant to come in and review plans and it was really good to have him so we're looking forward to keeping him on the Board for a long time.

Mrs. Fernandes: Wow that means they want you to work hard.

Mr. Hicks: That's okay.

Mr. Silva: I was about to vote against you but after that.

Laughter

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Moved by Mr. Rooney, seconded by Mr. DeBarge, to appoint Steven Hicks as the newest member of the Conservation Commission. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

Unfinished Business

Board to approve and sign the Executive Session minutes of February 20, 2018.

Moved by Mr. Rooney, seconded by Mrs. Fernandes, to approve the Executive session minutes of February 20, 2018 with all members present. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

Board to approve and sign ten copies of the May 14, 2018 Annual Town Meeting Warrant and the Special Town Meeting Warrant.

Moved by Mr. Rooney, seconded by Mr. Mannix, that the Board approve and sign ten copies of the May 14, 2018 Annual Town Meeting Warrant and ten copies of the May 14, 2018 Special Town Meeting Warrant. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

Board to review the MassWorks contract. This contract coincides with an EDA Grant that the Town with West Mass has applied for for the construction and completion of Riverside Drive.

The Board reviewed the MassWorks contract.

Moved by Mrs. Fernandes, seconded by Mr. Mannix, that we authorize Ellie to sign the contract between the Town and the State for the MassWorks grant. Vote 4-0 in favor with Mr. Rooney abstaining.

Board to sign the One Day Beer & Wine permit for Pioneer Valley Financial Group, if approved.

The Board signed the One Day Beer & Wine permit for Pioneer Valley Financial Group.

New Business

For the Boards Information: Invitation on behalf of the Radio Advisory Committee to meet with ACD Telecom, the Town's consulting engineering firm who will present their completed needs-phase study of the Towns Radio System and its infrastructure.

Presentation Date: April 10, 2018

Time: 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Location: Public Safety Complex/Ludlow PD Classroom

Board to discuss the need for a meeting to be held next week to discuss the Fiscal Year 2019 budget.

The Board agreed to have a meeting on April 10, 2018.

Board to approve and sign Seasonal Liquor License Renewals

Moved by Mr. Rooney, seconded by Mr. Mannix, to approve and sign the Seasonal Liquor License renewals. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

Board to designate the Town Administrator to approve department payrolls and account payables.

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Moved by Mr. Mannix, seconded by Mrs. Fernandes, to appoint the Town Administrator to approve department payrolls and account payables. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

Board to designate a member of the Board to approve and sign all warrants and abatements.

Moved by Mr. Mannix, seconded by Mrs. Fernandes, that Mr. Silva, the Chairman, be the designated member of the Board to approve and sign all warrants and abatements. Vote 5-0 all in favor.

Closing Comments

Mr. Rooney thanked his colleagues for putting up with him for the past year. He also thanked Ellie and the Selectmen's office staff for all their help. He offered his thoughts, prayers, and condolences to the Carreira and Tokarz families on the sudden passing of Nathan.

Mr. DeBarge offered his condolences to the Carreira family. He stated he is in awe of how the kids in the 8th to 12th grade handled the passing of their school mate.

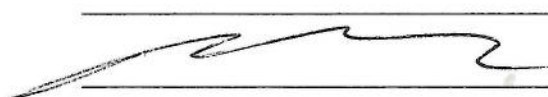
Mrs. Fernandes offered his condolences to the Carreira and Tokarz families. She thanked Mr. Rooney for a great job as Chairman. She thanked the voters that came out to vote.

Mr. Mannix stated that he has three words for the Town of Ludlow: Pray for us.

Mr. Silva offered his sympathies to the Carreira and Tokarz families. He thanked those that did vote.

Moved by Mr. Mannix, seconded by Mr. DeBarge, to adjourn at 9:08 pm.

 Chairman



Ludlow Board of Selectmen

All related documents can be viewed at the Board of Selectmen's Office during regular business hours.

