

**PRELIMINARY MINUTES**

**TOWN OF LUDLOW  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**REGULAR MEETING**

July 18, 2011

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Howard Barton, Jr., Chairman      Brett Sanderson      Bruce Schmidt

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

John Neal      Douglas Ficken

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Frank Heald

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

George Fairchild      Ralph Pace      Laura Wyman  
Lawrence Gray      John Paige      KP Whaley (LPC-TV)  
Glen Heitsmith      Ted Reeves  
Margot Martel      Terry Thayne

1. **Call to Order**

- A. Chairman Howard Barton called the meeting to order at 7:19 p.m.
- B. All members present, except John Neal and Doug Ficken.

2. **Approve Minutes of Previous Meetings**

- A. Howard Barton advised that the minutes to be approved are from the regular meeting of June 6, 2011 and the special meeting of July 7, 2011.
- B. **MOTION by Bruce Schmidt and seconded by Brett Sanderson to approve the minutes of June 6, 2011 and July 7, 2011 as presented. Motion passed unanimously.**

3. **Comments from Citizens**

- A. There were none.

4. **Discuss Ludlow Transfer Station Scale**

- A. Frank Heald said that the good news is that the existing scale passed inspection.
- B. George Fairchild said that it was off by between 40 and 80 pounds, depending on the load it was weighing.
- C. Frank Heald said the bid numbers are in order with the encumbrance of \$20,000 in the Capital account and they would take the balance from the Operating Account Equipment Fund. He said the George Fairchild recommends the Wylie Scale. With it, they would only be down about 1 week, while with the Fairbanks they would be down 30 days. Wylie has provided excellent service over the years.
- D. George Fairchild said the Wylie bid is only \$361 more but when the state comes for inspections, the Wylie representative is there, just in case there is a problem. He added that the Wylie salesman was the only one out of 7 not to badmouth the competition. He said spoken to lots of people with the Wylie scale and they are very happy with it. Fairbanks products are good, but it takes too long to get a repairman if there is a problem.
- E. Bruce Schmidt asked how often you have to call.
- F. George Fairchild said not often.
- G. **MOTION by Brett Sanderson and seconded by Bruce Schmidt to approve the Wylie bid for the scale at the Transfer Station. Motion passed unanimously.**

5. **Discuss Transfer Station ½ Price Day**

- A. George Fairchild said that he would like to do the same as last year, taking everything as usual, but limiting items such as tires and Freon appliances. Businesses would be charged at usual. He suggested August 6, 2011
- B. **MOTION by Brett Sanderson and seconded by Bruce Schmidt to approve ½ Price Day at the Transfer Station for August 6, 2011 and as indicated above. Motion passed unanimously.**

6. **Open Police Cruiser Bid**

- A. Frank Heald advised that they had sent out 9 bids and only received one back. Benson's Chevrolet offered the bid of \$28,740 (List Price) less Trade-in of \$9,690 for a total net bid of \$19,050. He said that was within the budgeted amount.
- B. **MOTION by Bruce Schmidt and seconded by Brett Sanderson to accept the bid of \$19,050 from Benson Chevrolet.**
- C. Frank Heald said that he does not know why the Dodge dealer did not bid. He said that Ford is months away from releasing a new model cruiser that is a remake of the Taurus and has optional All Wheel drive.
- D. **Motion passed unanimously.**

7. **Open Reappraisal Bids**

- A. Howard Barton advised that they have 5 bids to open.

<b>Bidder</b>	<b>Amount</b>
NE Municipal Consultants	\$91,000
Tyler Technologies (CT)	No Bid
Vision Government Solutions (MA)	No Bid
Vermont Appraisals Co.	\$15,000 for 20 days, \$825/day add'l
ARG Inc. (Essex Jct.)	\$25,580, with options

- B. Board gave bids to Terry Thayne and Margot Martel to review.
- C. Terry Thayne said that the listers know NEMC. Since the bids are so far apart, he would like Frank Heald to call other bidders. He said there is money budget for the reappraisal.
- D. Howard Barton said he would like the listers to research the bids as they are more familiar with them than Frank Heald.
- E. Frank Heald suggested they defer awarding the bids until the next meeting.

