



**Town of Ludlow
Office of the Select Board**

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TOWN OF LUDLOW

The Meeting of the Select Board held on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, began at 5:30 p.m. in the Select Board's Conference Room.

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

First order of business: Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Silva: Pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, section 20(f), after notifying the Select Board chair, any person may record the open session of this Select Board meeting, subject to reasonable requirements of the chair. This meeting is being recorded by Ludlow Community Television. If anyone else is recording, please identify yourself now. There is no one.

5:30 p.m. – PUBLIC COMMENT

VISITATION

5:45 p.m. – Karen Blanchard, Michael J. Dias Foundation – Requesting support from the Select Board on a joint grant application for opioid settlement funds.

Mr. Gennette: Good evening. Apologies for the wait.

Ms. Rooney: You know before we start I just wanna say thank you to the board for appropriating money to us. You know, I'm sure as you know we don't accept any state money. A couple reasons why, cause there's tons of state money out there, but when you accept state money you have to do what they say and that's not how we wanna run our houses. So, as a result we have to raise the money or through grants. So again, thank you for appropriating the \$75,000 to us.

Mr. Silva: Excuse me, ma'am. Everyone out there would like to know exactly who you are.

Ms. Rooney: Maureen Rooney.

Mr. Silva: Thank you.

Ms. Blanchard: I'm Karen Balnchard, also with the Michael J Dias Foundation. I work on the grants for them. And I think you've got some preliminary information that I sent through. And basically, this is the Mosaic Rise grant that's coming through. And basically, you just need a municipality to partner with in order to apply for these funds. And it's a match up to \$50,000 for these funds. And since you already gave us the 75, the match is there. And so basically what we're asking you to do is just agree to be a partner with us as a municipality to, so I can submit the grant and hopefully get the \$50,000, you know, matching funds.

Mr. Gennette: Agreed.

Ms. Blanchard: Thank you.

Mr. Silva: I thought you said it wasn't easy.

Mr. Gennette: We like being partners with people.

Mr. Rosenblum: The best thing you can do is find grants. I mean, find free money.

Ms. Blanchard: That's how we survive. You know, I'm sure there's gonna be a lot of competition, but you know, if you don't try, you're never gonna, you know, gonna get the opportunity. So, the only thing is the letter that I sent that I just need on your letterhead and signed, I have to have it in before Friday. So, is there any way I can get this letter from you by Thursday the latest?

Mr. Gennette: Mr. Town Administrator, what do you think?

Mr. Strange: Who has to sign it?

Mr. Silva: Is the official letter before us or?

Mr. Rosenblum: Does it need to be everyone or just the chair?

Ms. Blanchard: I think just the chair is fine.

Mr. Rosenblum: You're retired.

Mr. Silva: Well, finally I have something to.

Ms. Blanchard: To do.

Mr. Silva: No, not to do. That I can hold over your head. Finally, it's always the other way around.

Mr. Rosenblum: No, I'm just saying it's easier to have one do it instead of trying to get all four of us.

Ms. Blanchard: One is fine. I'm sure it's fine. I just need to sign off by, the saying that you know exactly what the letter says and then you know that you're partnering with us and you're supporting our application to go in.

Motion made by Mr. Gennette to approve Michael J. Dias Foundation's request for support from the Select Board on a joint grant application for opioid settlement funds to be signed by the Chairman of the Board prior to Friday at noon. Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.

Ms. Blanchard: Thank you. So just connect with Marc Strange and.

Mr. Gennette: Yeah, he'll facilitate.

Mr. Silva: He'll let you know when I come in and sign it.

Ms. Blanchard: Thank you. Marc, I need it by Thursday.

Mr. Strange: Can you, I know you sent them, can you resend?

Ms. Blanchard: Yes. Absolutely. I can resent it. I actually have it but, yeah.

Mr. Silva: If you have it, is that an official letter?

Ms. Blanchard: No, it's gotta be on your letterhead.

Mr. Gennette: We'll just make it all official

6:00 p.m. – Patrick Griffin – To be appointed the full-time van driver at the Senior Center.

