

MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
TOWN OF LUDLOW, VERMONT  
ANNUAL MEETING  
MARCH 3, 2014 at 7:00PM  
TOWN HALL

The informational meeting was called to order by Moderator Martin Nitka at 7:00 PM. The head table was introduced select board members Doug Ficken, Bruce Schmidt, John Neal, Howard Barton, Town Manager Frank Heald and Town Clerk Ulla Cook.

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Town Manager Frank Heald spoke about the first two articles that are on the ballot for March 4; Article 2 the Quest Program is a collaborative effort between Ludlow Rotary Club, the Town and significant funding from the Okeno Community Challenge. Last summer we served 27 youngsters covering topic ranging from writing resumes to skeet shooting to fishing to photography. The programs is designed for grades 8,9 and 10. We hope to have the population grow. To make this work it is a combination of money and a significant number of volunteers to help with the program. Article 3 -- the bike path -- is a 2.7 mile project from the Village to Jackson Gore to Buttermilk Falls. Couple years ago we raised \$30,000 to do a feasibility study. It is an expensive project, 2.6 million and the local share is 10%. The Okeno Challenge has committed to raising \$40,000 per year for the next 3 years so \$120,000 of the 260,000 is guaranteed. If we put another 3 or 4 years toward the project by the time we actually get to construction we should have a fair amount of money in place. To get to construction, the study should approval occur this month, then by June of this year we would apply for funding for the final design to be finalized in January of 2015 then the topographic surveys etc and the outside construction would begin April 2018. This bike path would encourage people from Jackson Gore to ride to the village or vice versa people from the village to visit Jackson Gore or Buttermilk Falls. It is also for walkers and runners. Questions were asked about maintenance and upkeep of the bike path.

Article 3 – Fletcher Memorial Library – Leslie Lever – She stated that the windows have not been replaced since 1950. The total cost is \$120,000. We are looking for a grant to help with the cost, fund raising and we are asking the town for \$20,000. We just completed a major project, the front steps, costing over \$120,000.

**TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2014: {Australian Ballot}**

ARTICLE 1. To elect Town Officers for the coming year.

ARTICLE 2. Shall the voters of the Town of Ludlow authorize the collection not to exceed \$15,000 to fund and implement the Ludlow Quest Program for middle school students entering into grades 8, 9 and 10? Ludlow Quest is a collaborative effort with the Town of Ludlow, Ludlow Rotary Club, educators and local volunteers and provides the opportunity to improve academic performance, foster new friendships, and share challenging and inspiring experiences with the overall objective of increasing their skills, self-confidence and self-worth. The Ludlow Quest Program will run for seven (7) weeks.

ARTICLE 3. Shall the voters of the Town of Ludlow authorize the collection not to exceed \$25,000 to create a Bike Path Fund to cover the local share needed for the construction of a bike/pedestrian path connecting the Village of Ludlow to the activities located to the north at the Jackson Gore Recreational Area, the Green Mountain Turnpike and Buttermilk Falls? The purpose of the Bike path is to provide a recreational passageway and safe route for bicyclists, pedestrians and outdoor enthusiasts to travel to and from the Village of Ludlow to recreational facilities north of the Village.

ARTICLE 4. Shall the votes of the Town of Ludlow authorize the collection of \$20,000 to assist in the High Priority repair to the Fletcher Memorial Library Windows to include: make all windows operable, replace broken panes, re-glaze, repair sills, refinish interior and exterior, new storms and UV protection shades to protect our oak walls, furniture, books and various items from further sun damage. The cost of all components of this project per bids will be in the \$120,000 range?

Informational meeting concluded. Convened to Town Meeting.

ARTICLE 5. Shall the voters of the Town of Ludlow act on Town Officers' reports for the period from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013?  
Motion to adopt the article made by Ms. Carter, second Mr. Kirkbride. No discussion. The motion was voted and the article was adopted.

