

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
MAY 13, 2019**

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

HAMPDEN, SS

To Ms. Kim Batista, Town Clerk of the Town of Ludlow, Massachusetts in said County:

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town qualified to vote on Town affairs to meet at the **LUDLOW HIGH SCHOOL**, 500 Chapin Street, Ludlow, Massachusetts on **MONDAY, MAY 13, 2019 at 8:00 p.m.** for the purpose of acting on the following articles in the warrant.

ARTICLE 1: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum of money for **UNPAID BILLS and/or OVEREXPENDED ACCOUNTS OF PREVIOUS FISCAL YEARS**; pass any vote or take any action relative thereto. Submitted by the Board of Selectmen.

9/10th's Vote Required

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money not to exceed Eighty-one Thousand dollars, for the purchase of a Ford 350 14 passenger lift van vehicle for the Council on Aging and to transfer from free cash the sum of Twenty-Seven Thousand Dollars (\$27,000) to pay for the first year of a three-year lease; pass any vote or take any action relative thereto. Submitted by the Board of Selectmen.

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds in the treasury and/or from free cash sufficient funds to cover the additional over time expenses incurred by the Police Department; pass any vote or take any action relative thereto. Submitted by the Board of Selectmen.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to approve the addition of language to the Senior Center Building Committee which was approved in Article 7 of the October 3, 2016 Special Town Meeting Warrant by adding the following language:

“In the event of a Vacancy, the Senior Center Building Committee shall vote a replacement member.”

Pass any vote or take any action relative thereto. Submitted by the Senior Center Building Committee.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Insurance Damages Account 21064101 480010 a sum of One Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Nine Hundred Nine Dollars and Ninety-Nine Cents (\$125,909.99) to a Special Article which will fund the purchase of a replacement vehicle (Freightliner 6-wheel Dump Truck with Plow) within the Capital Improvement Article #13 in the May 13, 2019 Annual Town Meeting Warrant; pass any vote or take any action relative thereto. Submitted by the Board of Selectmen.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum of money to be deposited into the Central Dispatch Accounts to assist in equipment upgrades which may require additional funding for the Public Safety Central Dispatch Transition; pass any vote or take any action relative thereto. Submitted by the Board of Selectmen.

And you are directed to serve this warrant by posting attested copies of the same in seven (7) public places in the Town fourteen (14) days before the time of holding said meeting.

A true copy,

ATTEST:


DEREK G. DEBARGE

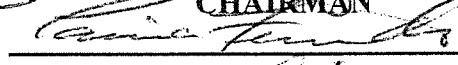
CARMINA D. FERNANDES


MANUEL D. SILVA


ANTONIO GONCALVES

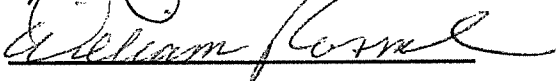
WILLIAM P. ROSENBLUM



CHAIRMAN








BOARD OF SELECTMEN

LUDLOW, MASSACHUSETTS

April 2, 2019

I hereby certify that I have posted the above warrant in seven (7) places in the Town of Ludlow.

_____ 2019

_____ Town Clerk

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
MAY 13, 2019
BACKGROUND

ARTICLE 1: Unpaid bills prior years: Chapter 44, Section 64 of the Massachusetts General Laws allows towns which have unpaid or over-expended bills of prior years to pay such bills at Town Meeting by nine-tenths vote:

\$709.41	GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc. – Zoning Board of Appeals
\$99.29	Pioneer Valley Cardiology, Chapter 41, Section 111F – Board of Selectmen
\$52.43	Pioneer Valley Cardiology, Chapter 41, Section 111F – Board of Selectmen
\$52.43	Pioneer Valley Cardiology, Chapter 41, Section 111F – Board of Selectmen
\$238.14	Pioneer Valley Cardiology, Chapter 41, Section 111F – Board of Selectmen
\$75.56	Pioneer Valley Cardiology, Chapter 41, Section 111F – Board of Selectmen
\$614.42	Baystate Medical Center, Chapter 41, Section 111F – Board of Selectmen
\$14,749.53	Pioneer Valley Surgicenter, Chapter 41, Section 111F – Board of Selectmen
\$146.88	Baystate Medical Practices, Chapter 41, Section 111F – Board of Selectmen
\$22.23	Baystate Medical Practices, Chapter 41, Section 111F – Board of Selectmen
\$13.06	Baystate Medical Practices, Chapter 41, Section 111F – Board of Selectmen
\$116.95	Baystate Medical Practices, Chapter 41, Section 111F – Board of Selectmen
\$1,873.84	Baystate Medical Practices, Chapter 41, Section 111F – Board of Selectmen

Note, these are the bills as presented at the time of the warrant posting. There could be further bills added prior to Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 2: This article is for the purchase of a Ford 350 14 passenger lift van for the Council on Aging. The current 14 lift passenger van is broken and beyond repair and needs to be replaced. The plan is to buy it through a lease to purchase. This request has already been approved by the Capital Improvement Committee. See attached A.

