

**VILLAGE OF LUDLOW
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

REGULAR MEETING

6:00 PM

Tuesday September 4, 2012

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bob Gilmore, Chairman

Richard Harrison

David Rose

STAFF:

Frank Heald

OTHERS PRESENT:

Helen Bostock

Phil Dunwoody

Mary Jane O'Hara

Paul Bostock

Margaret Jaid

Jack Sabey

Rev. Tom Deibler

Mary Laramie

KP Whaley – LPCTV

Marilyn Dunwoody

1. **Call to Order**

- A. Chairman, Bob Gilmore, called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. All members present.

2. **Approve Minutes from Previous Meetings**

- A. Bob Gilmore advised the minutes to be approved are from the regular meeting of August 7, 2012.
- B. **MOTION by David Rose and seconded Richard Harrison to approve minutes indicated above as submitted. Motion passed unanimously.**

3. **Comments From Citizens**

A. **High Street Traffic Issue**

- i. Phil Dunwoody said that he had gone over the traffic study again. He said that when we first looked at it, it was hard to judge the numbers. The study shows that there were 9,275 cars identified in 12 days. Of that, 2,465 were doing between 1-25 mph. That means that 6,810 cars exceeded the speed limit, 75% doing 26+ mph. The habitual driver is going 26-35 mph and these should be looked at. There have been 50 fatalities in the state to date in 2012 and 30 of them were on secondary roads. There were 947 cars going 36+ mph. He said that he had videotaped the intersection this week and there are dozens and dozens of cars that run the stop sign. When we have 75% of cars speeding, it is significant and deserves attention. There were 2 cars that went 50-51 mph. The problem is town wide, not just High Street. He would like to see further study and action. He said that some years ago, Peter Bergois suggested speed bumps to slow the traffic. Reverse speed bumps will not affect snow plows. That is an option.
- ii. Bob Gilmore said that Phil Dunwoody has lumped in some of the acceptable speeders, cars doing up to 35 mph. We discussed this at the last meeting and cars doing 26-35 mph are discretionary according to Chief Billings. We have made efforts to slow traffic down. In the past, we put in the 3 radar speed signs and have looked into putting one on High Street.
- iii. Phil Dunwoody said that cars go 10mph over the limit is not acceptable to him.
- iv. Bob Gilmore said that Jeff Billings said that 10 mph over the limit is okay and none of us has the authority to change that.
- v. Phil Dunwoody said that the people of the town make that decision.
- vi. Bob Gilmore said that the radar signs do work.
- vii. Richard Harrison said that down by his home, people don't stop at the sign. That is a problem throughout the village. He asked if the radar signs can take pictures.

