

Meeting of the Board of Selectmen, held on June 5, 2018 beginning at 6:00 pm at the Town Hall

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

First Order of Business: Pledge of Allegiance.

Visitations

6:00 p.m. DPW Quarterly Meeting

BPW Members present: Steve Frederick, Director, DPW, Thomas Haluch, Barry Linton, Alex Simao

Library parking lot – 13 Park Place

Mrs. Ellie Villano, Town Administer, responded to Mr. Frederick's questioning of how Park Place was to be incorporated into expanding parking space for the library's use. Currently the Town holds the title to the property, not the library. The parking space currently used by the library patrons is a municipal parking lot. No immediate or long-range plan is in the works. Options for hard pack, paving and drainage were discussed. Mr. Frederick brought up more details about accessibility requirements to municipal buildings, such as handicap parking and correct access. Mr. Rooney brought up the necessity of increased parking availability, often needed when library programs are offered and Mr. DeBarge suggested that the Boards at least get an estimated price for hard pack, even for temporary solution/fix, providing more time to be better able to decide on which permanent plan would best suit.

BPW actions

Mr. Rooney addressed the behavior of the DPW at the last two quarterly meetings and diplomatically asked for correction. Mr. DeBarge, liaison to the DPW, agreed with Mr. Rooney's assessment and request for correction, citing known public response.

Street sweeping

Mr. Frederick summarized the scheduling of landscape work, mowing grass, trimming trees, the repair work of the street sweeper rather than purchase of new one, the possibility of four new positions. Mr. Frederick also brought up the problems on Howard Street, the debris remaining on the street, the parked cars causing safety difficulties for residents to exit street even though signs are posted restricting the parking. Mr. Mannix suggested Board send a letter to the Safety Committee to request they check on the situation and possibly resolve this issue since circumstances may have changed safety conditions and possibility of illegal parking.

Dog Park

Mrs. Villano addressed the scheduling of the dog park, construction is starting on Monday, June 11 and will take a couple of weeks to complete. There are donations from several construction companies in the area. No irrigation is to be done although there will be a well requiring piping for the hand pumps. Signs will be posted clearly saying the water is for animals only, not human consumption. There will also be signs stating the rules and regulations for the dog park. Water for human consumption would be cost prohibitive for a lot of that size.

Claims/filed and follow-up

There have been several claims, some not being correctly filed upon and one being Park Place. The insurance company has informed Mrs. Villano that the forms still had not been received yet. There have been several claims filed by residents that have been paid, basically for lack of response. The insurance company was a bit frustrated and said if there was a claim they were going to pay off regardless or not it was warranted to be paid off simply because they did not receive any paperwork to see if the paperwork required to investigate was necessary or not. It is frustrating and needs to be followed up on; I don't know if you can designate someone? Mr. Haluch responded to Mrs. Villano that someone has been designated but there was a little bit of an edge that was being worked out.

Mr. DeBarge: This correspondence is pretty rough. I see it addressed to one specific person and the correspondence has been repeatedly mentioned to this one specific person who said he would get it over

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to you. I have to ask you, Steve, if you are asking Mrs. Villano if she would explain some of it to you; did you know about this stuff?

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Mr. Frederick: get the money from my desk connected in terms of the responsibility of that, as this has to do with the tree and the Board of Public Works is kind of in de facto as the tree warden, so it gets into a little sticky situation where the Board did not used to file those and whether they should be doing that or not, it gets even stickier with this particular house and situation of past issues which have gone on with the occupants of the house and it gets a little messy. I don't want to talk about it.

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Mr. DeBarge: I understand that but now what I'm alluding to is miscommunication.

Mr. Frederick: Yeah, just a little breakdown there, Derek. I said I would take care of it and I had to do a little bit of research. Mr. Linton helped me out because he had some past history. I was able to poke around and to go back through some years of what work was done, maybe five or six years. The current tree staff are not the ones who originally worked on that, so I had to go interview those people who worked on that tree. They have been trying to get that beautiful oak tree cut down for the last six or seven years. Park Place is the area and it's a situation of sewers that are very old, cross country sewer lines enjoined with water into the open joints. These particular trees are so big and are adjacent to the driveway, it's starting to uproot the driveway a little. We have sewer manholes that are in this gentleman's driveway that we need to get out and we need access that can turn confrontational when trying to get sewer and then police get involved and it gets into a real messy, messy situation. We try to stay out of litigation

Mr. DeBarge: Mrs. Villano, is there a monetary value to this? To which she responded, she had not received it yet but that the insurance company was going to forward some paperwork, but with the deductible on the onset. Mr. DeBarge went on to say that the insurance company has exhausted all attempts to contact to get their stuff done; so, this is an issue of communication.

Mr. Frederick: Documentation came across his desk, after which he then spoke with Mrs. Villano stating he would step in and handle this whole thing to get it up and out of the way.