Mr. Silva: Good evening. So, identify yourself. Tell us a little bit and why it is you wanna be a van driver.

Mr. Griffin: My name is Patrick Griffin. I grew up in Belchertown, next town over. I've been driving for a long time, getting a little bit older, so I'm looking for something with less physical activity and still driving and being in the community.

Mr. Silva: Well, hold on second. Did you say you're what? Getting a little older?

Mr. Griffin: Getting a there. Day at a time. You know, I started getting gray hairs this year.

Mr. Silva: Okay. Any questions? Board of members, anything?

Mr. Gennette: I just wanted to welcome your board. Thank you for, for taking the position. I assume you already got it. You know, the chairman likes to bring people in and, and kind of throw 'em to the wolves and make 'em uncomfortable for a little bit, just to make sure we don't shake 'em out. I thank you for the position.

Mr. Silva: Wait until you have my questions. You might not be fine with em. Anybody else?

Mr. Alves: No. Welcome.

Mr. Silva: So, you ready?

Mr. Griffin: Yes, sir. Thank you.

Mr. Silva: Welcome. Hopefully you have a long tenure as the driver.

Mr. Griffin: That's the plan.

Mr. Silva: You were nervous, weren't you?

Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum to appoint Patrick Griffin as the full-time van driver at the Senior Center. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

CORRESPONDENCE

25-197 Letter from Sharon martins, Insurance Advisory Committee – Resigning from the appointment and requesting Melissa Graf be appointed as the LATOSS representative.

Mr. Gennette: So, Mr. Chairman, we have, we're gonna do all in one motion for this.

Mr. Silva: Before we do that, do we have anything from Melissa Graf that's, saying she's okay with this?

Mr. Strange: Yeah, Sharon and Melissa work very closely together. So, I think Sharon sent this in on Melissa's behalf.

Mr. Silva: Oh, okay. Good. Thank you.

Motion made by Mr. Gennette to accept Sharon Martins resignation from the Insurance Advisory Committee and approve the request for Melissa Graf to be appointed as the LATOSS representative. **Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

25-198 Request from Provisional Police Chief Brennan to appoint Det. LT. Sean Know, Det. Sgt. Stephen Ricardi, Det. Ryan Collette, Det. Jordan Liszka, & Det. Peter Gallagher as Constables for the Town of Ludlow.

Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum to approve appointing Det. Lt. Sean Knox, Det. Sgt. Stephen Ricardi, Det. Ryan Collette, Det. Jordan Liszka, & Det. Peter Gallagher as Constables for the Town of Ludlow. **Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.**

25-199 Letter from Alan Jeskey – Requesting to be appointed as Constable.

Mr. Strange: Mr. Chairman, we spoke to the Police Chief about this, considering you all just appointed other Constables from the Police Department, he recommends not appointing Mr. Jeskey.

Mr. Gennette: Mr. Chairman, so why wasn't Mr. Jeskey in the original grouping?
Mr. Rosenblum: I would say because generally we, there's a police officer appointed to that position. But he's not a police officer, is he?

Mr. Strange: No.

Mr. Rosenblum: I'm trying, I know I read the letter but I'm just, here we go. No.

Mr. Silva: And how many Constables do we have? Are we full with those members?

Mr. Strange: The responded five.

Mr. Alves: Yeah, and Chief Brennan said we used to only have two and he didn't see a need.
Mr. Gennette: So, Mr. Jeskey apparently has been a Constable for a long time. I honestly, admittedly don't know what the roles of a Constable are. I'm gonna obviously defer to Chief Brennan on this, but it just seems unorthodox that this situation's like this. So, I think that we should probably have a conversation with Mr. Brennan just to clear things up. And I would probably let Mr. Jeskey know that he has to communicate his interest in appointments for Constable to the Chief. I just don't want it to go unattended too. I appreciate Mr. Jeskey's interest in being a Constable.

Mr. Silva: So, with that, Mr. Gennette would you move to table this?