8. **DRB Appointments**

- A. Howard Barton advised that three positions (one 3-year, one 2-year and one 1-year are open) and letters were received from Phil Carter for the 3-year, John Boehrer for the 1-year and Linda Petty for the 2-year. It was noted the Richard Harrison has one year remaining on his term and Julie Nicoll's term has expired.
- B. **MOTION by Brett Sanderson and seconded by Bruce Schmidt to appoint Phil Carter, John Boehrer and Linda Petty to the 3 DRB positions as indicated above and to send a letter to Julie Nicoll thanking her for her service. Motion passed unanimously.**

9. **Request to Encumber Wellness Funds**

- A. Frank Heald referred to his memo to board members regarding funds received from VLCT last year for the Wellness program and references during the budget discussions to continue this program. They did not budge any funds for it. This is a request to encumber the funds received from VLCT to continue this program.
- B. **MOTION by Brett Sanderson and seconded by Bruce Schmidt to approve the request to encumber the funds as requested. Motion passed unanimously.**

10. **Lake Rescue Association Speed Limit Request RE: East Lake Road**

- A. Frank Heald advised that a couple of years ago this board considered lowering speed limits on Red Bridge Road, Ellison's Lake Road and East Lake Road to 25MPH . The board opted to lower Red Bridge and Ellison's Lake, but not East Lake. The association is requesting that the town put Caution signs on East Lake and lower the speed limit now.
- B. Howard Barton said the speed limit is 35 MPH, but that the yellow 25 MPH signs are still there.
- C. Frank Heald said the 25 MPH signs were supposed to have been removed and he will have them removed. They are misleading.
- D. Bruce Schmidt said that he understands the concerns of the association, but this board needs to find a balance. He also is not happy with the language in their request saying that the speed limit would be the cause of an accident. Accidents can also happen at 25 MPH. He thinks they are trying to somewhat sensationalize this.
- E. Brett Sanderson said that he is concerned that if the board changes East Lake, other street residents will want their streets lowered, also.
- F. Frank Heald suggested that they start with a middle ground. Put up caution signs and get a radar speed detection device for a month.
- G. Bruce Schmidt suggested possibly having a cruiser sit out there for a while.

11. **Discuss CVPS Electrical Conductors Replacement Project**

- A. Howard Barton advised that CVPS is doing an upgrade on wire sizes from Mount Holly to the Smithville substation.
- B. Frank Heald advised that this has no effect on Ludlow, they just need our approval.
- C. Bruce Schmidt said they are just letting Ludlow know what they are doing.
- D. **MOTION by Brett Sanderson and seconded by Bruce Schmidt to authorize Frank Heald to send a letter of support to CVPS for this project. Motion passed unanimously.**

12. **Department Head Reports**

- A. Frank Heald advised that Ulla Cook sends her apology for not submitting this month's report, but she was on vacation.
- B. Ambulance
  - 1. Bruce Schmidt noted that the Ambulance Department has a new coordinator and asked Frank Heald if he has met with him and does he expect any changes. The department has been running very well.
  - 2. Frank Heald said that he has met with Carl Matteson once a week. Frank Heald said that Carl is prepared. He did however add that within the 1<sup>st</sup> 24-48 hours a call was missed. One rig was out and they could not get crew for the second rig. He said a letter was sent to Sue Poirier for her service.
  - 3. Bruce Schmidt said Sue did a good job.

13. **Other Business**

- A. 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration
  - 1. Frank Heald advised that a group is busy planning the celebration to commemorate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the town charter on September 16<sup>th</sup>. It will be a 2 to 3 day event. The committee, chaired by Ralph Pace has raised a couple of thousand dollars.
- B. Listers and Planners
  - 1. Frank Heald advised that there is an opportunity within Cartographics to have web access to public record information in the office and to implement it over the next 3 years for \$4,000 with costs split between Listers and Planning. It would allow access to property data sheets, assessment and tax information and would be a marvelous tool. It is a philosophical decision. It is public record information, but do we want it on the web.
  - 2. Howard Barton said he did not.
  - 3. Bruce Schmidt asked how much money would be needed to get it started.
  - 4. Frank Heald said the files already exist; it would just be a matter of merging it into a web accessible file. The up-side it that it provides good public access. The down-side is that anyone can see it.
  - 5. Howard Barton said that he is not keen on it. Access in the office is okay.
  - 6. Brett Sanderson said that he does not like the idea.
  - 7. Bruce Schmidt said it is public information anyway. He asked about other towns.