Center Street project

Mr. Frederick: A couple of weeks ago, he telephoned MassDOT and knowing the site engineer quite well, spoke with him asking, 'John, what's going on? What have you got for me?' He replied that the Mr. Frederick was next on the list. MassDOT re-evaluates all their projects they have upcoming and sends the list into Boston. We are next on the list in terms of Notice to Proceed for the project. That does not mean that a shovel is going into the ground next week; it just means that the paperwork and the contracts are being signed and sent over to the contractor. It gives them the go-ahead to start their workup and one of their workup steps is creating the schedule of the whole project and getting a pre-construction conference set up with MassDOT. We will get invited to that also, and then we start to see what the proposed schedule is. The start is not going to happen within the next couple of weeks, but as soon as Mr. Frederick hears anything on pre-construction, he will communicate that to give everyone a stepping stone as to what is occurring such as the Notice to Proceed. We will get invited to the pre-construction, go to the pre-construction, and then you start hearing submittals.

They have identified the resident engineers for the project and the area supervisor, all known to Mr. Frederick, are well versed in this type of work. The traffic side of this work is very intrusive. Currently, milling is being done on Center Street from Holyoke Street to Cady Street to the Chicopee town line.

Board agreed that one of the main lines to MassPike, if you are heading west to Springfield, Westfield or Connecticut, we will be well ahead of that. We are doing the milling this week; we should be into a shim course next week and structure adjustment and final paving by the end of June so we should be all squared with that. We are looking at trying to do some time adjustments I would say that the intersection of Holyoke and West is probably not the best in terms of the signal configuration of what we can do but with the equipment we have, without spending a lot of money for a new controller, there are limitations on the equipment that is in there. It's kind of a little bit of old school. You can add so many things to it but you may be able to do some tweaking on the timing. I will have to see how the traffic flow is going through there and make those adjustments.

He also talked with Chicopee, because they did a redundant water line and they closed on Burnet Road, trying to find out when they are going to be doing their part of it. They did not have a date yet but they'll let me know when that's ...

Mr. Rooney: 'As it relates to the Center Street project,

Mr. Haluch: I think I mentioned it at a previous quarterly meeting

Mr. Rooney: Is there a plan in place for residents, and as part of that, should there be any kind of outreach plan for Belchertown? In my mind there is no question, part of that congestion is from Granby and Belchertown. I am just wondering if there should be some reach out to them to let them know when this is going to be; maybe the folks can look for alternate routes and maybe make it more permanent, whatever those routes are, but certainly during the course of that construction.

Mr. Frederick: My friends at MassDOT act in a vacuum; they really don't do that well a job and that's why we need to step in. Mrs. Villano showed me how to use our notification system, that's one part of it. Another step with it is you have kind of a large business community there. At some point, I've done these in the past, is offer a little public information, invite the businesses along that corridor to keep them in the loop. The project is somewhat a fluid thing; you may think they may be working on one section one day, and then something happens and they skip a whole thing. That's going to happen. Maybe it would be worthwhile not only utilizing, this is impacting the businesses locally but more of a regional impact. I can reach out to Granby DPW and Steve over in Belchertown.

Mr. Rooney: Perhaps the other thing is when you are talking about maybe reaching out to the businesses, and I do not want to speak for Mrs. Fernandes, that might be something to try to reach out to the Ludlow Rotary, because a number of their members are businesses, many of them are right along that Center Street corridor, and they may be helpful too. It may be helpful to let them know what the time frame so they are aware of that and can make the contingency plans that they need to, but also to notification of businesses.

Mr. Frederick: We have all these different outlets: the first 911 system, a good local newspaper, as part of it, a website to put something on, the local cable channel. Usually, Mr. Rooney, you'll hear the businesses get a little bit ticked off as the project goes on.

Mr. Rooney: That's right, and I think that some of that is natural, but as with anything else, and I'll just speak of the businesses, if I know what's going to be happening, when it's going to be happening, how long it's going to be happening for, I may not like it, but at least I can make some plans. The alternative is I find this out on my own or I don't find it out. It just seems like that much longer the project drags on.

Mr. Frederick: Once we get that pre-construction and some ideas of what is happening, that's when we can start. Otherwise, if we did it too early, we are not going to have answers to any questions. We got to have some of those answers, and like I said, I think it is a function of utilizing all those difference outlets Ludlow has to offer. You're not going to get everyone. And the MassDOT will be tucked somewhere in a vacant building without a phone and those businesses will be turning to Mr. Frederic or Mrs. Villano to have questions answered. You're going to have businesses saying they need a tax break because they have lost business, no one is buying.

Mr. Haluch: I was speaking with Mike Goncalves who said the project was kind of underbudget. I don't know if it would be worth looking at by getting a good portion of the work done if segments of the work were done at night because most of those businesses are closed at nine o'clock at night and you could get a lot of work done nine to five in the morning and get a lot accomplished without a lot of interference with the normal flow of traffic. You might have to pay a little stipend to the contractor for the night work but the State might compensate for that since we are so underbudget with it compared to the numbers around. I don't know if that's something you might want to entertain but I think it might solve a lot of problems.