Mr. Gennette: No, no. We've already made a motion and a second for the list for Constables, but I would just really wanna let Mr. Jeskey know that he should communicate with Chief Brennan.

Mr. Silva: Yeah, but we got to either. We got to do something with it.

Mr. Rosenblum: Well, we can always deny it. And then if Chief for some reason sees a reason to say, yes we can do this, we can put it back on the agenda or you table it.

Motion made by Mr. Gennette not to appoint Alan Jeskey as Constable. Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Gennette: Just so the community knows, Mr. Jeskey is not a Ludlow resident, we do appreciate your interest though.

25-200 Letter from Detective Peter Gallagher resigning from the Safety Committee effective immediately. Board to appoint Officer David Krok as replacement.

Mr. Gennette: Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Silva: Mr. Gennette

Mr. Gennette: I wanted to thank Mr. Gallagher for the amount of time that he spent on the Safety Committee. Personally, we appreciate everything that you do for the town.

Motion made by Mr. Gennette to accept the resignation of Detective Peter Gallagher from the Safety Committee and appoint Officer David Krok as his replacement. Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.

25-201 MASS DOT – Bridge Inspection of Pine Lane/Broad Brook.

Mr. Silva: They're busy out there.

Mr. Rosenblum: Yes. So, Mr. Chairman, this is dated from August, which we are already doing the work on this bridge, right?

Mr. Silva: Yeah, they're out there.

Mr. Rosenblum: So, I mean, this inspection was prior to, right? Now the work's actually being taken care of.

Mr. Silva: I think they do timely inspections even as the work goes on.

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

25-202 MASS DOT – Bridge Inspection of West Street/Chicopee River

Mr. Rosenblum: Mr. Chairman, I gotta scroll, cause there's a lot of pictures. I believe this is the same.

Mr. Alves: Yeah, it was done before it was closed.

Mr. Rosenblum: Yeah, it was done before it was closed. It was actually the statement and it was to put a sign up in as the be aware of the bump in the bridge. So, just a clarification. So, I don't know since the last time I read up on it though, that they had done most of the inspection except they needed to get a certain piece of equipment to be able to look at the underside of the deck. That was a few weeks ago. I don't know where it's at, at this point, but I know that basically it is the responsibility of both Springfield and Ludlow for the repair of it. However, I believe that there might be an opportunity that DOT will take care of it, but it's gotta be after the total inspection's done. So they're just waiting on this one portion of it to be done, then the decision can be made and then obviously we're at the mercy of political movement and when it gets done and when DOT can get in there and everything.

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

25-203 Chief Brennan – Request to charge off medical expenses and lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for an Officer for an incident that occurred on October 19, 2025.

Motion made by Mr. Alves to approve the request from Chief Brennan to charge off medical expenses and lost wages to Chapter 41, Section 111F for an Officer for an incident that occurred on October 19, 2025. Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.

25-204 Letter from Celebrate Ludlow Committee – Requesting Police invoices for “Falling into Fun” in the amount of \$3,861.34 and “Light up Ludlow” to be held November 30th be covered by the Town.

Mr. Gennette: Mr. Chairman

Mr. Silva: Mr. Gennette

Mr. Gennette: Where, Marc, where would these funds come out of?

Mr. Strange: Police, OT.

Mr. Gennette: Police, OT.

Mr. Rosenblum: And we already, we upped it, but then cut it, didn't we in the last, in the Fiscal 26?

Mr. Strange: No, it's yeah, it increased by a hundred thousand for the share.

Mr. Rosenblum: Yeah. We had done like one fifty or something, hadn't we? And then we cut it back, I can't remember.

Mr. Strange: It was 300 and we upped it to 400.

Motion made by Mr. Gennette to approve the police invoices for "Falling into Fun" in the amount of \$3,861.34 and "Light up Ludlow" to be held November 30" be covered by Police OT. Mr. Rosenblum second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Rosenblum: Second, discussion. So just so everybody knows, this is originally out of the again, this is out of the 250th Celebration. The money, once that was closed out, had to go into Celebrate Ludlow. So, their funding for any expenses come through Celebrate Ludlow. From my understanding is that they were not aware of the exorbitant cost of the OT and could have similar amount for Light up Ludlow, which is the tree lighting. So I think we need to consider is I know that we normally do a 5,000, was it May Town meeting? We appropriate 5,000 to Celebrate Ludlow. We've done it in the past.

