

**VILLAGE OF LUDLOW
WATER COMMISSION**

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

April 7, 2009

Board Present:

David Rose, John Murphy, Richard Strong

Staff Present:

Frank Heald, Pam Cruickshank, Loran Greenslet

Others Present:

Mark Youngstrom, Otter Creek Engineering

Call to Order:

David Rose called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm

Approve Minutes:

John Murphy made a motion to approve the minutes from March 3, 2009. Motion was seconded by Richard Strong. All in favor and the motion passed.

Comments from Citizens:

None present.

Annual Board Re-Organization:

John Murphy made a motion to elect David Rose as Water Commission Chair, Richard Strong as Vice Chair and John Murphy as Clerk. Motion was seconded by Richard Strong. All in favor and the motion passed.

Motion by John Murphy to set the time and date of the Water Commission meetings at 5:00 pm on the first Tuesday of the month. Motion seconded by Richard Strong. All in favor and the motion passed.

Motion by John Murphy to designate the Vermont Journal as the newspaper of general circulation. Motion seconded by Richard Strong. All in favor and the motion passed.

Motion by John Murphy to adopt Roberts Rules of Order. Motion seconded by Richard Strong. All in favor and the motion passed.

Public Water System Ordinance:

- a. Frank Heald said that the Public Water System Regulations Ordinance should be reviewed every 10 to 15 years to look for currency. He added that there was an incident that recently occurred making the ordinance review more appropriate.
- b. Frank Heald said that the Castle Inn & Spa was having difficulty with their water in Cavendish. Chemicals in the hot tub and pool didn't react well with the water, so they have been using water from the Village of Ludlow to top off their tub and pool. Frank added that there was some concern from a citizen that the Castle wasn't being charged for the water usage.
- c. Frank Heald said that at roughly 2/10 cents per gallon, their water usage would equate to approximately \$15.
- d. Richard Strong said that he didn't believe the Castle used a great deal of water.
- e. Loran Greenslet estimated that 8,000 gallons had been used this year.
- f. John Murphy said he would go along with what the Water Commission says, but feels that only a minimal amount should be charged and they can take all the water they want.
- g. John Murphy moved that the Village Water Commission pass a billing minimum for the Castle and let them take what they want.
- h. David Rose asked for discussion on the motion.
- i. David Rose said that the Castle should pay something for the water usage.
- j. Loran Greenslet said that the state looks at water rates relative to 210 gallons per day/per residence, which equates to 76,000 gallons per year. He said a normal household pays \$140 per year for water, which is 2/10 of a cent a gallon. Loran Greenslet said that the Castle would pay for water and he felt that they should pay.
- k. David Rose asked if a staff member watches when water is taken.
- l. Loran Greenslet said the Castle brings in a sap truck and takes anywhere from 1 to 2 loads. He added that they would not use 76,000 gallons per year. He also mentioned that Cavendish is constructing a water filtration system.
- m. Frank Heald asked Loran how many estimated gallons are taken per week.
- n. Loran estimated a few loads at 300 gallons per load.
- o. David Rose recommended charging \$.05 or \$.10 per gallon for water usage.
- p. Loran Greenslet said that 2/10 per cent would equal \$16 this year.
- q. John Murphy said whatever they decided would set a precedent for communities to come in and take water.
- r. Richard Strong said the Castle is just topping off the pool and tub.
- s. John Murphy reiterated that they would set a precedent for other communities and should charge a minimum.
- t. Loran Greenslet estimated the Castle would use 7,500 gallons in a 3-month period.
- u. David Rose said he is in favor of charging \$.05 per gallon.
- v. David Rose said there is a motion on the table to charge the Castle the minimum rate for water. John Murphy said he was in favor, David Rose said no, Richard Strong said no.
- w. Richard Strong made a motion to charge out of town water customers that are not on the Village system \$.03 per gallon. Motion was seconded by John Murphy. All in favor and the motion passed.

Water Project Update:

- a. Mark Youngstrom of Otter Creek Engineering reported that the Village water project is on the state stimulus fundable list right now, but is toward the bottom of the list. He anticipates the Village will get the stimulus money.

- b. Mark Youngstrom said they are through the design portion of the water project and many of the permits are in hand. He added that we are at a “fork in the road” in regards to funding using stimulus money or Rural Development.
- c. Mark Youngstrom said he would like to get the project out to bid by the end of next week. Advertising to minority business has already taken place, so general contractors can be notified.
- d. Mark Youngstrom said that if the Village remains on the stimulus list, we will get the money. He added that Rural Development has the application ready to send to Washington D.C. and they are ready to write the check to the Village.
- e. Mark Youngstrom provided a spreadsheet with potential project financing figures from the State with/without and from Rural Development. He added that there is a potential plan to install meters and provide a “green infrastructure” with less water waste. The plan would pick up 67% of the cost to install meters with a grant. The water metering system is a radio data collection system that would cost \$9 per year per user.
- f. Loran Greenslet asked if the Village would have to go with metered rates.
- g. Mark Youngstrom said no, they did not need to use metered rates.
- h. Richard Strong asked if the metered system would require another staff member to administrate.
- i. Mark Youngstrom said that the meters are read by a computer (drive by residences in a truck with a computer that reads the meters through radio signals). He added that the Town of Brandon has the system and can read the results in less than 30 minutes.
- j. Mark Youngstrom said his recommendation would be to go with the stimulus funding (if they are still on the list), put meters in, but not use metered rates. He added that we are getting the funding and would be able to better track how much water is actually being used and flag customers who are using/wasting too much.
- k. John Murphy said with Rural Development the water bill rate would be \$276 and with the stimulus it would be \$280.
- l. Mark Youngstrom said yes, but the payback is 20 years for the stimulus plan and 40 years with Rural Development.
- m. Loran Greenslet asked if it was worth going with both plans and select the best when the stimulus decision is made.
- n. Mark Youngstrom said they could be ready to advertise the project by the end of next week, or the week after – 30 day bid period.
- o. David Rose recommended they go with the stimulus plan and if they fall off the list, go with Rural Development.
- p. John Murphy asked about the cost with meters, should they do it later?
- q. Mark Youngstrom said to do the entire Village at one time.
- r. Frank Heald recommended they go with the meters with the project and get the stimulus money.
- s. John Murphy made a motion that the Water Commissioners to go with the Stimulus financing that includes the water meters, and if they drop off the stimulus list, go with Rural Development financing for the water project. Motion was seconded by Richard Strong. All in favor and the motion passed.
- t. John Murphy asked when they could advertise the bid.
- u. Mark Youngstrom said a week from Friday.
- v. Frank Heald asked Mark Youngstrom if he had a current list of contractors.
- w. Mark Youngstrom said they keep an ongoing list.

Other Business:

There was none.

Adjourn:

John Murphy made a motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Richard Strong. All in favor and the motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 5:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Cruickshank
Acting Clerk

David Rose, Chairman

Richard Strong

John Murphy, Sr.