Mr. Rooney: It's a great idea, but who entertains it? Us, or you?

Mr. Frederic: This contract is pretty much between MassDOT and the contractor. The only time we would get involved is if there was a problem, something with the design, something that has changed.

Mr. Haluch: But at least it is something we could go to MassDOT with and see if they would entertain that. With those excess monies, it would solve a lot of headaches and might be a little bit more expensive but it might turn a six-month job into a three-month job and not be as great an inconvenience. He said he would entertain that if there was some additional compensation.

Mrs. Fernandes: There could be savings also if the job time was shortened? Right? To which Mr. Haluch replied that it could be a possibility.

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Mr. Mannix: If you could take West Street northbound after coming westbound on Holyoke Street it's during the busy times, that a careful, safe driver, literally, can never make a left-hand turn. The light stays green coming southbound; and, when it turns green for both ways, if you don't cut across in front of someone, the light continues to stay red. The other side stays green. You cannot put an arrow in there.

Mr. Frederick: It is a lag system and I think we are going to put in a lead system.

Mr. Mannix: The locals just cross against the light when traffic is light.

Mr. Frederic: DPW is definitely going to look into the traffic light problem. Then in response to Mr. DeBarge questioning went into problems that could probably appear and estimated a possible two-year project completion.

Cemetery – Center Street

Mr. Frederick: He and Jim Goodeau are beginning the topography survey. Proposed ideas have been offered at other meetings. The lower portion of the cemetery offers just under 2700 burial sites that we are proposing. It's a function of us trying to do it internally. Jim and I are chipping away at it as we have the time. We have an intern that I have been having help get the topography done. Once we get that done, then I can start on the design side and start coming up with some design ideas. We're not going to be putting any ball fields on the upper section, just going to be on the lower section so we just need to decide in terms of how the access would look like, how the front is going to look like, what kind of fencing, some additional parking at the reservoir, a little section over there, so then it gets into those details of perimeter fence and front fence, what kind of tree plantings. I talked to John Chase that I was over at Island Pond and needed to get some input from him in terms of how people drive around. We had some issues at Island Pond driving over places where they shouldn't be. Tried to get input from people while staying out of it.

Mr. Mannix: Island Pond, Monday, right after your brush man woke me up, I got a phone call. There's a small section where people are telling me that the grass on family plots are dead. You just come in, the cemetery looks beautiful, but then there are a few sections of four or five plots where there are just weeds. Mr. Mannix meant to view problem plot before coming to quarterly meeting but forgot. He asked if DPW ever reseeded. DPW assured him that they did especially if there was a burial in the winter.

Mr. Rooney: He asked how many burial sites were still available at the Island Pond Cemetery; response, about 150 left. Counting the Center Street cemetery, in terms of time, how long does it give us before; two to three years was the response.

Cemeteries – stones failing/fallen

Mr. Santos had spoken with an attorney – DPW's rights to go in and touch other people's property, whether DPW can do that, whether some kind of notification, what how far we go to find who owns that stone that piece of property and can we fix it I was talking with Mr. DeBarge about this. There are some that are unsound, e.g. a leaning large stone.

Mrs. Villano: I have contacted Town Council who needs to do some research but it appears to be a very sticky situation. No one is quite sure what they do. What has DPW done in the past?

Mr. Frederick: We had a contractor, I don't know if they were way up in Vermont or something, who gave us an estimate. It was even hard to find someone to even touch these stones. We did find somebody, an architectural restoration company that does this type of work, but they were not cheap. The money would have to come from the Town to pay this expense.

Mr. DeBarge: This began with his being questioned about the veterans' stones that are sinking into the ground. I talked to Mr. Frederick who had a fantastic idea that if they posed any type of a threat because of the erosion over the years to any passersby then those are the ones we want focus on with whatever our Town Council says. Going further, he had no doubt that the architectural restoration company was expensive. As far as the veteran stones go, there is money for that and the perpetual care account is what it is there for. He would definitely echo Mr. Frederick's opinion in any of the stones. There are some that are very high up; some that he had seen being in all the cemeteries in town that appeared a bit unstable. It is those he would pay attention to.

Mr. Mannix: I would just say that we wait for the Town Council's opinion. In Virginia where the stones look 'not very nice' and are unstable, the families place wooden framework around them to make them

safe or if the family wants to come in and buy a new stone. If the Town Council says we are legally responsible for the stones, we are going to have to find a way to do it. If the Town Council says we are not, then we do have some obligation, but to what degree? The family also has some obligation also, if it's a safety factor we do have to do something so no one will get hurt.