Mr. Strange: They already spend the 5,000.

Mr. Rosenblum: Right. But what I'm saying is that if we're gonna end up keeping these two things and we're gonna be my, and the only thing is that we consider in the future that we do an appropriation of 10. That's just my consider, just because I mean, unless they're able to raise more funds, I mean, I don't know if they can't pay this, where's the money coming from down the road?

Mr. Strange: So, Mr. Chairman, so with our USA hauling contract, they give a \$5,000 donation to the town. We use those funds to support Celebrate Ludlow in lieu of putting it into the operating budget. So, we can still use that 5,000 and just add 5,000 to the Fiscal 27 Budget if that's the Board's wish.

Mr. Rosenblum: Which we've always, we've been doing as long as I've been here. I know we've appropriated 5,000, so, okay. I just wanted to get that out there because this expense is something that I personally don't want to keep passing on to or take.

Mr. Silva: I have a problem doing this quite honestly, if you're done, I'm sorry.

Mr. Rosenblum: No, I'm not done. No, no, I mean obviously we all know Linda, she does an amazing job, and her committee's doing an amazing job. But I mean the only thing I would say and to be fair on this side of the table is saying, this is something that should have been probably aware of or budgeted or to the point of knowing what it was gonna be, or at least getting some kind of quote from the Police Department. You know what I mean? Just so you know ahead of time because it's just boom, we're gonna be given like \$8,000 in the OT. Granted you know, who knows, hopefully the OT's managed better that we won't notice this. But I mean again, at Town Meeting, they're gonna be coming, there's gonna be an article for or in the budget for covering x amount of dollars over OT.

Mr. Silva: Yeah. I just have a problem that we're doing something for the community. It's a community event and it's just for the betterment and you know, a better quality of life and we're doing this thing and now we're charging \$3,800 to ourselves virtually.

Mr. Gennette: Yeah, But that's part of their operating budget. The police have to account for the time that their officers spending.

Mr. Silva: Yeah. Yeah, understood. But there's just something some other way that we, I'd like to see us

Mr. Gennette: No, absolutely. If there's gonna be a better structure or process for this in the future, absolutely. But we still have to pay this bill this year. Because I agree with you. I don't think that the Celebrate Ludlow Committee should have to pay for Police OT. They're literally a town entity. It's organizing this for us.

Mr. Rosenblum: Right, it's just being, it's just knowing that the funds are there and not coming to this every time.

Mr. Silva: But this never happened before. I mean, we've been here a long time.

Mr. Rosenblum: Well no, and now we got a different, you know, we've got. So is it something we could make a motion now? Or should it be something that we put on the agenda for a further agenda?

Mr. Strange: For which part?

Mr. Rosenblum: Well, we already do it, so, all right. Forget it. Anthony, did you have anything?

Mr. Gennette: Yeah, no. Absolutely. So, let's, you know, let's see if we can't, Marc, improve the process for next year. That's all.

Mr. Strange: I would just say the process has been the same. It's just they hadn't budgeted for the Police OT. So typically, they would just have the event and then we would charge it to the Police OT without it coming to the Board. So, now you've just seen the process.

Mr. Rosenblum: That's why I would be questioning it is cause I haven't seen the process. So now I see it and then that's the process.

25-205 Chief Pease – Request to increase the Ambulance billing rate effective January 1, 2026.

Mr. Silva: So I have a question on it, is this the rate, is that the rate that they charge or is this the annual membership rate?

Mr. Alves: That's what they charge.

Mr. Silva: Yeah, it's what they charge right now. Okay.

Mr. Strange: It's not the subscription.

Mr. Silva: I think that subscription is quite honestly very low. That's an avenue that we could recoup some funds. I think it's still \$40, if I'm not mistaken.