ARTICLE 3: This Article will appropriate or transfer from available funds to cover overtime expenses incurred by the Police Department. This account was designed to cover unscheduled sick time, emergency stay over, along with call-in events and other

investigative actions. But due to a shortage of personnel, it is also being used to cover officer vacancies resulting from contractual obligations such as vacation time, bank days and personal days. In addition, the Department has sustained several injury-related absences. These overtime funds have been used to cover unanticipated vacancies due to injuries and unfilled positions.

ARTICLE 4: This article will allow the Senior Center Building Committee to replace members if a vacancy exists. This would allow for continuity of the committee.

ARTICLE 5: This article will transfer from the Insurance Damages Account to a Special Article to help pay for a replacement vehicle. One of our 6-wheel dump trucks with plow was totaled by our insurance company and needs to be replaced. The insurance money will be used to help fund its replacement.

ARTICLE 6: To move forward in the final phase of transition to Police/Fire/EMS Central Dispatch, the Public Safety Complex telephone, building paging systems, as well as the Fire Apparatus Floor monitoring and door closing systems will need to be upgraded or made interoperable.

To: Jodi Zepke
From: Jack Alves, driver; John Garcia, driver; Matt Pszeniczny, dispatcher
Re: Mechanical Status of Van #175B
Date: 1/15/2019

A.) Background of #175B

1.) Make and model: 2010 Ford E350 (Manufactured in 2009)

2.) Modified body:

- 14 passenger, convertible to 12 passengers and two wheel chairs
- Heavy duty wheel chair lift
- Auxiliary heater
- Auxiliary AC
- Electric passenger door
- Advanced Fast Idle System

3.) Mileage: 146,922

- Van# 175B is the primary transport vehicle for the Ludlow Senior Center. It operates on a daily basis from 8am to 4pm, five (5) days a week or 240 days per year. This equates to 1,750 run hours per year or 17,500 hours over the life of the vehicle. (With the Advanced Fast Idle System the run hours are amplified as the rpms at idle are 1500, or the equivalent of driving 40 miles per hour)

- Current odometer reads 146,922 or a little more than 16,000 miles per year. (Although the mileage may not be excessive the "run time" on the engine is the more significant factor.)

- Last fiscal year 175B provided over 5718 passenger trips averaging over 24 per day.

- Repair history: Over the past 9 years there have been 33 instances of major repairs to the vehicle. They are as follows:

- 13 Electrical repairs
- 7 Brakes
- 5 Lift related repairs
- Other (AC replacement, Drive train replacement, rebuilt transmission, u joint replacement, radiator replacement)

B.) Major Equipment Issues

1.) Electrical

- Frequently the van is experiencing abrupt power loss to the center console. (This can occur on startup or while the van is in motion.) This interrupts the operation of the Lift, AC, Heat, Defrosters, Windshield wipers, Passenger Door, Interior lights, and 2-way radio.) The only way to restore power is to shut down the vehicle two or three times and restart.

- Both dealer and independent mechanics have failed to correct the situation. Because of the aftermarket equipment i.e. auxiliary AC and auxiliary heat, power door, lift, etc. the wiring harness is so extensive they cannot identify the origin of the problem.

If this happens while in transit, it creates a major risk for the driver(s) and passengers.

2.) Lift Issues

- Due to age, the pneumatics on the lift are failing and results in the lift "drifting" i.e. while in the "fold" position the lift will drift forward leaning up against the access door and preventing it from opening. The only safe way to open the lift door is for one person to get inside and manually pull or pump the door back to relieve the pressure on the door so it can be opened. Once the door is opened there is no way of telling how far the lift will fall forward.

3.) Engine Issues

- On 10.11.2018, while on a Center trip, the driver reported a "loud knocking noise". The following day brought to Ray's Towing" in Palmer. Following their inspection it was determined that the "main bearings and rods" where the problem requiring a new or rebuilt engine. The contacted another truck mechanic and several sources for rebuilt engines and reported that repairing with a rebuilt engine would cost between \$7,000 - \$10,000. In addition, there would be no guarantee on the repair. Given the age and condition of the vehicle they did not believe that such a repair would be worth it. (Neither they nor the other garage were open to doing the repair.)

The van is not drivable and has been out of service to our clients since Oct. 11, 2018

C.) Conclusion

On the above date the three of us met to review and identify the noted critical items above with van 175B. The bottom line consensus of all of us was: There are serious mechanical and safety issues with 175B, which is going on ten (10) years old, with 150,000 miles, with a blown engine and other severe repair items, and needs to be replaced.