- viii. Frank Heald suggested that they might but the units would exceed the money in the budget.
- ix. Phil Dunwoody agreed with the idea of units that could take pictures. He said that they could ticket the drivers without having an officer stationed there.
- x. Rev. Deibler said that he lives at 11 High Street and has observed many cars that appear to be speeding and he is concerned for children, pedestrians and cyclists. It behooves the Village to address this situation.
- xi. Margaret Laird said there are also skateboarders.
- xii. Jack Sabey said that his is a renter up there and agreed about the traffic situation. He suggested making the street Local Traffic Only. People are trying to avoid Main Street.
- xiii. Bob Gilmore agreed that people are trying to avoid Main Street and said that it gets worse in the winter.
- xiv. Jack Sabey said that he said someone doing 50 mph run the stop sign.
- xv. Helen Bostock said there should also be a sign down by her house.
- xvi. Bob Gilmore agreed that was a good idea.
- xvii. Mary Jane O'Hara said that during the night, trucks go through the village, speeding and hit the depressed manholes and it makes a lot of noise.
- xviii. Phil Dunwoody recounted that years ago, Terry Thayne and he left the gazebo at the same time, both doing the speed limit and the one who traveled Main Street arrived first. The only way for someone traveling High Street to win is by speeding. Speeding is not good for the reputation of the town for tourism. He would rather see the cars traveling by the businesses on Main Street, than on High.
- xix. Bob Gilmore said that Local Traffic Only sign may be a good idea. He added that we only have 1 cruiser on during the day and one at night and we cannot keep an officer up on High Street all the time. He said the board would look into a No Through Traffic sign, a stop sign up by Dug Road and a radar speed sign for High Street.
- xx. Phil Dunwoody said that he spoke with Sheriff Chamberlain who told him that with the number of violations that are made, and 2/3 of the monies going to the town, we would have enough to pay for an additional officer temporarily.
- xxi. Marilyn Dunwoody said that she was walking on Pleasant Street and stopped to chat with a friend and cars were also speeding there.
- xxii. Bob Gilmore said that both streets run parallel to Main Street and people use those streets to avoid Main.
- xxiii. Phil Dunwoody said that the sheriff suggested that the best deterrent to speeders is through their wallets.
- xxiv. Rev. Deibler said that his guess is that if a handful of citations were issued, word would get out.
- xxv. Marilyn Dunwoody said that stop signs are also a big issue. Many people don't even slow down.
- xxvi. Phil Dunwoody said he did two days of videotaping, eight hours each day, and you can watch cars running the stop sign. He said that he could provide a copy of the video to the board.
- xxvii. David Rose asked if the problems were mostly in the daytime or evenings.
- xxviii. Phil Dunwoody said 90-95% is between 6 AM and 5-6 PM.
- xxix. David Rose said that he would hate to turn this town into a speed trap like Bridgewater. We are resort community and we have to walk a fine line.
- xxx. Phil Dunwoody said they could give warnings for a first offense and if the person was a habitual offender, they could be ticketed.
- xxxi. Margaret Laird suggested also putting a No Through Traffic sign on Prospect Street.
- xxxii. Bob Gilmore said the board would look at all the angles.
- xxxiii. Mary Jane O'Hara asked why Main Street could not be lowered to 25 MPH, like in Chester.
- xxxiv. Bob Gilmore said it is a state highway and the state would not allow the town to lower the speed limit to 25 mph. He said the board would mull over the ideas and see what is available and within our budget. He does not want to do something that would raise taxes inordinately.
- xxxv. David Rose asked the cost of the radar speed unit.
- xxxvi. Frank Heald said the unit he priced is \$2,873 plus shipping. He would look into prices for units with image management. He advised that the unit that he priced comes with brackets for mounting on poles and are battery operated. The batteries stay charged for about 2 weeks and recharge in about 8 hours. The unit could be moved to various locations. He said that, anecdotally, they believe that the units do slow down traffic. He suggested buying the least expensive unit and look into the image one. He said that he would also find out if they are legal in Vermont and affordable. Can we cover the cost in tickets? He said he would look for the funds in the public safety budget.
- xxxvii. David Rose asked if the town might consider chipping in.

xxxviii. Frank Heald said he could ask. He said he would research other units.

xxxix. **MOTION by Richard Harrison and seconded by David Rose to purchase the radar speed indicator for \$2,873 (plus shipping) and to research camera units. Motion passed unanimously.**

4. **Summer Sidewalk Project Update**

- A. Frank Heald advised that his memo outlines what work has been completed.
- B. David Rose confirmed that \$71,000 and change has been spent to date.
- C. Frank Heald said that the project estimate was \$89,000 and if we finish Pleasant Street to Depot Street we would spend about \$20,622 more. That would put us \$3,000 into this fiscal year. We have gathered that \$89,000 over a couple of years. He plans to do Main Street in 1-2 years.
- D. Richard Harrison said they can't wait too long to do Main over by Gleascott.
- E. Frank Heald said he was referring to Main over by Trappers.
- F. David Rose suggested that they finish Pleasant to Depot this year. He asked about funds for next year.
- G. Frank Heald said they would have \$15,000 in FY2013.
- H. Bob Gilmore asked if purchasing the radar units would tie their hands.
- I. Frank Heald said no.
- J. **MOTION by David Rose and seconded by Richard Harrison to finish the sidewalk work by finishing Pleasant Street from Andover Street to Depot Street for \$20,622. Motion passed unanimously.**
- K. Bob Gilmore noted that the contractors are doing a nice job.

5. **Other Business**

- A. There was none.

6. **Set Date for Next Meeting**

- A. Meeting set for Tuesday, October 2, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

7. **Possible Executive Session/Personnel/Contracts**

- A. Frank Heald advised that one was not needed.

8. **Adjourn**

- A. **MOTION to adjourn by David Rose and seconded by Richard Harrison. Motion passed unanimously.**
- B. Meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisha Klaiber

Robert Gilmore, Chairman

David Rose

Richard Harrison