

Meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on September 4, 2018 beginning at 6:00pm in the Selectmen's Conference Room, Town Hall.

Members Present: Manuel Silva, Chairman, William Rooney, Derek DeBarge, Brian Mannix

Members Absent:

First Order of Business: Pledge of Allegiance

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Visitations:

The Board met with Patrice Squillante, MelansonHeath to go over Audit for Fiscal Year '17.

Mr. Silva asked for Ms. Squillante to point out some of the deficiencies that we should be looking at.

Ms. Squillante stated that the Management Letter is much better, fewer comments, less negative comments. In the past you have had material weaknesses or significant deficiencies, and you don't have any of those this year. She does want to point out one thing in the financial statements, you have deficits in the government wide financial statements and they are big deficits, which is not at all unusual for Massachusetts Municipalities. She wants the Board to see the numbers and they are also going to get a lot worse next year in FY18. In the financial statements, no one is making decisions about your tax rate or your bond rating things like that, no one is making decisions based on this statement, she wants to make sure the Board understands that, because there are some large negatives.

On page 11, the column is governmental activities which is basically everything in the town, revenue funds, capital projects everything except your Enterprise Funds and your OPEB Trust, is consolidated into this one column. If you start from the bottom of the page the total you see in that position is a negative (\$20,383,201) and the number right above that which is unrestricted net position which is a negative (\$61,509,725) net position is surplus, equity, retained earnings from a business standpoint that equates to the same terminology. The reason it is as large a negative is because of the unfunded liabilities that need to be recorded on these statements, primarily OPEB and net pension liability. OPEB (other post employee benefits) basically health insurance for retirees and net pension liability is your share of the Hampden County Unfunded liability. We are about 13% of their system, so we report 13% of their net unfunded.

There are some large numbers in the liability section, net pension liability is \$47,582,000 and then the net OPEB obligation is \$27,000,000. There are some other assets and liabilities that work with that, but essentially you have about a \$40,000,000 net pension liability and the \$27,000,000 OPEB. Those two things combined and the compensated absents, accrued sick and vacation time is another \$1,300,000 in there. Those are the three primary unfunded liabilities. When you put those on your balance sheet and you don't have the funding sources for those, that's what's driving the deficit. Not at all unusual. One thing that she wants the Board to understand is that one of the new GASB (Government Accounting Standards Board) standards you will see the effect of in FY '18. The OPEB liability that is here for \$27 million has been recorded incrementally in accordance with the way GASB said it used to need to be recorded. That will change in '18 so that the whole net OPEB obligation will be recorded. Which right now is about \$94 million. That \$27 million liability is going to jump to \$94 million next year. If your hitting the liabilities for \$60 million your deficit is going to go from (\$60,000,000) in the unrestricted to (\$120,000,000) so she just wants the Board to be aware of it because they are large numbers. You are not unique being in that situation. Not uncommon at all because you don't have the capacity to generate, there is good and bad with these statements. The intent was to try and make them comparable to a business. In a government you are on a pay as you go basis, you are paying the bills as they are coming to you and you do not as of yet have the capacity to put away significant amount of money to offset that liability. Your OPEB trust fund has \$185,000 in it against right now a \$27 million liability you cannot even calculate the fractions it's so small. She was wondering what David Eisenthal take was on the sufficiency of an OPEB trust fund. A few years ago, when OPEB came out, it must be on the books, they encourage all their clients to set up an OPEB trust fund because it shows an intent and an acknowledgement that you have this liability and your trying to put money away and something is better than nothing. Rate setting agencies are starting to look a little harder at the OPEB trust fund so putting some nominal amount in there was not going to be enough to have any effect for them. If you were really contributing towards it, it would be helpful. Because the numbers are so large she wanted to point that out.

