

PRELIMINARY MINUTES

**TOWN OF LUDLOW
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

REGULAR MEETING

July 18, 2016

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Howard Barton, Jr., Chairman John Neal Bruce Schmidt

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Logan Nicoll Brett Sanderson

STAFF PRESENT:

Frank Heald

OTHERS PRESENT:

John Boehrer Ted Reeves Adam Sayre (LPC-TV)
Glenn Heitsmith Ron Tarbell
Linda Petty Terry Thayne

1. **Call to Order**

- A. Howard Barton called the regular meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.
- B. All members present, except Logan Nicoll and Brett Sanderson

2. **Approve Minutes of Previous Meetings**

- A. Howard Barton advised that the minutes to be approved are from the Public Information Meeting and the regular meeting of June 6, 2016 and the special meeting on July 7, 2016.
- B. **MOTION by Bruce Schmidt and seconded by John Neal to approve the minutes for the regular meeting of June 6, 2016 and the special meeting of July 7, 2016 as presented.**
- C. Glenn Heitsmith said that in the minutes for June 6, it should read that he said his dog would not walk across the south side of the bridge.
- D. **Motion passed unanimously, as amended.**

3. **Comments from Citizens**

- A. There were none.

4. **DRB Appointments**

- A. Frank Heald advised that there is one 2-year position and two 1-year positions open. Michael Mattson and Linda Petty have applied for the 2-year position and John Boehrer, and Richard Harrison have applied for the two 1-year positions.
- B. **MOTION by John Neal and seconded by Bruce Schmidt to appoint Linda Petty to the 2-year position and Richard Harrison and John Boehrer to the 1-year positions.**
- C. Bruce Schmidt asked if there had been any discussion with the DRB chairman about attendance and the possibility that the time commitment may be too much for any of the members.
- D. John Boehrer said that in the last 4 to 5 months, Richard Harrison has been unavailable to attend the meetings, but has attended the site reviews.
- E. Bruce Schmidt said that we should talk with Richard Harrison. He has done a lot for the town.
- F. Frank Heald noted that Mr. Harrison has only requested the one-year position.
- G. **Motion passed unanimously.**

5. **Award Police Cruiser Bus Bid**

- A. Frank Heald advised that item #8 on the agenda is the same as this item. He said the bid committee met on Friday, July 15th at 12:15 p.m. He said that they received one bid from Durand Ford. The net price with trade in is just under \$16,000. The budgeted cost is \$27,000. They will order the vehicle without factory installed lights, because the factory installed lights come with red and blue lights and they would have to remove the red lights. The total estimated cost will be about \$22,000 to \$23,000 with lights and radio switch out.
- B. **MOTION by John Neal and seconded by Bruce Schmidt to award the bid to Durand Ford. Motion passed unanimously.**

6. **Board of Listers June Grievance Update**

- A. Terry Thayne advised that there were 25 appeals with 21 adjustments and 4 denials. Five people went to the Board of Civil Authority, but there are no results yet from that. He added that the CLA is very close to 100.
- B. Howard Barton said the listers have done a good job with that.

7. **Board of Listers 2015 State Appeal Settlement Request**

- A. Terry Thayne advised that this is about the 2012 Ghia Farm appeal to the state. The net result is approximately the 2012 price of the land and Ludlow decided to settle. We could have gone further, but decided not to.
- B. **MOTION by Bruce Schmidt and seconded by John Neal authorize Howard Barton to signed the settlement agreement for Ghia Farm.**
- C. Bruce Schmidt asked why the listers decided not to go further.
- D. Terry Thayne said there were 2 outstanding sales for next door properties and we did not feel that the additional time and costs involved would be justified. He said the Ghias are juggling numbers through Current Use.
- E. Bruce Schmidt said they could sell it for more.
- F. Frank Heald said this was a business decision as our appeals were weak.
- G. Bruce Schmidt said we need to send a message to people that we take this seriously.

- H. Frank Heald said it was not a casual decision and Mr. Kajeski and our state advisor agreed with the settlement. The new state advisor knows what he is doing.
- I. Bruce Schmidt said it is important that we send the message that “we all have to pay our share.”
- J. Frank Heald said the Current Use system is grossly flawed.
- K. **Motion passed unanimously.**

8. **See Agenda Item 5**

9. **Projects Updates and Proposed Schedules**

- A. **Walker Bridge.**
 - i. Frank Heald advised that the final draft for Walker was done on July 15th. The bond vote is on August 9, 2016 and if that goes forward, the bid documents will go out by August 31, 2016, with a bid opening date of September 23, 2016. The bid will be awarded in October. Construction will take place over a 35 consecutive day period between June 1 and August 31, 2017. Construction will be on a 24 hour per day basis, with maximum of 75 dB at the closest residence. There will be incentives for early completion and penalties for every late hour over the 35-day period.
- B. **Commonwealth Avenue Hazard Mitigation project:**
 - i. Frank Heald advised that the project has been approved by FEMA and state officials. It will also go to the voters on August 9th for a bond vote. The Engineering RFP will go out once the sub-grant agreement is signed. Construction will take place at the same time as the Walker Bridge project, so that it will cross Main Street when Main Street is closed for the Walker Bridge project.
- C. **Pleasant Street Ext. Bridge:**
 - i. Frank Heald advised that we have been approved for a \$175,000 grant and the town bonds are in place. He said that he has discussed this with the people from LaValleys and Jeld-Wen and the decision was made that the best time for construction is in early spring. The RFP will go out to bid in late October with construction to start around April 15, 2017. Construction will be about 25-30 days and we will work with the town and village on parking and trucks. We may use a portable stop light.
- D. **Trailside Road Culvert (last large culvert on the upper end of the road)**
 - i. Frank Heald advised that we were approved for a grant from Better Back Roads based on the proposal by E.J. Prescott. We hope to do the project this fall.
- E. **Andover Street (bottom of Hemingway Hill) Culvert Replacement**
 - i. Frank Heald advised that we were approved for a structures grant for \$75,600 and the total project cost estimate is \$84,000. We will do the RFP in August and, depending on contractor availability the project could be done this fall. We will use a concrete box and hope to have 2-way traffic.
- F. **Main Street/Depot Street Traffic Light Upgrade**
 - i. Frank Heald advised that the contractor has the cameras and they should be installed within 10 days. These will replace the strips in the road. Hopefully they will also help deaden the speed. Also, the head of the stoplight will be replaced.
- G. **Branch Brook Bridge (Intersection Rte. 103 and Rte.100N) Deck Replacement**
 - i. The deck of the bridge needs to be replaced and this will result in a total road closure for 7 to 10 days in May 2017. Traffic will be detoured on Buttermilk Falls Road and Rod and Gun Club Road. This project will be paid for with all state funds and no local funds.