ARTICLE 6. Shall the voters of the Town of Ludlow fix the salaries of the Select Board, Cemetery Commissioners, and Trustees of Public Funds for the ensuing year?  
Motion to set the salaries at \$1,500 for the Select Board, \$800 for the Cemetery Commissioners and \$300 for Trustees of Public Funds made by Mr. Kolenda, second Ms. Gauthier. No discussion. The motion was voted and the article was adopted.

ARTICLE 7. Shall the Town of Ludlow collect taxes on Real Property in installments, taxes to be paid to the Town Treasurer on August 15, 2014, November 15, 2014, February 15, 2015, and May 15, 2015?  
Motion to adopt the article made by Mr. Lagro, second Ms. Gulli. No discussion. The motion was voted and the article was adopted.

ARTICLE 8. Shall the voters of the Town of Ludlow authorize the Select Board to borrow money to pay the necessary expenses of the Town and Town School District and any part of its indebtedness?  
Motion to adopt the article made by Ms. Bragg, second Mr. Bixby. Mr. Kattalia asked if the town has ever borrowed in the past. Mr. Heald responded we did borrow money when Tropical Storm Irene hit; we did borrow \$1,000,000 but it does not happen on a regular basis. We borrowed it from Mascoma Savings Bank at 1%. No further discussion. The motion was voted and the article was adopted.

ARTICLE 9. Shall the voters of the Town of Ludlow vote a specific amount in lieu of a rate on a dollar on the Grand List as set forth in the Select Board's budget? Then the Select Board shall set the tax rate necessary to raise this amount after the Grand List has been completed and lodged in the office of the Town Clerk. **The amount to be raised by taxes will be \$3,382,153.00.**

Motion to adopt the article made by Mr. VanGuilder, second Ms. Gurdak. Mr. Jurkoic asked under Community Center Operations, Buildings and Grounds line item, why is that not under Buildings and Grounds. Mr. Heald responded by saying that staff person is at the Community Center 98% of the time, therefore the allocation there. Mr. Kattalia asked how much of an increase over the previous year the overall budget is. Mr. Heald answered 1.98%. Ms. Bombadil made a comment that the budget in Chester was 2.5 million. Ms. Morrill wanted to comment that \$3.3 million is increased by the other articles. No further discussion. The motion was voted and the article was adopted.

ARTICLE 10. Shall the voters of the Town of Ludlow vote a specific amount in lieu of a rate on a dollar on the Grand List as set forth in the Cemetery Commission budget? Then the Select Board shall set the tax rate necessary to raise this amount after the Grand List has been completed and lodged in the office of the Town Clerk. **The amount to be raised by taxes will be \$81,971.00.**

Motion to adopt made by Ms. Bombadil, second Ms. Gurdak. No discussion. The motion was voted and the article was adopted.

ARTICLE 11. Shall the voters of the Town of Ludlow authorize the Select Board to maintain a Highway Equipment Fund for highway purposes? **The amount to be raised by taxes will be \$30,000.**

Motion to adopt the article made by Mr. Harrison, second Ms. Gulli. No discussion. The motion was voted and the article was adopted.

ARTICLE 12. Shall the voters of the Town of Ludlow authorize the Select Board to maintain a Fire Equipment Fund? **The amount to be raised by taxes will be \$20,000.** Motion to adopt the article made by Mr. VanGuilder, second Ms. Gauthier. N discussion. The motion was voted and the article was adopted.

ARTICLE 13. Shall the voters of the Town of Ludlow authorize the Select Board to maintain a Police Equipment Fund? **The amount to be raised by taxes will be \$5,000.** Motion to adopt the article made by Mr. Bixby, second Ms. Carter. No discussion. The motion was voted and the article was adopted.