Overall, for financial health FY'17 certainly looked fine, the stabilization fund stayed at about 5%, of the general fund budget that's very respectable, the undesignated fund balance, the starting point for the

free cash was about 2% of the budget, not great. The budgets are very tight. You are bringing in a very small amount over budget for revenue, that is not helping you replenish your surplus or anything, but it is also not taking away. You are remaining fairly constant. You have a \$63 million budget and you took in revenue \$130,000 more than budget. Expenses are the same way, you are not under spending by a whole lot, less than 1% so all budgets are tight. She was taking to Kim about the snow and ice deficit only because the town has raised a snow and ice deficit since FY 15 for a few hundred thousand dollars so when she looks at that number that you under spent your expenses by, you have this large snow and ice your over expended. You are still closing out on not spending the ½% maybe 1% over the last couple of years.

Moving to the management letter. There are no significant deficiencies currently and a lot fewer comments this year. The first two are isolated incidents that with the magic of an auditor we happen to pick on the bidding and that's what we do. We always pick the one that wasn't quite right. The first issue is how the information got from the bid documents that were supplied, it was for equipment rental, so it included several different types of equipment, so it had different hourly rates and a lot of information and the information was copied onto a summary sheet and in that copying some information was not copied correctly. It could have resulted in picking the bidder that really should not have been picked. That was not the case, you picked the correct bidder. It was a matter of having someone doublecheck. Based on the towns response to the comment that is a standard process, but again the one picked, that didn't happen. I think it was an isolated incident, and she doesn't expect for it to repeat.

The second issue was also isolated. It deals with the tax re-cap and how the information was put together and put on there. In FY '17, the result was that the indirect costs that get charged to the enterprise fund was \$206,000 in total, the way the tax re-cap comes together was not on there correctly, so it wasn't funded, that \$206,000. You vote the budget that includes the indirect cost but those weren't funded, so your budget is out of balance. That is what the comment is related to. It gets tricky with enterprise funds and indirect costs and how they go on there. How that all feeds together and what exact numbers you put where drives it and its balanced but its not doing what you intended it to do. I don't expect that to be repeated and I know in 2018 it was fine.

The third comment is a catch all bullet formatted thing, it is things we consider to be lesser issues, they don't deserve their own full comment. Last year we had a similar comment, there was probably six or seven bullets on there the prior year in '16. This year there is one from the prior year and all the other bullets were taken care of so that's great. In the current year, this has to do with matching the amounts withheld from employees for insurance to the bills that are being paid for insurance. To do things like make sure that the level of coverage, family or single that you are withholding at the rate are consistent, and you are only paying for people who are employed. The Treasurer began a spreadsheet to summarize that, it just doesn't have enough information to do what it should do. We talked to Elsa about that and she is modifying that, and it should be corrected. Second bullet is a format thing. One of the contracts that we tested for a federal grant didn't have a didn't have a suspension and department certificate which is a federal requirement. It was a school contract with a vendor they have amended their procedures and they now have standard certificates for all of their contracts so that will take care of that. Third bullet is, we do a lot of testing with vendor transactions so out of the 23 warrants we looked at the Board of Selectmen didn't sign one of them. All the comments are all about process, to catch things because things happen. Fourth bullet is about tax title and tax foreclosure, the receivable activity was not being posted as it was happening, but there was one entry at year end to reconcile to a detailed list and it needs to be posted as the activity is happening. The last bullet in the current year section is about an outside consultant to process and administer the detail of the towns tax title receivable accounts, which includes the Treasurer contacting the consultant when a tax title is paid to get the proper amount of accrued interest as of the point that is being paid because it accrues daily. They haven't found any errors, but they haven't done an extensive testing on it. But all the numbers look reasonable. The concern is the outside consulting company should be verified, the information should be verified.

Kim Collins stated that going forward they will not be using an outside consultant, they will be doing it in Munis.