Mr. Rosenblum: No, I think it's up to 50. I think it went up there, but, in relation to that fund, I mean, think about one ambulance trip. I mean, I did it years ago and it was like the one year that we didn't use it and it was a \$650 bill. And I'm guessing now it's closer to 12 probably. So the fact that you could, I mean I wouldn't have, again, it's something, it's a voluntary payment, right? So, I, for the sake of them, I think it should be higher than, I think it's like 50 or 60.

Mr. Gennette: Mr. Chairman, I know we're trying to really kind of move through because we're a little late, but if you, do you mind if I read this letter from the Fire Chief? I think it's probably good for the community to hear.

Mr. Silva: Yes I do.

Mr. Gennette: Dear Mr. Silva, I respectfully request that the Board of Selectmen approve an increase to the Town of Ludlow's Ambulance billing rates effective January 1st, 2026. Attached is a survey conducted by the Western Massachusetts Fire Chiefs Association outlining the current rates across our region. The data clearly shows that Ludlow's current rates remain below those of many neighboring communities. To maintain consistency and fiscal responsibility, I recommend that our rates be adjusted to align with the average rates of our community surveyed. The last rate adjustment occurred in February of 2023. And since then, the cost of operating and maintaining our ambulance service, including equipment, fuel, and medical supplies, has continued to rise significantly. Updating our rates will help offset these operational increases and reduce the financial impact of the town's budget. It is important to note that the Ludlow residents who participate in the ambulance subscription program will continue to be protected from any increase in ambulance fees, ensuring that this adjustment does not create an additional burden for those residents. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or additional

information regarding this request. I appreciate the Board's continued support of the local, of the Fire Department and its emergency medical services to our community. Respectfully, Chief Ryan M. Pease. Thank you for letting me read that. So I think it was very clearly detailed there. As always, Chief Pease is very upfront and direct.

Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum to approve increasing the Ambulance billing rate effective January 1, 2026. Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.

25-206 Letter from Town Cleark notifying Board that Audrey Polmanteer from the Ludlow Housing Authority has passed away. Vacancy will be placed on March 2026 ballot.

Mr. Silva: Sad news.

Mr. Rosenblum: Yes, and condolences to any family and we'd like to thank you for the service.

Mr. Gennette: Yeah, I'm sorry to hear Mrs. Polmanteer has passed and you know for the time that she has spent on the Ludlow Housing Authority and the good work she did down there. We commend you and thank you for your opportunity and condolences to your family.

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

25-207 Letter from Town of Blandford – Request for review of potential impact of proposed commercial BSS project near Cobble Mountain Reservoir Watershed.

Mr. Alves: Mr. Chairman, motion to file.

Mr. Silva: Before we do that, is that a request for us to review or anything? Or just?

Mr. Rosenblum: I think it's just basically for us to review. It's basically the same thing that we were gonna have here, is the battery storage unit. Right? And it's near a water source again.

Mr. Gennette: So, it was literally sent to everybody as a notice.

Mr. Rosenblum: I just think is that they want to get it out there, that they're probably obviously not in favor of this, as many communities in the state aren't, unless. I've actually just side note, I've done a little research on the battery storage units and I think it's called like 85 something and I sent this to the Chief, is that, I don't think that the way that the battery storage units are covered under a certain, to a certain size, like the ones that they're proposing, it's like to a certain kilowatt, but the ones that they're proposing in these communities wouldn't be covered under those guidelines. So I don't even know if its something that it's, I sent it to him and I gotta find it. But it was informative. It was like a 20-minute video and I watched it.

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

25-208 Letter from Erin McMurray, MPH Shared Services Coordinator for Mill Towns Public Health – PHE Statement of Commitment Annual Notification

Mr. Gennette: Mr. Chairman, sorry I should have said discussion. There's nothing, Marc, there's no action on this, right?

Mr. Strange: No

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

25-209 Letter of resignation from Darlene (Dolly) Cincone from the Finance Committee.