8. Frank Heald said it is just beginning in towns and is password protected in Vermont. He said that he looked up a site in MA and it was interesting.
  9. Howard Barton said they would be asking for trouble. It may mean having the wrong people looking up things. He said that he thinks people would be upset.
  10. Margot Martel said that you would be able to limit what people could look at. It may encourage potential home buyers.
  11. Howard Barton said that he is all for technology, but he thinks this is pushing the limit. What will it gain for the town?
  12. Margot Martel said appraisers and realtors could use it.
  13. Howard Barton said part of their business is to come in and look things up in the records.
  14. Glenn Heitsmith asked if it would decrease the burden of the listers' jobs. He added that it may make it easier for the criminal element, but it also would make it easier for legitimate businesses.
  15. Margot Martel said they could just show the footprint of the property, not individual rooms.
  16. Bruce Schmidt suggested that they wait until all board members are present to pursue this. We are not quite ready for it yet.
  17. Howard Barton said that possibly people could sign a waiver if they want their property on the web.
  18. Bruce Schmidt said either you put the public records on the web, or you don't. We can't have people signing waivers.
  19. Howard Barton said people come into the office to look at the records, you don't know who is looking at the web.
  20. Terry Thayne said that if someone calls the office, the listers will fax or email them the information. It is a neat system.
  21. Howard Barton said he is not in favor of it and would need more public input.
  22. Margot Martel said it would be handy for the police and EMS services; they could look up locations on the web.
  23. Howard Barton said that is what the 911 numbers are for.
  24. Frank Heald said this hearing will be on LPC TV. Let's see if anyone calls in about it.
- C. West Hill Use
1. Howard Barton asked if the town is using West Hill for anything other than fireworks.
  2. Frank Heald said not as much as we used to before the Community Center. One problem is too much goose feces. ATF said we need a permit for flash/bangs.
  3. Bruce Schmidt said he thought they were going to try removing the eggs.
  4. Frank Heald said the state will do live capture, but it is expensive. Flash/bangs are less expensive. There is an element in town that would like a hunting season on geese.
  5. Glenn Heitsmith asked what the value of West Hill is now. He suggested making it into a tree farm.
  6. Frank Heald advised that it was a nice adult picnic area years ago with nature trails. It we could get rid of the geese, it would make a nice recreation area.
  7. Bruce Schmidt said we should make some noise with the state to get rid of the geese.
  8. Frank Heald said there are some people who feed the geese. Hunting would reduce the population.
  9. Glenn Heitsmith said that the state park uses orange fencing.
  10. Bruce Schmidt said he has heard that it works.

14. Set Date for Next Meeting

- A. Frank Heald said that the next regular meeting would be on August 1<sup>st</sup>, but that is only 2 weeks away. Does the board still want to hold it that night? He suggested August 15, September 19 and the beginning of October.
- B. It was decided to have the next meeting on August 15, 2011.

15. Sign Warrant Orders

- A. Warrant orders have been signed.

16. Possible Executive Session/Personnel

- A. Frank Heald advised that an Executive session is required.

- B. MOTION by Brett Sanderson and seconded by Bruce Schmidt to enter into Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously.
- C. Board entered into Executive Session at 8:20 p.m.
- D. Board exited Executive Session at 8:31 p.m. No action taken

17. **Adjourn**

- A. **MOTION by Bruce Schmidt and seconded by Howard Barton to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.**
- B. Meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisha Klaiber

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Howard Barton, Jr., Chairman

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Brett Sanderson

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Doug Ficken

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Bruce Schmidt

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John Neal