Ms. Squillante stated that the same thing applies, they used to a bunch of testing on how the system was calculated, not just Munis but any system and there are different things that are affected, like the date it went into tax title and the interest rate. I have seen it where it has been entered wrong, the

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interest was calculated wrong, so I would still recommend whether it is the treasurer or whoever it is. Just periodically just check it. Just do the math and check it. The last bullet is about the escrow deposits which, primarily it's the DPW that collects. The DPWs list that they have of escrows doesn't agree to the general ledger of which agree to the Treasurer has a separate bank account for escrow money. It is a matter of communication, either money came in or it was released, and that communication didn't happen between those three departments. It is not insignificant money, so it should be addressed.

The last two comments they are repeats from prior year and comment number 4 is cited as a compliance finding because under federal guidelines they are modified around the end of 2014- 2015 and some of the requirements is that certain policies and procedures be in writing and the town didn't have that so therefore it is cited as a compliance finding. Based on the response and what I have seen I don't expect that to continue. This all relates to federal grants. Most of the money is coming through the school department and they have the policy, they developed the policy, so I don't anticipate that being repeated. The last one is a comment that we have in almost every client that we have had for years, it is a reminder to acknowledge that you have risks in all the departments and going through a process to assess what those risks are which Kim has started by looking at the departments. The idea of a comment is particularly for the Board of Selectmen who are the ones charged with governance for the town that includes from audit standards standpoint responsibility to assess risk of your operations. That is, it.

Mr. Silva stated that is sounds pretty good.

Mr. Rooney stated that it is nice to see that we are in a much different position than we were five, six, seven years ago. I want to commend Kim for all of work she has done. I just want to thank you.

The Board welcomes the Golden Cane Award Recipient and reads the following "Golden Cane Award, in 1909 the Boston Post distributed 431 Golden Headed Canes to New England's cities and towns. Each cane was to be held by the oldest resident of the community. Ludlow's original cane has been long lost the Board of Selectmen has re-established this award to honor our most senior citizen by placing their name engraved in a plaque which is displayed in the Selectmen's Conference Room. Therefore, we the Board of Selectmen and the Town of Ludlow bestow upon Maria Carlos the Golden Cane Award in recognition of long and well-lived life of 101 years".

The Board met with Laurie Smith, Co-Chair of Celebrate Ludlow filling in for Rebecca Paul to update the Board on Celebrate Ludlow.

Ms. Smith stated that we are in a good place going forward with the end of Celebrate Ludlow. We have money carried over for next year. At their meeting they discussed how they can make changes for next year to have people stay right on through from the fireworks rather than having the big influx of people at 8pm just for the fireworks. How to get them to come early and support all the organizations. Everything went smoothly, no major issues. Police and Fire were happy with the way things went. We had to move the fireworks where they are set off back a little bit because the fence was taken down in a section of the Fish and Game that was there prior years.

Mr. Rooney asks if the groups are interested in continuing?

Ms. Smith stated yes, they are.

Mr. DeBarge stated that they did talk about skipping a year, they brought up different scenarios but came down to the final decision of the weather played a part in the attendance this year. Last year the numbers were great. It was a 100% consensus that if the next two consecutive years were great weather and the numbers were dropping then we would consider skipping or doing a different system.

Mr. Rooney stated that if the non-profit groups want to continue if they feel for whatever reason not just all that they make in profit, but if they feel it is worth while coming year after year and volunteering their time then I guess it should continue.

Ms. Smith stated that the feel from everyone who is involved that everyone was happy with how the day worked out. Even though the profits were a little less than last year, but still a successful day. Everybody who is on the committee represents an organization so we all want it to be a success.

Mr. Silva stated that a few years back there were very few members left to volunteer.

Ms. Smith stated that pretty much everyone who was on the committee last year stayed on and had a few more join. Derek jumped in.

Mr. Rooney commends them for putting in the effort; it is a lot of work. Great job.

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The Board met with Chief Ryan Pease to discuss a Deputy Chief Vehicle.