Mr. Rosenblum: Mr. Chairman, if you don't mind, I'd like to read this. It's only because Dolly, I call her Dolly because I think it's appropriate because of the time that she's held multiple positions in this town over a long commitment to the town. So, Dear, Mr. Szlosek, It is with deep regret that I must leave my position as a member of the Town of Ludlow Finance Committee. This town has been of interest and concern to me since my teenage years at Ludlow High School. I have served this town in many positions and committees for years, but I believe it is time for the next group of voters and residents to become part of the process. This town has changed over time and for the most part, I'm very proud of what it has become, my involvement in it and what this town has become. Sorry. It'll always be a continuing interest to me. Thank you for the opportunity to serve my hometown. Sincerely. I'm not saying Darlene, I'm saying Dolly. Dolly Cincone. Dolly, thank you so much. We've had several conversations and I'm sure that I'll bend your ear again. Thank you.

Mr. Gennette: Mr. Chairman. So, I want to thank Dolly personally. You know, when I ran for office, it was against Dolly and I won by 50 votes. So, it was very close. And since that time, she has always been very amicable with me. I've reached; I've asked her for some advice in a couple of instances and she's always been right there to help regardless. And she's been an absolute stoic. So, I really do appreciate everything that you've done from my seat for the town. We will sorely miss your guidance.

Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum to accept the resignation from Darlene Cincone for the Finance Committee. Mr. Gennette second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Board to approve and sign amended Liquor License for Jai Uniya Ma, Inc/Ludlow Shell. (Tabled from October 21, 2025).

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

NEW BUSINESS

Board to approve and sign one day permit for Hubbard memorial Library Open House on November 13, 2025, from 5:00-8:00 p.m. and waive the fee.

Mr. Gennette: Mr. Chairman?

Mr. Silva: Yes, Mr. Gennette

Mr. Gennette: I only have one question here and it's probably just because this is a boilerplate at one-day permit application, but it mentions liquor in here. We're not expecting the library to have liquor on premises, right?

Mr. Alves: Beer and wines checked off. I have a discussion. So on the form it says all forms must be completed and submitted at least four weeks prior.

Mr. Gennette: And it came in October 22nd.

Mr. Alves: Do we have the ability to waive that requirement or, I'm not trying to cancel the party, I'm just, that's what it says on the form.

Mr. Silva: Yeah, but that's quite honestly, I think that's on there just in case we don't have, we have an issue or the time to do it, then we'll, but right now if we, there's no issue or time.

Mr. Strange: Just the guidance to give the Board enough time to review.

Mr. Alves: Just pointing that out, that's all.

Mr. Rosenblum: But to your point too is.

Mr. Gennette: I amend the motion to supersede the time restriction.

Mr. Rosenblum: And second discussion is that to that point too, is that we did go over a whole, you know, restrictions and steps for parks and everything. I understand this might, but I know where you're going with it is that we have, because I just asked this one is not part of that one that we just did.

Mr. Alves: No, I'm not against this event at all. But as soon as you start waiving requirements like that, then the next one, he's gonna want the same leniency.

Mr. Rosenblum: That's why I'm making the statement, it's different than the one that we just did. So this might be something that we.

