

*MINUTES*

**VILLAGE OF LUDLOW  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**6:00 PM**

Tuesday November 4, 2014

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Bob Gilmore

Richard Harrison

David Rose

**STAFF:**

Frank Heald

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Holly Ellis

Tom Ellis

1. **Call to Order**

- A. Bob Gilmore called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. All members present.

2. **Approve Minutes from Previous Meeting**

- A. David Rose advised the minutes to be approved are from the regular meeting of October 7, 2014 and the Special Meeting of October 22, 2014.
- B. **MOTION by David Rose and seconded by Richard Harrison to approve minutes from the regular meeting of October 7, 2014. Motion passed unanimously.**
- C. David Rose noted that the date on the minutes was written as July 22nd and should have read October 22nd.
- D. **MOTION by David Rose and seconded by Richard Harrison to accept the minutes of the Special Meeting of October 22, 2014 as corrected. Motion passed unanimously.**

3. **Comments From Citizens**

- A. Holly Ellis advised that she is very concerned about the crosswalk by Shaw's and LaMere Square. She read a letter that was addressed to the board (copy attached.) She noted that there are seven exits from businesses that are all located there; Sunoco and Shaw's each have 2, Clover Knoll, La Mere Square and the intersection of Routes 100 and 103. She said that she called the Department of Public Works in Burlington and spoke to Dave Garren and explained the situation in Ludlow to him. He recommended a 2-sided, solar powered, flashing sign, Model R920. A pair would cost \$5,358. She added that Totem Pole, West Hill Road and Bensons also feed into that area.
- B. Bob Gilmore said that it is similar to the one at Heritage Credit Union.
- C. Tom Ellis advised that one of the sides of that sign is gone.
- D. David Rose advised that it has been gone since last winter.
- E. Tom Ellis showed a video of the recommended sign.
- F. Richard Harrison said he likes neon signs.
- G. Holly Ellis said that it is very dangerous to cross at that location, even with the existing crosswalk. She said we are fortunate that we have not had more accidents, vehicular or pedestrian, there.
- H. Tom Ellis said that the double sided signs have better visibility.
- I. Bob Gilmore advised that Route 103 is the 4<sup>th</sup> busiest highway in the state. He added that he has tested various crosswalks and it is not easy to cross at them. It takes courage as not all cars stop.
- J. Holly Ellis asked if we could place the signs closer to the crosswalk.
- K. Tom Ellis suggested putting the signs closer to the curb.
- L. Frank Heald said that they cannot put the signs closer to the curb because of the snowplows in the winter.

- M. Holly Ellis said that when the streets are covered with snow, you can't even see the crosswalks.
- N. Tom Ellis said that is all the more reason to have these new signs.
- O. David Rose said the board would look into it.
- P. Bob Gilmore said that it is a matter of budget, but the board will mull it over. He said that he supports the concept and said it would also calm traffic. It is critical for this board to look into this. He likes the idea that it is solar powered. He asked Frank Heald to research this.
- Q. Frank Heald asked if they have any of these signs in Burlington.
- R. Tom Ellis said on Pine Street.
- S. Holly Ellis said on Winooski Avenue.
- T. Frank Heald asked if it is button-activated.
- U. Tom Ellis said yes.
- V. Frank Heald advised that he and Bob Gilmore had traveled around looking at different types of crosswalks. They saw strips in the pavement with big flashing lights and people still went through them.
- W. Bob Gilmore said that they have installed radar speed signs for calming speeds. There is a pinnacle need for mitigation for crossing Main Street. He said he would support this, but needs to review the budget.
- X. David Rose said that the board is starting the budget process and \$5,000 is high. He said the board would look at it in relation to the budget.

4. **Schedule FY 2016 Budget Workshops**

- A. Frank Heald advised that he should have the village budget draft for the next meeting and they should schedule a workshop at the January meeting. He said that on the Capital side, the Sewer Department will need to replace a pickup truck and backhoe. He said they are looking at the Okemo Heights area and may do a new manhole up there. For the Village, we need to look at what money we have and decide if we want to pursue a long term contract with a vendor for trash pickup or do we want to buy our own totes. He said that he would make a recommendation at the December meeting.