Chief Pease stated that last January he met with Capital and Finance originally proposing \$20,000 out of the Ambulance Subscription Fund and \$20,000 out of the budget. After meeting with Capital and Finance I was hoping to go to the May STM with this but because of the impending school and senior center we decided to hold off on it until after that vote. Trying to lessen the impact on the tax rate I am coming to you today to propose that I take all \$40,000 out of the Ambulance Subscription Fund. Just to go over some finances first, right now we have \$209,887.00 in the Ambulance Subscription Fund of which roughly \$58,000 comes out a year to pay for our ambulance. The monies that we use out of it are to support the operation of our ambulance service. So right now we pay an ambulance payment, it's a four year payment it's a little over \$57,000 and roughly we have about \$600-900 taken out of it a year and that subscribers money that is used to go towards the balance when unfortunately we don't have an ambulance to provide a town resident who is a subscriber, we pick up the balance of that out of the subscription fund. So, there is not a lot of money coming out of that annually, average out to be about \$58,000 right now. The fund collects between \$85,000 and \$90,000 a year. It is about \$30,000 in excess after payments that are left in that fund.

Currently we have \$209,887.00. After the payment, obviously this year we will be down to \$151,000 once the subscription money comes in again, we will probably be up to around \$240,000 and it gains about \$30,000 a year. If we break down the expense of this vehicle over a 15-year period, we could say it is about \$2,666.00 over 15 years which we hope to get out of it. But if we go down to 10 years, it's a \$4,000.00 a year investment over that time, excluding any service or repairs that need to be done. I am proposing taking this out of the Ambulance Subscription Fund because our Deputy Fire Chief is our Emergency Medical Services Director, he is the Director of our Ambulance Service. In a non-emergency transportation world, he goes to several monthly meetings and weekly to Mercy Hospital. He is our Infection Control Officer that must respond if say somebody gets stuck with a needle and they need to be seen at Baystate or Mercy he is a liaison to that procedure. This is also a second command vehicle for EMS incidents, obviously we have one other one, which is my vehicle. This one would be set up like a command vehicle that could handle any large-scale responses. It would also be another vehicle that could respond to medicals. A lot of times its not just being the first responder with an ambulance but we would have to run personnel out and he could also do that.

I would say that these are some of the EMS functions of his job, secondly, he is the Deputy Fire Chief, he is the Emergency Management Director in my absence. He is also the Fire Chief in my absence. So, he would be able to respond directly to any fires that we had. As many of you know, we run short staffed. We show up at a fire, we have five guys that are going to work and one boss. So that is one supervisor left to run the whole scene and manage the firefighters on the scene, so the quicker somebody gets there that can assume the roles of Incident Command can free up the Captain and he can directly supervise his firefighters and make sure that everybody gets out safe. I think it could make a significant impact with minimal staff on any emergency scene, our Deputy is a very dedicated person he is probably the first one on scene from home all the time. Right now, he has been responding in his pickup truck. He will show up on a scene and the police will say, "who are you?" and he will have to explain who he is before he can get there. Not to mention he is driving his personal vehicle and leaving it on the side of a scene there is no lights, I would assume the town would assume some responsibility if his truck was damaged or if he was hurt coming and going from a call that he is required to come to in his personal vehicle. So, we could help alleviate that also. Just recently he responded from home, there was a call, responded directly to the scene and while he was on that scene we received several other medicals he had to return to the station again in his personal vehicle with the flow of traffic and retrieve an ambulance to respond to another call.

Lastly, there isn't a Deputy Chief in the area that I know of that doesn't have a vehicle. Wilbraham has a Chief and Deputy Chief's vehicle, East Longmeadow, Longmeadow, Ware, Agawam, Westfield, West Springfield, Amherst, Northampton. Belchertown has a Captain that sort of functions as the Deputy

they don't have a Captain on every shift, he has a vehicle. I think it is something we need to do. He does need his own vehicle.

Again, I propose that we take \$40,000 out of the Ambulance Subscription Fund and pay for that.