Motion made by Mr. Gennette to approve and sign one day permit for Hubbard Memorial Library Open House on November 13, 2025, from 5:00-8:00 p.m. and waive the fee. Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a few things tonight, reporting that I was at the ICMA Conference from October 25th to October 29th. My first time, for those who don't know, who may care, ICMA is an annual gathering of municipal management professionals from around the country and around the world. There were representatives from Africa, from New Zealand. It was really interesting. Sessions were really engaging and helpful, but the biggest take away for me is the proliferation of AI tools for local government. The trade show floor was just full of AI companies and we're meeting with some providers over the next couple of weeks to explore ways that AI can help us be more efficient. Things are really in the early stages right now, so that, you know, not every company has their tool totally flushed out. So we wanna do some demons and see where we might be able to get some help. On Thursday, there's a joint meeting with the Planning Board and the Select Board where the two boards will be interviewing for candidates for the vacant Planning Board seat. One candidate will be appointed and seated until the next town election in March of 2026. Just another note on the Fiscal 27 budget, we're gonna have to keep on being consistent with our messaging here to make sure that the public is aware of our situation. So, balancing the Fiscal 27 budget is shaping up to be one of the most challenging Ludlow has faced in recent years. We'll be exploring all available ways to cut costs and raise revenue. We plan to present multiple budget options for the public and town meeting members, which will likely include a strategic prop, two and a half override proposal that would eliminate the trash fee. And in addition, we're looking at health insurance plan changes for employees. Alternatively, if these options are not approved or sufficient to close our anticipated \$3 million budget deficit, we will have to consider budget cuts, including personnel and services. Once again, the cause of these budget woes is almost exclusively due to the exponential rise in the cost of health insurance and the limitations on towns to raise revenue to keep up with those rising costs. We are anticipating an 18% increase in health insurance premiums for Fiscal 27, and we will certainly talk more about that in the coming weeks. On a happier note, with the uncertainty caused by the government shutdown, we know many in our community may be feeling stressed or unsure. This year, the town has decided to launch an Angel Tree Program to help Ludlow residents in need, can apply for a gift card while residents and businesses who wish to help can donate gift cards to support their neighbors. Applications are available on our website and the Facebook page. Donation boxes are set up in the Town Hall Hearing Room on the first floor and in the Select Board's Office on the third floor. And our hope is to bring the town together to support those in need this holiday season. Just one more item of note. So, Anita Gonzales came up today to let me know that yesterday property taxes were due and Mita Rega was the only person in the Collector's Office and she single-handedly collected \$541,000 yesterday by herself.

Mr. Alves: I got some questions. Marc, where are we with the Police Chief search?

Mr. Strange: November 20th is the assessment center.

Mr. Alves: Okay and then compile whatever they've done, and we'd get that and do interviews. What's the turnaround between?

Mr. Strange: I'm not sure. Probably looking with holidays, we might be looking at January.

Mr. Alves: Okay, and then weren't we supposed to do at our next meeting in November, tax classification?

Mr. Strange: Yep.

BOARD UPDATES/MISC

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

Mr. Silva: Let's go to the events calendar. I just want everybody to note November 11th is Veteran's Day and that the Town Hall will be closed and that's on a Tuesday. And I believe that day that Mr. Segundo is having a

Mr. Rosenblum: Ludlow High School Auditorium

Mr. Silva: The Ludlow High School Auditorium will be honoring obviously Vets and like in this year, the Veteran of the Year, I believe he has proposed Mr. Daniel Valadas. So those that can attend will be nice. And the Town Hall closed Thursday and Friday November 27th, 28th, in observance of Thanksgiving.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Mr. Rosenblum: Mr. Chair, I did wanna say, I know that it came up in an email to us. We're gonna have an open meeting with the public for Fiscal Year 27 budget. Discussion.

Mr. Silva: Is it planned already? Date and all of that?

Mr. Strange: February 11th at 6:00.

Mr. Rosenblum: So, February 11th at 6:00, the Ludlow High School Auditorium, similar to what we did with Town Meeting, is we did a pre-meeting for the articles to kind of get people up to speed. So, it kind of helps with the process at Town Meeting, but also with this in particular for the budget, is that people get to really understand the contributing factors to where we are right now. So, February 11th 6:00, Ludlow High School Auditorium. Also, I just wanted to clarify something because when we did that one, just because I know I was in contact with Linda, is that now that I know that the process was, is that we never saw the process, but what the process had just happened where we approved the OT was usually something we didn't see and now we see it, so it makes it clearer to me. So, I did not know that. I just wanted to, cause I know you said it's usually something we didn't see, now we see it. Cause that's why I questioned what are we doing? We have done it in the past. Oh, Saturday night, right? Saturday night, Night in Portugal. I had the pleasure of attending and I know some of our other Board members attended. Yeah. One of the organizers or Chairs of the Night in Portugal said, I'll sit you next to your best friend Mr. Silva. I go, I sit next to him on the right all the time and Saturday I sat on your left. But I'll tell you what, it's the first one I've gone to and I'm gonna continue to go because it's impressive to see, and God rest his soul, Mr. Tony Goncalves was a big part of this and help start this 36 years ago. And he would be right now, singing the praises of it because that night there was 12 freshmen in college cause they had committed to being in school, continuing their education, that each received a thousand dollars plus another \$5,000 from what was it the Diocese? It was a total of a \$6,000 scholarship to 12 kids for \$72,000. Prior to those scholarships, I believe it was just short of a million dollars and after that night I believe now it's over a million dollars of scholarship money given out in 36 years. And I joke about it because I went up, I said thank you to, I said hi to a lot of people and said thank you because it's in this community there's such a sense of community and that the fact is, as I said to Mr. Alves before the meeting, is that you see a lot of these people see each other seven days a week. You still walk in there,