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Mr. Rooney: "I'm a little confused. Are we talking about a stone that a family has purchased and has privately put up? I don't understand why this would be our financial responsibility. Even if we could legally fix them, why should we? These are a private stone. We had no role in putting them up and if we did, you might be able to make a case of we didn't put it up correctly. However, the Town of Ludlow had no involvement in putting up the stone, buying the stone ... "

Mr. Frederick: "We pour a foundation for the veterans' markers and we pour a foundation for the headstones. How far back we go doing that, I do not know. Some of the old ones, they just stuck them in the ground with no foundation."

Mr. Haluch: "Cemeteries run into disrepair, nothing lasts forever. You go around the First Church and some historically parts of the community which a lot of people don't care about anymore but I think there's a moral obligation to take care of the cemetery and show some respect in a manner where we can be proud of how it looks. I don't think we can let things fall down and say it's someone else's fault. Then you cannot mow around them. We got to figure out something better."

Mr. Rooney: "I certainly agree with what Mr. Mannix is saying. I think we need to get an opinion from our Town Council as to what we can do, what we should be doing, should we be reaching out to the families, they know, you would think they knew, that your loved one's stone is fallen over. It seems like we should be exhausting that remedy before looking forward to spending money for something that does not appear to be our fault."

Mr. Albano, a Ludlow resident: "I own two plots there. Could somebody please tell me what I am paying Perpetual Care for? Where is my money going? I hope it's not to buy more property. I'm paying to maintain where I am going to be, and hopefully it not just to cut grass. Where is my money going?"

Mr. Frederick: Perpetual Care is for maintaining the cemetery, buying trees, tree maintenance." To which Mr. Albano responded by asking what exactly Perpetual Care means.

Mr. Linton: "It means we can only spend the interest on it, about a million dollars or so in the account, for help, for equipment, for mower repair and gasoline, for pavement."

Mr. Albano: "Doesn't fixing things go towards maintenance other than just buying equipment?"

Mr. Linton: Yes, we put the fence up and that came out of Perpetual Care.

Mr. Albano: You laid the cement and if my stone fell over, shouldn't you fix that?

Mr. Silva: That's what we are trying to answer now. The problem is that it's not that we do not want to fix it but it's that we don't know if we can even fix it because you own it. We just can't go onto someone's property and fix something that's not really ours; we need to know that we can actually do that. That's what the issue is, this fine line.

Mrs. Fernandes: Mr. Chairman, this is a perfect example of why sometimes people out in the community say, 'Why don't you simply do this?' It is not a black or white. If we go touch somebody's stone, they are going to have a law suit against us potentially because we went and touched their property. Then we have others, like yourself, who say, 'Hey, I'm' paying taxes for this Perpetual Care; why isn't it being fixed?' But we get law suits and that's what I think they're trying to answer. Can we go and touch it because somebody else opposed to what you are saying is going to be upset that we touched this thing.

Mr. Albano: It was \$500 for the plot, \$250 for the ground, and another \$250 for Perpetual Care. Where did that \$250 go?

Mr. Linton: It went into the account we cannot touch; we use the interest off it. The first \$250 you mentioned, we can use to buy land. We have two separate accounts. We are looking at that new cemetery and we have to seriously start looking into going up on the cost of each plot. We have to start looking at all the towns around because we have to put roads up there. We have to start looking and see what St. Stanislaus gets.

Mr. DeBarge: To answer your question, the money you paid, the \$250 for the land and the \$250 for Perpetual Care, that \$250 for Perpetual Care stays in that account and the interest in that account is used for maintenance. But the first \$250, that's all gone; it was for land.

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Mrs. Fernandes: I think his question was what is maintenance? Is it just for cutting grass or is it for maintaining stones?

Mr. DeBarge: Anything for the entire cemetery. We're talking about if your stone does blow over, do we have the right to pick it up. That's what we're talking about.

Mrs. Fernandes: If someone gets hurt, who's responsible?

Mr. DeBarge: If it falls on someone, that's the other concern. The ones that are ready to fall, should we be fixing them?

Mrs. Fernandes: I just wanted to be sure. I think you can put it into the contract when someone buys a plot saying that if it ever gets to a point that we determine that it needs to be repaired, we are able to at least.

Mr. Frederick: We will let the Town Attorney tell us that.

Mr. Albano: Where did the money come from to buy that new land? The account for Perpetual Care that we could not touch?

Mr. Mannix: The money for land went into the account for purchasing the land and the money for Perpetual Care went into the Perpetual Care account which takes care of the entire cemetery, which may mean the fences, the workers, the pavement, the upkeep of the area, like taking care of your house.

Moore/Poole Gravelin property – guard rail

Mr. Frederick informed Mr. Silva there were a couple of items going on. The resident presented the erosion problem to the DPW. Both Mr. Frederick and Mr. Batiste both inspected the spot, and got some input from the Board, we are going to put some granite curbing there. The erosion is quite evident. The road is quite narrow, yet cannot be widened once you get out of the intersection. No possibility for a berm, so opting for a vertical granite curb to try to keep the water that is shedding along there, that is eroding the property and directing it toward a drainage system on Poole Street allowing the vertical granite curb be the initial barrier. We are going to stay away from the guard rail right now. If it gets to be a thing of do the guard rail, we will do it next; but the first step, doing the vertical granite curb is scheduled this month. Relayed to Mr. Gravelin? I don't know if I talked to him directly but he and I talked about the both the granite and the guard rail at one time. He wanted the full everything. He has some rocks there as kind of a deterrent; there's also a tree over there, so we think that the granite curb should be the final step for that so we won't have to put the guard rail up.