5. **Discuss Christmas Party**

- A. Bob Gilmore advised that the Water Commissioners learned about this tonight.
- B. Frank Heald asked the board if they approve the concept. There would be about 100 people at about \$40 per person. The costs would be spread among the various town and village departments.
- C. **MOTION by David Rose and seconded by Richard Harrison to endorse the pursuit of the Christmas Party. Motion passed unanimously.**

6. **Other Business**

- A. **Act 148 Update**
  - i. Frank Heald advised that another public meeting for Act 148 discussions is scheduled for Wednesday, November 12, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. He said that he has spoken with people at ANR regarding possible programs. One question here is if the Village will continue to have pickup. Should this board decide, or should it go to the voters? If we do continue with pickup service, he would suggest 1 pickup per week for trash and a pickup up every other week for recyclables. He is considering one tote – 46 gallon equivalent and the costs to the village would be \$15,000 to \$18,000. He said that anything beyond what one tote would accommodate, the people would have to pay for and put out in a special bag. If the bag is not correct, it would not be picked up. The option is 52 bags per year and going across the scales with anything over that at \$.05/lb. These programs seem to have ANR buy in. He said he should have a firm recommendation for the December meeting.
  - ii. Bob Gilmore asked if there would still be stickers for the transfer station.
  - iii. Frank Heald said he hadn't thought about that. He suggested for the town, 50 bags and a sticker. He said that he would have to think about it. He said that there has to be equity between the town and village.
  - iv. Richard Harrison said he uses his pellet bags.
  - v. Frank Heald said that would not work. The bags would all have to be the same. He advised that board that the Select Board had discussed, last night, a possible abuse of the pickup at the lower end of Main Street.
  - vi. Bob Gilmore said that commercial properties are not supposed to put bags out.
- B. **Gas Station Prices**

- i. Bob Gilmore said that gas prices are cheaper in Springfield (\$2.99/gallon), East Wallingford (\$3.02/gallon) and Rutland at \$2.99 per gallon. We said that we are stuck in price gouging. He suggested that we write a letter to the Attorney General and ask him to look into Ludlow gas prices. He said that people are driving out of Ludlow to get gas and that must affect the shops. He said that one owner told him it was “Competition.”
  - ii. Frank Heald asked Bob Gilmore if he is suggesting price fixing at the local level.
  - iii. Bob Gilmore said yes.
  - iv. David Rose said that we could look into it.
  - v. Bob Gilmore suggested an official letter.
  - vi. **MOTION by David Rose and seconded by Richard Harrison to send a letter to the Attorney General to look into seemingly artificial fixed prices, unique to this neighborhood, which may indicate price fixing at the local level. Motion passed unanimously.**
  - vii. Richard Harrison said it probably would not do anything.
7. **Set Date for Next Meeting**
- A. Next regular meeting set for Tuesday December 2, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.
8. **Sign Warrant Orders**
- A. Bob Gilmore advised that Warrant Orders have been signed.
9. **Possible Executive Session/Personnel/Contracts/Legal**
- A. Frank Heald said one was not needed.
10. **Adjourn**
- A. **MOTION to adjourn by David Rose and seconded by Richard Harrison. Motion passed unanimously.**
  - B. Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisha Klaiber

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Robert Gilmore, Chairman

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David Rose

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Richard Harrison

To the Ludlow Trustees:

My concern is the crosswalk on Main Street in Ludlow between the entrance/exit at Shaw's parking area and Lamere Square. I have had a business in Ludlow for just over 21 years. During these years I have seen the traffic in Ludlow steadily increase. There have been countless times when crossing the road even in full daylight has been dangerous, and several times when I have nearly been hit by a motorist. In fact, a few years ago a woman was hit by a motorist in that crosswalk\*The difficulty in crossing here comes from the multiple entrances and exits on Main Street (Rt. 103). These include: Sunoco's double entrance/exit; Shaw's two separate entrance and exit; Clover Knoll Crafter; Lamere Square; and the intersection of Rt. 100 S. and Rt. 103. Motorists have seven places within a short distance that divert their attention. During peak traffic and tourism it becomes overwhelming. Pedestrians are not always seen either waiting to cross, or worse WHILE they are crossing.

I contacted (by telephone), on Thursday, October 30, 2014, the Burlington Dept. of Public Works Traffic Division, and spoke to their traffic signal technician, Dave Garen, to discuss possible crosswalk applications. He was very receptive to my inquiries and was helpful with giving guidance based upon his experience in Burlington.

After describing the crosswalk situation in Ludlow, his recommendation was for a solar, rectangular, double sided, rapid flashing beacon, from Carmanah Technologies Corporation, model R920, <http://carmanah.com/traffic/crosswalk-education-center>. The double sided is far more effective and visible for motorists. His experience with this model has been positive and very user friendly, beginning with relative ease of installation and inexpensive maintenance or repair costs. This model has 2 Yz" square poles that are placed into a sleeve, into a hole drilled into the ground. It does not require concrete for installation and since it is solar there is no cabling, or in-ground wiring. The purchase price per pair (one at each end of the crosswalk) from Carmanah is \$5358.00. If you are interested in speaking to Dave Garen, he can be reached Monday though Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 802/865-7269. Furthermore, if I can be of any further assistance on this matter, I would be happy to discuss the possibility with you.

It is my opinion the cost of the unit is very reasonable. I do not know if there are better options, but I do believe that the town needs to address the safety of this crosswalk without delay. When the town provides a crosswalk, it should be a SAFE crosswalk.

Sincerely,