Mr. DeBarge stated that they have talked to Chief Pease at Capital about this and just to echo his sentiments about the timing of it. We suggested because of the school and senior center and the communication system that was coming up, that he simply waits for the October STM to do this. I know Deputy Chief Lavoie with the amount of percentage of time that he is doing his EMT duties as Deputy Chief and the time that he is in the fire station, those two times are going to be few and far between where he is going to be doing anything else. In other words, its either going to be the EMT job or its going to be supplementing what the fire chief is doing. There is no question that the responsibilities of his EMT responsibilities are great. Everyone at Capital supported it. We just asked him to wait. Mr. DeBarge supports the request.

Mr. Rooney stated that there is no impact to the taxpayers. It is coming out of the Ambulance Subscription Fund. If we are going to fully support the position of the Deputy Chief, it makes sense that we provide a vehicle for him as well.

Moved by Mr. Rooney, seconded by Mr. DeBarge to place on the Warrant for the STM in October an Article authorizing the purchase of a vehicle for the Deputy Fire Chief out of the Ambulance Subscription Fund. Vote 3-0 all in favor.

The Board met with Jim Marceau with Exit 7 to discuss a problem that they have had in their theater with the people coming to the shows and its very crowded at the entrance way. The entrance/lobby area gets very congested until the doors open to the Theater. He is proposing to do is to expand their waiting area into what is right now their office, the proposed waiting area would be equipped with benches and a tv where they could loop past production pictures, information on coming productions, things that people could sit and watch while waiting to get into the theater. On the attached draft you can see where the new box office is located in the far nook at the end, which would give them two entrances to the theater instead of one. They could put the will-call near where they come in. It would give them a much smoother traffic pattern. They would like to cut a new door from behind the new box office area into the sound booth. Which would provide the sound booth with more security. The building inspector has already ok'd it, he said there is no problem. The cost to the town would be zero. But because it is a town building we do have to come before you and have you look at it and get your permission for cut a door in through that wall to the back of the sound booth.

Mr. DeBarge asks if this would have an effect on any abutting building or anything like that?

Mr. Marceau stated that it is strictly inside the existing building. He would also like to address the sound booth issue. They would like to come in the sound booth from the back to give them a little more control over who goes in there.

Mr. Rooney asks if a permit is required?

Mr. Marceau stated that he doesn't believe a permit is required. Usually it is just permission from the Board to do work because it is a town building. He will confirm that with the building department. The building inspector already looked at it and said there is no problems there. He will double check to make sure.

Mrs. Villano asks you are only asking permission to cut a hole for a doorway in the wall?

Mr. Marceau stated yes. He also states that the recent productions have been sold out, and they are having a lot of people coming to the productions and they are trying to find a way to make it smoother for people entering the theater.

Moved by Mr. Rooney, seconded by Mr. DeBarge to grant authority to the Exit 7 theater to make some structural changes to the sound booth including the access door. Vote 3-0 all in favor.

Mr. Marceau also added that he is interested in the senior center space once they move out into their new building. Once it is vacated what a fantastic opportunity it would be for Exit 7 to expand and have a green room for people to wait between productions, a place for makeup where they could permanently store wigs and things. A place where people could come and eat before the show, a rehearsal area,

because right now they are paying the church across the street for rehearsal space when we have two productions going on at the same time. All these things would benefit the Theater.

Mr. Rooney stated that the town does not own that building, that one is owned by the state. You would have to go through the housing authority. But your support would go a long way.

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232. Governor Charles D. Baker notifying the Board that the Town of Ludlow has been awarded a Recycling Dividends Program grant of \$11,000 through the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program.

Moved by Mr. DeBarge, seconded by Mr. Rooney to file. Vote 3-0 all in favor.

233. Senator, Eric P. Lesser informing the Board that \$150,000 for the repair and replacement of bleachers in Whitney Park in the Town of Ludlow was placed in the S2591 bill.

Moved by Mr. DeBarge to file, seconded for discussion by Mr. Rooney. Vote 3-0 all in favor.

Mr. Rooney asks where are we with this? So, we are a recipient of the \$150,000?

Mrs. Villano stated that the budget has been passed that this funding is in this particular bill and that both the Senator and the Town just need to petition the Governor to release the funding.