Mr. DeBarge: I went to his property as well and spoke to both owners there. I was a little disappointed in the guard rail, Steve, I was hoping that there'd be one there. They've put up with quite a bit. He's a busy man and has done a lot of landscaping. They spent a lot of their own money on that hill. Everybody in town knows that turn, you come down Poole Street and turn onto Moore. Everyone takes that left turn too fast and ends on going, there's a tree there, but ends up taking that turn too fast and ends up on going onto that soft shoulder and pushes that shoulder down, has been doing that for years. A guard rail would stop them from doing it. I'm sure it's a money thing.

Mr. Frederick: Maybe the next step, no doubt about that. But the guard rail would not solve the erosion problem.

Mr. DeBarge: I'm not saying that. Well, it would stop the cars from going that far on the shoulder, that's for sure.

Mr. Frederick: There's a degradation of the pavement there, because of the shoulder, the people dropping off the vehicle, running water getting there, water's not moving, cars keep pounding on it, the road kind of falls apart, so short of removing everything and doing all that pavement, it's just going to happen again because people are going to keep dropping the wheel. We got to try to stop the rutting that's going on there and that's why the curbing is the first step. It may get to the guard rail point too.

Mr. DeBarge: I think that's important too, peace of mind, with all the work they have done on their own. It's a very nice property. He and his wife have done a lot of landscaping, I think she's out there on her own quite a bit. I trust your judgment but we'll see how it goes.

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Job classification changes and Union notifications

Mr. Frederick: I think this one rolls around the budget that we're trying to manage, Mr. Silva, as well as the Board of Public Works, wanted to look into how we were operating the transfer station and how it's being staffed. Other communities have part-time employees doing that and the Board wanted to look into the option of doing that. With that, comes a little hostile bit with the Union. I've had discussions with our attorney giving me some advice on how to move forward with the Union. I have a letter going out to the Union to give them some notification of what we are thinking of doing and seeing what kind of input or pushback is going to happen from that. That is now being operated by Union employees, but based on our budget situation and the overtime we have to utilize, the Board felt that if we had part-time employees, because it is a part-time transfer station operating from Wednesday through Saturday, using part-time employees made sense fiscally to try and work within the budget parameters. It's a process in motion and will probably take a little bit of time.

Mr. Linton: Steve doesn't realize this, but going back to the time the landfill closed, we inherited those employees to the transfer station; they were part-timers over there. Then they became Union employees over here. You want us to cut our budget \$38,000 to keep the transfer station open on Saturdays on overtime. Wilbraham does it with part-time employees and they pay \$11.10 an hour. At some point, it has got to be a give and take. They became Union positions. I don't know if you remember John, when they were over there at the landfill, and then they came over here. It's not like we inherited them, they became Union positions but they weren't Union positions forever.

Mr. Rooney: Are you looking to make classification changes?

Mr. Frederick: Are you talking within the Union? Right now the Board is thinking about making the positions non-Union part-time employees, no health insurance.

Mr. Rooney: But all classification changes have to be approved by this Board, correct?

Mr. Linton: Yeah, we're looking at hiring part-time help; not hire the PW-1 that used to do it, just hire two part-timers whether it's classification or how we hire part-time help, if we need your permission, we need your permission.

Mr. Frederick: The first step was finding out what the budget was going to be and what my parameters were, how to fit inside the box. Now that I know what the box is and how the Board felt, we're going through the motions, through the steps, and if one of them is coming to the Board of Selectmen for permission. I think that going through the Union is one of the greater hurdles and then we will go on through those various steps. It may get to the point, and that's where I'm looking at the budget, that if this does fall through, I may not be able to hire all those open positions we're talking about, but may have to hire and continue working with the Union people there, refunding some of the overtime that happens over there that may change a little bit of the dynamic of the structure that I'm working under.

Mr. Rooney: Whatever the steps are that you have to take, just know that one of them is you got to have those classification approved by the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Mannix: No matter how you do it, know there will be Union grievances over it one way or another, but if you cannot do it the way you are speaking of, the only possibility is hiring people to work Tuesdays through Saturdays. It might be easier hiring new people to do that.

Mr. Chairman, can we go back. The guard rail at the Putts bridge, a car ran into it about three years ago and it still looks terrible. There's a ten-foot drop right after.