there's a hug, there's a handshake, there's a dance. The dancing I got to get lessons because everyone else is dancing. But what a great night. Congratulations to all the students, the recipients that received the scholarships. And there was only one because he said his Portuguese wasn't that good, but pretty much everybody in one way or another spoke a portion of their. David Costa's son did it all in Portuguese and then pushed for Sporting. But it's a testament to the community and I really enjoyed it.

Mr. Alves: I'll piggyback off that. I was at that event. I make it a point to go there every year as being a past winner of that. It wasn't \$6,000 at the time but I will highlight one of the winners was my cousin Ryan. So, congratulations to him. And he is the 10th member, we did the math, 10th member of my family that's received that award. Proud of that.

Mr. Gennette: Mr. Chairman. So, Marc, let's schedule an IT Steering Committee meeting sometime before the end of the year. I wanna make sure we get one in. So, whatever best suits your schedule let's put that on there. If you want, I can send you an email tomorrow just as a reminder. We're waiting on a Green Communities Energy Audit because I'm gonna try and convince Mr. Silva that a green community's designation is a good thing. So, it's gonna happen at some point. I'm still working on the Strategic Planning Committee, that's going well. I'm hoping to have some better support for that soon and hopefully we can move forward with it. That would be great. Marc, as far as the insurance goes, and you keep mentioning FY 27, which obviously that's the budget that's coming up, but aren't we expecting 28 to be almost just as bad, aren't they forecasting 28 to be?

Mr. Strange: In terms of the industry? Yes. They're not anticipating a slowdown. The one change would be or could be that MIIA has a vote this week to vote on whether or not to continue to cover GLP ones. So, if they vote to stop covering GLP ones, that will help. I just don't know how much it will help.

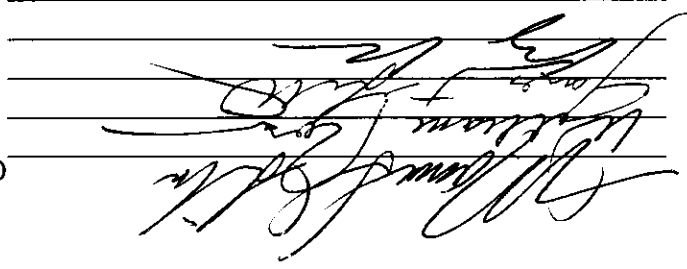
Mr. Rosenblum: Well, to that point isn't Blue Cross Blue Shield stopping that coverage?

Mr. Strange: It is, but MIIA is such a big entity that MIIA makes their own decisions.

Mr. Gennette: Okay. That's all I have for now.

Mr. Silva: And all I have as well is the Night in Portugal, which was the scholarship event, I just wanted to add one thing to that is that there's several businesses that actually as well present checks to these students. And quite a few, most of them I believe were in town businesses that were actually donated. Such as Joseph Dias Foundation and you had various visitors not to mention em all, but it's unbelievable event and wonderful things that businesses do.

Motion made by Mr. Rosenblum to close the Select Board meeting at 7:32 p.m. Mr. Alves second. All in favor. Motion passed 4-0.

Chairman

Ludlow Select Board

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