Mr. Rooney stated does it makes sense for the Town Administrator to reach out to Senator Lesser's office and see what needs to be done to free up that money?

Mrs. Villano stated that yes, she can do that.

234. Chip Harrington – Letter of Interest to become a member of the Historical Commission.

Moved by Mr. Rooney, seconded by Mr. DeBarge to appoint Chip Harrington to the Historical Commission. Vote 3-0 all in favor.

235. Ann P. Lucey, Director Government Affairs, Charter informing the Board of changes to the channel lineup.

Moved by Mr. Rooney, seconded by Mr. DeBarge to file. Vote 3-0 all in favor.

236. Michael Knapik, Vice President, Baystate Health inviting the Board to Baystate Wing Hospital Emergency Department Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, Friday September 14, 2018 from 10-11:30am

Moved by Mr. DeBarge, seconded by Mr. Rooney to file. Vote 3-0 all in favor.

237. Brian Lynch, Project Coordinator, Massachusetts School Building Authority informing the Board of acknowledgement of receipt of the Design Development submission for the Chapin Street Elementary School Project.

Moved by Mr. DeBarge, seconded by Mr. Rooney to file. Vote 3-0 all in favor.

238. Deacon Thomas M. Rickson, St. John the Baptist School requesting a Special One Day Permit for the Club 50 Luncheon to be held on Sunday, October 7, 2018 from 11am – 3:30pm at St. John the Baptist Pastoral Center. Board to waive fee if approved.

Moved by Mr. Rooney, seconded by Mr. DeBarge to approve the Special One Day Permit for the Club 50 Luncheon to be held on October 7, 2018 from 11-3:30pm at the St. John the Baptist Pastoral Center, and to waive any fees. Vote 3-0 all in favor.

239. Board to approve and sign the Common Victualler License and Entertainment License for Flor Do Campo Inc /dba Tony & Penny's due to transfer of ownership.

Moved by Mr. DeBarge, seconded by Mr. Rooney to approve and sign the Common Victualler License and Entertainment License for Flor Do Campo Inc /dba Tony & Penny's due to transfer of ownership. Vote 3-0 all in favor.

240. Chief Paul Madera, Police Department requesting the Board to charge off medical expenses and lost wages to Chapter 41 Sec 111F for an injury sustained by an Officer on August 18, 2018.

Moved by Mr. DeBarge, seconded by Mr. Rooney to approve the request to charge off medical expenses and lost wages to Chapter 41 Sec 111F for an injury sustained by an Officer on August 18, 2018. Vote 3-0 all in favor.

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Unfinished Business:

Board to approve and sign the "Determination of Uniqueness" for the parcel of land for the new Senior Center.

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Mrs. Villano stated that that is the actual statement that was advertised in the Register.

Mr. Rooney stated that he thinks there is going to be motion relative to this Uniqueness, as you know it has come up a couple of times before, he has abstained from taking any action on any motion and given that at the last meeting and this meeting there are only three people, if he abstains as he did last time, it doesn't go through. He doesn't think it is fair to the process. This Board has already voted when the Senior Center building committee came in front of us two months ago to grant the Uniqueness process. If there is a motion brought forward he is going to vote in favor of it only because we must get this process going, normally if they're were enough Selectmen, he would be abstaining. He feels comfortable not abstaining because we have already taken action to determine that it is Uniqueness.

Moved by Mr. DeBarge, seconded by Mr. Rooney the Board of Selectmen and the Town of Ludlow has made the following determination of uniqueness of unique qualities and location pursuant to General Laws Chapter 30B, Section 16e(2) with respect to the property located at the corner of First Avenue and State Street, Ludlow, Massachusetts. This parcel consists of 4.3 acres of land which is pre-permitted and shovel ready. The Town proposes to purchase the property for \$435,000. The assessed value of this property is \$435,000. This parcel is within walking distance of four elderly housing facilities, is close to the Library, medical services, and shopping areas. It is on an existing public way, with access on two streets for ease of use and public safety. The Property is located on public transportation, the PVTa bus line, and all public utilities are available. The lot is flat and level with the frontage on an existing public way to permit maximum access for seniors with mobility issues. No other centralized land has the same features as the property at First Ave and State Street. The parties having a beneficial interest in this property are: Westmass Area Development Corporation. Vote 3-0 all in favor.