Mr. Frederick: The Board has already spoken to me about this and a few different options. I am going to move forward. need to do a Chapter 90 project because it is about a \$27,000 project to fix that fence because it's aluminum, specially made; they do not make it any more; it's a custom fabrication. We do not have it in our budget. There's no insurance, it was a hit and run incident. I talked to the State; the bridge is owned by the State, the fence being part of the wing wall.

Mr. Silva: Would it be possible to widen the road because countless times, the trucks which are making a left turn go over the sidewalk.

Trash update

They put together all these statistics for 2017; Costs have gone up on the purple bags and on the fees at the transfer station to try and cover some of the disposal. Trash is under budget in terms of the DPW, which is short in the budget in terms of collection side of it, the tipping fees, the cost of the tonnage and all that also affects part of our transfer station costs. What Barry is talking about we're not trying to make money at the transfer station, just limit the cost of things, and, hopefully, try to break even. The Board is doing that by increasing some of our fees and not going too crazy but still make it viable and attractive for the community to drop it off responsibly, whether it's oil or fluorescent tubes, propane tanks, etc.

What I tried to do after we met for a special meeting that the Board of Selectmen had where one of the topics was 'Trash.' I had been given questions, some of which were related to what other communities were doing, we started talking about fees and whether it should be a tax burden or whether it should be a separate fee. I think, Mr. Rooney, you even asked what are the fees from the other communities. What I did was to query like communities about the same service size as Ludlow as well as the same type of service, with curbside or drop off capability, not all communities have the same type of service.

Spreadsheets, there is a lot more information that is available but I stuck with the main topics, were chosen from 46 communities similar to size and types of service. Out of the 46 communities, 29 communities are funded by the property tax and there are 19 communities funded by an annual fee and three communities are funded by a combination of both. The annual fee is spread all over the place but \$174 is the average annual fee. One of the other things to look at on the other graph I sent out is that Ludlow's solid waste tonnage is increasing and our single stream is on a down turn a little bit. You can see what other communities are doing in terms of their tonnage, on the recycling side. I also talked about recycling carts and trash carts, 18 of the 46 have trash carts, 27 have recycling carts and 18 out of the 46 communities have both recycling and trash carts. The larger spreadsheet has further information about the size of those carts and lots more information about the transfer station.

Mrs. Fernandes: They have trash carts versus bags only?

Mr. Frederick: I'm talking about a cart, rather than a bag or your own trash can, that goes to the automated system.

Mrs. Fernandes: Is it cheaper to do the trash carts that way or no?

Mr. Frederick: I talked to the waste management, I talked to the local representative also about that. Mr. Linton was here with me and there was some discussion whether we could go every other week on the trash or in the fall/winter time maybe pick it up every other week. I talked with waste management and he gave me some information on how they do their workup on their contracts. They get it so defined they are down to a tenth of a second of analyzing how their crews are doing in terms of how long it takes them to stop, how much time they are spending at each stop, how much trash they have to pick up. It is a very detailed analysis; all those companies are very competitive with each other trying to figure that out. He said that just because the trash is picked up every other week, it is not half the cost. The driver is there probably twice as long; he's picking up twice as much trash; the truck is filling up that much more; he has to go to the transfer station that much more often or they have to have more trucks. What the representative said was having a lay-off period in the middle of winter, what do I do with the trucks and the personnel if they are not working that part of the year. I still have that investment in the equipment and the man power. It's not a thing where you can say to halve it, that half your costs are going away. The only community he led me to was South Hadley. They still do everything on a two-week basis all year round; they have a trash fee also. Everything is "Pay for Throw" there. They purchase a bag and have to have everything in that bag. Please note that their tonnage is down quite a bit (less than half of Ludlow's), and talking with the Superintendent, he said that the residents have learned to "Reuse, Reduce, and Recycle." They really take it to heart, because they are paying for each one of those bags.

We not going to solve this situation but I think it's a discussion that we need to have actively between both Boards because it's not a pleasant one. No one wants to see a trash fee; no one wants to see their taxes go up, but the reality of it is our contracts are fixed. They are going up. The next year's budget is already \$30,000 in the hole and I haven't started Fiscal Year 2020 Budget and I'm already out \$30,000 in terms of trash contraction, for the tipping fees, based on our tonnage.

Mr. Silva: How much are the bags going to generate, with the increase?

Mr. Linton: It's about \$85,000 now, with the increase, the increase will probably put us up to \$115,000.

Mr. Mannix: What does South Hadley get for its bags? Someone was just telling me about those bags costing \$3.85, possibly more.

Mr. Frederick: Let me refresh everyone on the numbers that we're talking about in terms of what our costs are when we're talking about bags. Our budget for next year is about \$1,250,000 for 7,000 customers, so we're looking at \$180 per year or \$3.50 per household per week.

Mr. Silva: What about limiting the amount in their trash bucket?

Mr. Frederick: We have it now; we have a modified paper throw. Your first 35 gallons are part of the cost; any overage of that, you buy the bag.

Mr. Silva: They can certainly bring their other stuff to the transfer station.