ARTICLE 14. Shall the voters of the Town of Ludlow authorize the Select Board to maintain a Municipal Transit Bus Fund? **The amount to be raised by taxes will be \$30,000.** Motion to adopt the article was made by Ms. Gauthier, second Mr. Pace. Ms. Morrill asked where the money is going. Mr. Heald responded the transit buses have a finite life. We are experimenting with a smaller bus which reduces this amount over the years nor do we have the youngsters that we used to have on all the route. The small buses are in the \$50,000 range and the full size are \$90,000+. Mr. McDermott asked how much in the fund. Mr. Heald responded \$73,000 this would make it \$103,000 which is the cost of one of the bigger buses. Ms. Morrill asked if the buses were for children and seniors. Mr. Heald responded yes. No further discussion. The motion was voted and the article was adopted.

ARTICLE 15. Shall the voters of the Town of Ludlow authorize the Select Board to maintain a Recreation Facilities Fund for recreation purposes? **The amount to be raised by taxes will be \$15,000.** Motion to adopt the article was made by Ms. Gulli, second Ms. Combes-Farr. No discussion. The motion was voted and the article was adopted.

ARTICLE 16. Shall the voters of the Town of Ludlow authorize the Select Board to maintain a Capital Fund for repairs and restoration at the Ludlow Town Hall? **The amount to be raised by taxes will be \$5,000.** Motion to adopt the article was made by Mr. Pace, second Mr. Harrison. No discussion. The motion was voted and the article was adopted.

ARTICLE 17. Shall the voters of the Town of Ludlow authorize the Select Board to maintain a Capital Fund for repairs and restoration at the Ludlow Community Center? **The amount to be raised by taxes will be \$5,000.** Motion to adopt the article made by Ms. Gurdak, second Mr. Bixby. No discussion. The motion was voted and the article was adopted.

ARTICLE 18. Shall the voters of the Town of Ludlow appropriate the sum of **\$7,250.00 to the Connecticut River Transit, Inc. and Marble Valley Regional Transit Company of Rutland** to support the public transit bus service to Ludlow, from Bellows Falls and from Rutland? Motion to adopt the article was made by Ms. Carter, second Mr. Harrison. Mr. Kirkbride asked about rider usage from Ludlow. Mr. Schmidt responded there is letter from the Current regarding usage in the Town Report stating there was an increase of 1.8 services to Okemo, Dial a Ride increase of 1% and increases in services to the region increases of 19% commuter bus service to Upper Valley, Okemo and Brattleboro, 32% non-commuter bus service to the General Public and 9.25% increase human services. No further discussion. The motion was voted and the article was adopted.

ARTICLE 19. Shall the voters of the Town of Ludlow appropriate the sum of **\$1,500.00 to the Friends of the Ludlow Auditorium** to promote special events for the community? Motion to adopt the article was made by Ms. Combes-Farr, second M. Kirkbride. No discussion. The motion was voted and the article was adopted.

Meeting recessed to allow Senator Nitka and Representative Devereux to address the audience.

Senator Nitka represents 26 towns and they try to visit as many as possible on Town Meeting. She stated they are working on a bill that would put more treatment in place for drug addiction, enhanced penalties on drugs transportation brought in or sold in the state, enhanced penalties for breaking and entering if someone has a weapon; hospitals in the state are not sufficient to handle the patients that need treatment buy not getting through the courts fast enough, need to speed up the process; teachers retirement not fully funded, there is a move to transfer part to the education fund where it should be and not the general fund; minimum wage, genetically modified organism labeling bills are also on the agenda; PTRR have brought in a million more than anticipated; green up will be funded through a voluntary check off on your income tax to donate money to the project.

Representative Devereux regarding his committee work on bills for water quality, shore line development, open meeting law, licensing home inspectors and use of tasers by law enforcement officers.

The Town Meeting was reconvened.

ARTICLE 20. To transact any other business necessary and proper when met.

Mr. VanGuilder wanted to thank John Paige for his years of service to the Town of Ludlow as Health Officer and Cemetery Commissioner.

No further business. Motion to adjourn made by Ms. Carter. Meeting adjourned at 8:15PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Ulla P. Cook, Town Clerk



Martin Nitka, Moderator



Jean Morrill, BCA Chair