Ryan Churchill Letter of Interest for Safety Committee. Deadline for applicants has expired, how would the Board like to proceed?

Mr. Rooney stated that in terms of the application of Mr. Churchill, we already have just one officer, Sgt. Shameklis on the Safety Committee?

Mrs. Villano stated yes, and there is an alternate, Officer Smolinski. The Safety Committee has been out for a while and there hasn't been a lot of interest. Mr. Churchill is applying as a citizen.

Mr. Rooney asks to bring in Mr. Churchill in since he serves a dual role there.

Moved by Mr. Rooney, seconded by Mr. DeBarge to bring Ryan Churchill in for an interview for a vacancy on the Safety Committee. Vote 3-0 all in favor.

Board to close the Warrant for October 1, 2018 STM.

So moved by Mr. Rooney, seconded by Mr. DeBarge. Vote 3-0 all in favor.

Board to approve and sign ten copies of the October 1, 2018 STM Warrant

Moved by Mr. Rooney, seconded by Mr. DeBarge to approve and sign ten copies of the October 1, 2018 STM Warrant. Vote 3-0 all in favor.

Board to sign the Special One Day Permit for St John the Baptist School, Club 50 Luncheon on October 7, 2018 from 11-3:30pm.

New Business:

Board to vote their intent to support the conveyance of Land from Westmass Area Development Corporation to be known as Riverside Drive as a public way upon successful completion of the infrastructure project and subdivision rules and regulations and to place the public way acceptance on a future warrant article for town meeting.

Mr. Rooney suggests that we table this until the next meeting.

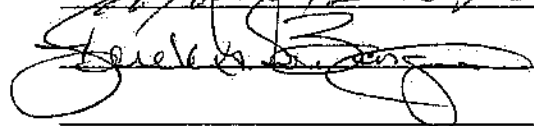
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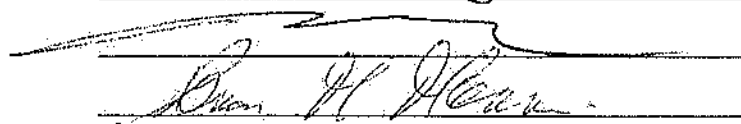
Closing Comments:

Mr. Rooney mentioned that the Ludlow Cares Coalition is going to be partnering with the Ludlow Public Schools on a project called "Start with Hello" it is a project that is an initiative of the Sandy Hook Promise, which is a group that came together because of the tragedy of the school shooting in Sandy Hook, CT. It is about talking to child about saying Hello at school, if you see someone alone reach out and ask them to join the group, its going to be an initiative running the week of September 25-28 in all public schools to try to reduce some of the violence, self-harm, bullying and loneliness by just starting with a hello.

Mr. DeBarge was at FESTA this weekend and there is one thing he wanted to bring up. He noticed they did a lot of modifying this year with the fencing and a lot of alcohol modifying this year around the dance area and they pulled the fencing down lower and he saw a massive amount of alcohol flooding through that fencing area. Normally, the police officers have the responsibility of standing on the posts of the fence line. Their responsibility is trying to stop anybody carrying alcohol from the designated alcohol area to the midway area. The fencing used to be close enough where the officers could stop the people trying to leave with the alcohol. This time the fencing was so far apart you could drive a truck through it. I think there is a better system that needs to be put in place for next year. We have talked about arm bands, or something that can work better.

Moved by Mr. Rooney, seconded by Mr. DeBarge to adjourn the Selectmen Meeting, Vote 3-0 all in favor.

 Chairman




Ludlow Board of Selectmen

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