Mr. Frederick: Yes, if it is trash, it has to be in a bag. You can bring your recyclables to the transfer station. Then we have a metal bin and we have those other services at the transfer station.

Mr. Linton: I think this system works pretty well. I think the fairest way we can do it is one barrel like we do. The seniors don't get hurt; they don't buy many, if any, purple bags, and we have to educate more on getting the recycling numbers up; basically, that is our only problem. We need to talk to waste management about what we call the coning where that white bag that is sticking out over the top of the 35, and get them to start enforcing that a little bit and that will get the people back into recycling or buying the purple bags.

Mr. Silva: I know people who don't recycle. They don't recycle their nickel cans and bottles and stuff like that. It's crazy.

Mr. Mannix: We have too many who don't buy the purple bags. You go down any street here on trash day, any time you want, and you are going to find white trash bags laying on the ground next to the barrel and they are going to pick up everything.

Mr. DeBarge: The last you guys were here we said the same thing, Mr. Haluch said it or Mr. Linton said it that pushing the recycling was paramount to saving money for this town, and what was the percentage for that first year? We talked about it the last time we were here. We did great. We got to do that again.

Mr. Haluch: 17% to 35%, but it's gone down again.

Mr. Frederick: You were 1800 tons when you started, and you are down to 1500 tons now.

Mr. DeBarge: We're getting lazy again, and we got to get un-lazy again and get better on recycling.

Mr. Linton: On the community station, we have to get some notices in the Register.

Mr. Haluch: We did the whole turnover and started a new program, it was working really well. The money we were getting for the recyclables has dropped probably 75% so that's been a big factor too.

Mr. Silva: We have gone up on two fees and we're going to start a program for recycling.

Mr. Simao: We are looking at other fees like tires; we're trying to reduce the fees to our costs.

Mr. Frederick: We are finding alternate ways. We were not taking tires, but people were sneaking them in, and when waste management would find them they would charge us. It could be upwards of \$25 to get rid of a tire. We found the tire vendor that we use and they will come and get them for free. If we get enough of them, they will get a truck and come pick them up. We're going to set them aside instead of putting them where they shouldn't go and getting charged by waste management.

Mr. Haluch: Recycling needs to be more visible. Education would be helpful with that.

Special Municipal Employees

Mr. Haluch: Will be discussed in-house.

Mr. Albano: Although there are two diamond-shaped signs indicating crosswalks, Mr. Albano requested that the two crosswalks on Center Street be painted, one near Haviland Pond, the other near the condominiums.

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2018 OCT -3 P 2:49
TOWN OF LUDLOW

Mrs. Fernandes: You guys did a great thing with the Haviland Pond fence. I went by the Whitney Park fence and it looks just terrible; can it be painted?

Mr. Silva: DPW can now adjourn from our meeting.

At 7:57 pm, Mr. Haluch made a motion to adjourn; Mr. Linton seconded the motion, for the DPW to adjourn from the meeting. Vote 4-0 in favor.

Correspondence

150. Celebrate Ludlow donations – Gung Ho, \$100.00; Leonard & Cynthia Charest, \$50.00; Granby Carpet & Vinyl Outlet, \$100.00; Complete Pest Control, \$25.00; MMWEC, \$1,000.00; Dunkin Donuts, \$1,000.00; Jack Gonsalves & Sons, \$250.00; Manganaro Home Builders, Inc., \$100.00; Noonan Energy, \$50.00; Baltazar Contractors, \$500.00; Ludlow Family Dentistry, \$300.00; TLS Landscaping, Inc., \$100.00; Country Bank, \$1,000.00; Randall Farm, Inc., \$250.00; Art in the Wood Studio, \$20.00; Ideal Insurance Agency, \$250.00; Ludlow Rotary Club, \$100.00.
Grand Total: \$6,070.00.

Mr. DeBarge made a motion, Mr. Rooney seconded the motion, to accept all the donations with a heart felt thank you to all of them. Vote 5-0 in favor. Mr. Mannix also requested that the donations and thanks be read on cable.

151. Department of Environmental Protection – Interstate 90 Eastbound M.M. 57.8 Release Notification and Notice of Responsibility.

Mr. Mannix made a motion, Mr. Rooney seconded the motion, to file it. Vote 4-0 in favor.

152. Mike Kelliher, Chairman, Ludlow School Committee – requesting the Board recommend the Long Range Planning Committee review the future use of 63 Chestnut Street, 54 Winsor Street and Veterans Park School as these buildings will no longer be needed once the new school is built.

Mr. Rooney didn't disagree with Mr. Kelliher's suggestion to have the Long Range Planning take a look at the three properties, rather add a little bit. Mr. Rooney was of the opinion that a task force be created specifically, not all encompassing, to look at the three locations and figure out what is the best plan by looking more closely at what our infrastructure needs; i.e., the buildings could be used as an annex or for storage.

