

**LUDLOW ENTERPRISE FUND COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING**

**Town Hall Conference Room
February 1, 2008**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Frank Heald, Municipal Manager, Richard Strong, John Neal, Jim Fuller, Earl Washburn

STAFF PRESENT:

Pam Cruickshank, Howie Paul

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Ludlow Enterprise Fund Committee was called to order at 4:19 pm.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

John Neal made a motion to accept the minutes from September 10, 2007. Earl Washburn seconded. All in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Review Fund Balance

Frank Heald reported that there was an available fund balance of \$46,522.

Consider Application(s)

Only one application was received and it was from the Ludlow Parks & Recreation Department in the amount of \$58,000 to replace the fencing surrounding the tennis courts, to replace the sod on the main playing field and update the irrigation system.

Howie Paul reported that the irrigation system is at least 20 years old and that the sod on the playing field was roughly 20 years old. John Neal asked Howie Paul if he had considered artificial turf. Howie indicated that they had, but it would not last as long as sod. Frank Heald added that the maintenance staff has done a great job with the field maintenance, hydro seeding, etc.

Jim Fuller asked what the policy was on using the B.R.H.S. field. Howie replied that it is not a regulation field.

Earl Washburn asked Howie Paul what the price of artificial turf was. Howie added that the price was well out of reach at \$600,000 and would only last 7-10 years and then would need patching. The main advantage with artificial turf is that the field could be plowed.

Howie Paul mentioned that the sprinkler heads need replacing. Currently all of the heads are metal and should be rubber for safety on the field.

Jim Fuller asked if there was any way to fix the existing sprinkler system. Howie responded that it could be possible, but that the sod/field would be compromised with weeds and other problems.

John Neal asked how many quotes had been received. Howie responded that he had received one from Homestead Landscaping. John Neal added that if the project went forward, a RFP would be necessary. He also added that the Parks & Recreation request was a very good project, but cautioned that it needs to be done correctly (and not to skip corners).

John Neal asked if there was any idea what the Okemo funds would be this year. Frank responded that he was not sure and could only estimate and that the money would not be available until August 1st. He also added that \$43,250 was committed for the Public Safety Building. Jim Fuller questioned that if all of the money was committed this year what would be available next year?

John Neal and Earl Washburn expressed their concern that this request may have fallen at a time when there wasn't enough money to fund it. Frank added that there should be \$86,000 by July 2008 in the Recreation Facilities fund, assuming the Article gets approved. That would be enough to get the project started.

Jim Fuller recommended that the fencing be fixed because ascetically it looks terrible and is starting to fall down.

Earl Washburn made a motion to spend \$40,000 for the Parks & Recreation grant request. John Neal seconded. All in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Frank Heald added that the LEF Committee was making its recommendation to the Boards and the Select Board would not meet until March.

Other Business

None

Adjourn

Motion by Earl Washburn to adjourn. Seconded by John Neal. All in favor and the motion passed unanimously;

Meeting Adjourned at 4:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Cruickshank
Acting Clerk