

PRELIMINARY MINUTES

**TOWN OF LUDLOW
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

February 5, 2018

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Howard Barton, Jr., Chairman	Logan Nicoll	Bruce Schmidt
John Neal	Brett Sanderson	

STAFF PRESENT:

Frank Heald

OTHERS PRESENT:

Paul Orzechowski	Ted Reeves	Ed McEaney (Okemo Valley TV)
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1. Call to Order

A. Howard Barton called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. All members present.

2. Consideration of any Changes, Additions or Removals to the Agenda

A. Frank Heald advised that no changes were necessary.

3. Approve Minutes of Previous Meetings

A. Howard Barton advised that the minutes to be reviewed are from the meetings of January 8, 2018, January 15, 2018 and January 25, 2018.

B. **MOTION by Brett Sanderson and seconded by Logan Nicoll to approve the minutes from January 8, 2018, January 15, 2018 and January 25, 2018 as presented. Motion passed unanimously.**

4. Comments from Citizens

A. There were none

5. Ranger/NextEra Update

A. Frank Heald advised that construction is set to begin after the snow is gone, in the spring.

6. TDI New England Update

- A. Frank Heald said he had a conversation with them and they hope the New Hampshire decline creates new opportunities or they can just build it anyway. He said more information will be coming on this.

7. **Discuss Stearn's Pit Lease Options**

- A. Frank Heald advised that there is a proposal from Ranger/NextEra to lease Stearn's Pit starting April 1, 2018 through November 30, 2018 for \$4,500 per month for storage and staging. There is also some interest from VELCO for storage of poles at Stearn's Pit for their Coolidge-Cold River upgrade project. He would like to work out deals with both companies.
- B. John Neal asked if Ranger's price is negotiable.
- C. Frank Heald said the cars in the winter generate more income than storage in the summer.
- D. Bruce Schmidt asked how much the electricity is worth.
- E. Howard Barton said the quote is low.
- F. John Neal suggested \$10,000.
- G. Brett Sanderson suggested between \$6,000 to \$8,000.
- H. Frank Heald advised that there may also be a piece to VELCO.
- I. Howard Barton asked Frank Heald to negotiate.

8. **Consider & Approve Legal Services Proposal**

- A. Frank Heald said that an RFP was sent out on January 19, 2018 and they received 4 proposals. He met with Ulla Cook and Rose Goings to review the proposals. They chose 2 of the 4 to send to the Select Board, Monaghan, Safar and Ducham from Burlington and Parker and Ankuda from Springfield. Rose Goings recommended Monaghan, Safar and Ducham they have a history with Municipal law. The town has done tax sales with Ankuda and he also represented Springfield and Rockingham. They are local. Monaghan's firm is younger. Ankuda is a little less expensive.
- B. Bruce Schmidt asked who Frank Heald recommends.
- C. Frank Heald said he would go along with staff.
- D. Bruce Schmidt said he is concerned with the distance.
- E. Frank Heald said they only charge ½ price for travel time.
- F. John Neal suggested talking with Springfield and Rockingham about Ankuda.
- G. Frank Heald said Steve Ankuda has also done some work with the Solid Waste District.
- H. John Neal said Steve Ankuda is good and closer.
- I. Bruce Schmidt asked how many times Chris Callahan was here.
- J. Frank Heald said for the Municipal side, about 80% of the contact was on the phone and for the Planning Office; about 40% was in the office. He added that for employee related matters, we go to VLCT.
- K. Howard Barton voiced concern that a bigger firm may draw things out.
- L. Frank Heald said that is up to our management.
- M. Brett Sanderson said we should stay local. He added that this can be changed if we are not comfortable with them.
- N. **MOTION by Bruce Schmidt and seconded by Brett Sanderson to contract with Parker and Ankuda for Municipal legal matters. Motion passed unanimously.**
- O. Frank Heald noted that Mr. Parker is deceased.

9. **Appoint Deputy Town Health Officer**

- A. Frank Heald advised that they recently had a situation that called for the Town Health officer, but that person was out of town. We had never appointed a Deputy and must have one. He advised that Pam Cruickshank volunteered.
- B. **MOTION by John Neal and seconded by Brett Sanderson to appoint Pam Cruickshank to the position of Deputy Town Health Officer. Motion passed unanimously.**

10. **Recreation Department Update**

- A. Frank Heald advised that Howie Paul had resigned. He has met with the Recreation Committee and reviewed an interim appointment. The Recreation Director in Cavendish is part time and has been involved in joint Ludlow/Cavendish activities. The Cavendish town manager is agreeable to this while we search for a new Recreation Director. Frank Heald said he recommended to the committee that we hire this person on an Interim basis. The ad for a new Recreation Director has been posted. We do have a couple of resumes, but will do a broader search. He is confident that we will find someone soon.

11. **Department Heads Reports**

- A. Howard Barton advised that all reports are in.

12. **Other Business**

- A. **Town-wide Reappraisal**
 - 1) Bruce Schmidt said he has heard talk that the Listers will do a town-wide reappraisal in a couple of years. He asked if we should be putting money in the budget for this.
 - 2) Frank Heald said that he met with the Listers last week and this was not mentioned to him. He does not think this is the case, but will check.
 - 3) Howard Barton asked when the last town-wide appraisal was.
 - 4) Ted Reeves said 2010.
 - 5) Bruce Schmidt asked about an assessor.
 - 6) Frank Heald said we have been doing it.
- B. **Municipal Manager Search**
 - 1) Frank Heald said that Heather Law has suggested a bump in advertising as she would like to create more interest. She suggested Public Service Center and the TIMES ARGUS/RUTLAND HERALD ads. We have about 13 resumes and some are outstanding.
 - 2) John Neal asked how long the ads have been out there.
 - 3) Frank Heald said a couple of weeks.
 - 4) Bruce Schmidt said them having to come back to us slows the process.
 - 5) Howard Barton did not want to use the TIMES ARGUS.
 - 6) Frank Heald said the TIMES ARGUS weekend edition covers central Vermont. He added that we haven't posted in the Public Service Center.
 - 7) Bruce Schmidt said we should do one of them.
 - 8) John Neal suggested limiting it to \$500.

13. **Set Date for Next Meetings**

- A. Town Meeting on March 5, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

14. **Sign Warrant Orders**

- A. Warrant orders have been signed.

15. **Possible Executive Session/ Personnel**

- A. Frank Heald advised that an Executive Session is needed.
- B. **MOTION by Bruce Schmidt and seconded by Brett Sanderson that in accordance with the provisions of 1VSA §313 (1) (B), he moves that the Ludlow Select Board enter into Executive Session to consider;**
- i. **Personnel Matters.**
The premature public knowledge of this pending action could place the Town and Village of Ludlow at a substantial disadvantage. This motion for executive session includes the members present and the Municipal Manager. Motion passed unanimously.
- C. Board entered into Executive Session at 7:32 p.m.
- D. Exited Executive Session at 7:50 p.m. No action taken.

16. **Adjourn**

- A. **MOTION by Bruce Schmidt and seconded by John Neal to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.**
- B. Meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisha Klaiber

Howard Barton, Jr., Chairman

Brett Sanderson

John Neal

Bruce Schmidt

Logan Nicoll