Mr. Mannix made a motion, Mr. Rooney seconded the motion, to carry this over until the next meeting to give with each member on the Board to come up with definite thoughts and ideas of what kind makeup we would like the task force. Vote 5-0 in favor.

Mr. Silva suggested that a letter be sent to Mr. Kelliher informing him that a committee/task force will be charged to look into that.

Mr. Mannix made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Fernandes, to file. Vote 5-0 in favor.

153. The Commander of the 439th Airlift Wing Colonel Scott Durham – invitation to the Board to attend the Great New England Air and Space Show on July 14th and 15th at Westover Air Reserve Base.

Mr. DeBarge made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rooney, to file. Vote 5-0 in favor.

154. Chief Pease, Fire Department – informing the Board of a \$25.00 donation received in memory of Daniel Yelle from Robert and Susan Gove made to the Ambulance Grants and Gifts Account.

Mr. Mannix made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Fernandes, to accept the donation to the Ambulance Grants and Gifts Account, in the memory of Daniel Yelle and to send a letter of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Gove.

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

Mr. Mannix made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Fernandes, to file. Vote 5-0 in favor.

156. Pam Peebles, Executive Director, Thomas J. O'Connor – informing the Board that effective September 1, 2018, they will no longer accept any animal bodies for incinerations from cities/towns outside of their service contract.

Mr. Mannix made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Fernandes, to file. Vote 5-0 in favor.

157. Susan Kullbrerg – Bay State Gas Company d/b/a Columbia Gas of Massachusetts has filed a request for approval of a general increase in the gas distribution rates with the Department of Public Utilities.

Mr. Mannix made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Fernandes, to file. Vote 5-0 in favor.

158. Angela O'Connor, Chairman, Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities – informing the Board that the Transportation Network Company will be distributing funds to the Municipalities for the impact of transportation network; Ludlow's portion is \$774.80.

Mr. Mannix made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Fernandes, to accept monies. Vote 5-0 in favor.

159. Maura Healey, Attorney General, Ludlow – informing the Board that Article 6 of May 14, 2018 Annual Town Meeting has been approved.

Mr. Mannix made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Fernandes, to accept and to file. Vote 5-0 in favor.

160. Massachusetts Department of Revenue, Division of Local Services – The Bureau of Local Assessment has completed the 2018 proposed Equalized Valuation Program full and fair cash value of all taxable property for each municipality as of January 1, 2018.

Mrs. Fernandes made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rooney, to file. Vote 5-0 in favor.

Unfinished Business

Board to approve and sign the Executive Session minutes of May 8, 2018

Mr. DeBarge made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mannix, to accept the Executive Session minutes of May 8, 2018 with all persons present except for Mr. Rooney. Vote 4-0 in favor; 1 Abstention.

The second Westover Golf Commission Vacancy advertisement has passed, there are three interested candidates. Does the Board wish to set up interviews?

Mr. Mannix made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rooney to set up interviews for the three candidates for the next meeting or the meeting after, whichever is more convenient. Vote 5-0 in favor.

New Business

The Town in conjunction with the Hamden County Sheriff's Department will be testing the Blackboard Connect system sometime in late June.

Mrs. Villano wanted to give the Board a heads-up on an all call test on the Blackboard Connect system.

Board to peruse the Selectmen minutes of May 14, 2018 and March 6, 2018.

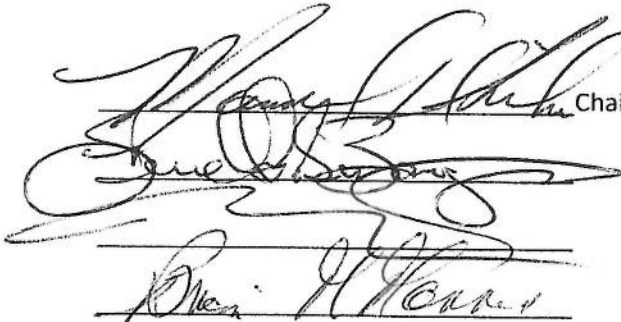
Comments

Mr. Rooney would like to commend everybody who participated in the Memorial Day Parade both as marchers and citizens who were watching. There is no question that the two highlights of the parade were Mr. DeBarge's sneakers and Mr. Silva's suit. I think they should be commended for their outfits; they looked sharp! I would like to thank Mr. Eric Segundo who always strives to outdo himself and he certainly deserves praise and more.

I would also like to thank the committee who puts on the Relay for Life; Mr. DeBarge and Mr. Silva were there. It is just a great event. I know Pat Gregoire was there, son and daughter, Pat and Ron Pru and members of the committee. The candle light procession was very moving.

I would like to offer my condolences to Kayla Escalente family for Kayla Escalente who was one of the victims of Page Boulevard

I would like to commend Sherriff Cocchi and his staff. I had the opportunity to attend last week grand opening over on Mill Street for what will be 25 or 28 Section 35 commitment beds.


Chairman

Ludlow Board of Selectmen

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