H. Road Inventory & Capital Budget Planning Project

- i. We have received a grant for \$7,337 from Better Back Roads toward a total project cost of \$9,165 for an inventory of roads and planning for capital budget project.

I. Village Projects

- i. Frank Heald advised that the Village is applying for an Asset Management Grant to look at the village infrastructure starting at the Wastewater Plant. He noted that much of the equipment is still the original equipment. They will look for upgrades at the plant. They will look at upgrades on High Street water, wastewater and storm water lines. They will look at other upgrades throughout the wastewater lines. On Mountain Road, a pipe needs to be upgraded and at the bottom, by Killarney, the lines have angles that need to be straightened. He said that they looked at the lines on Pleasant Street, near Mill Street and the lines are in good shape, but the structures need work. He noted that they are clogged with masses of roots. After the study is done, they will look for funding at state and federal levels. He added that the Wastewater department recently received a 50% grant from VLCT and purchased a push camera that allows you to see what is actually in the lines and where they go.

10. Review Road/Paving Plan

- A. Frank Heald advised that they are currently working on getting Upper Cross Road ready for paving. This will complete the loop for sanding and plowing. He advised that on Buttermilk Falls Road a section was reclaimed a year ago. Using a process called BOMAG; they grind up the existing pavement and roll it back down, then sure pack it. They propose to bring this all the way down. There are 2 to 3 aprons on Rod & Gun Club Road down to the East Lake Bridge. On Dempsey and South Hill there will be about 1,500 feet of paving and shimming. This all will use up the budgeted funds. He added that they had looked at all of the paved roads and Trailside and West Hill need work, but they would prefer to give South Face Village another summer of construction. He said that on Locust Hill, it is hard to do anything but shim coat. The return on investment is not good.
- B. Ron Tarbell said he would grind and sure pack it.
- C. Bruce Schmidt asked when they will do Buttermilk Falls Road.
- D. Frank Heald said this summer.
- E. Bruce Schmidt asked why they would take pavement off Buttermilk Falls Road.
- F. Frank Heald said for two reasons. First unpaved will slow traffic down. Second, they did a cost benefit analysis and it would be too expensive to pave.
- G. Bruce Schmidt added that part of it has always been paved.
- H. Frank Heald said they looked at plowing and traffic and Upper Crossroad gets more traffic.
- I. Bruce Schmidt said they need to talk to the people who live there and to keep it from going to potholes.
- J. Frank Heald said he recently went to a festival and the road was smooth. They used high quality sure pack stone that cuts down on potholes.
- K. Ron Tarbell said they will have some potholes, but it will be minimal. We would need to reclaim it before paving. He added there are no houses up there.
- L. Bruce Schmidt noted that for the past 4 to 5 years, there has not been enough money in the budget for paving. If we has gotten the local options tax, we were going to use some of that money for paving.

- M. Frank Heald said they did a road by road analysis because he wanted to see what the condition of the roads was. We put \$100,000 to \$125,000 in for paving. We have done ditches and replaced culverts. We don't need perfectly smooth roads.
- N. Bruce Schmidt said that some roads have bad sections. Buttermilk Falls Road should have been done 4 to 5 years ago. The taxpayers want us to keep track of these things and not let them get out of hand. We need to tell the people on Buttermilk Falls Road that we are not paving, but instead doing BOMAG.
- O. Ron Tarbell said that Ghia Farm Road also needs paving and gets a lot of traffic.
- P. Frank Heald said that would be new paving.
- Q. Ron Tarbell said Buttermilk Falls Road doesn't get the traffic.

11. Department Head Reports

- A. Howard Barton advised that all reports are in.
- B. Bruce Schmidt asked if the Ambulance Department would be coming to the Select Board with new rates.
- C. Frank Heald said yes.

12. Other Business

- A. Agenda
 - i. Howard Barton noted that tonight's agenda did not list the time (7:00) and he would like it to be on future agendas.
- B. Sports Car Club Activity
 - i. Frank Heald inquired if there had been complaints about Sports Car Club Rally that was held on June 26th at Stearns Pit. He advised that the group has asked to return on September 10th or 11th. He added they should put water down.
 - ii. There were no comments.
- C. Police Department Contract
 - i. Frank Heald advised that they are still working on the contract and it should be ready for the August 1st meeting. He said the non-union personnel increases are covered in the budget.

13. Set Date for Next Meeting

- A. Howard Barton advised that the next regular meeting will be on Monday, August 1, 2016.
- B. Bruce Schmidt said he would not be here, but would call in if necessary.
- C. Howard Barton advised that before that there would be a public information meeting, starting at 7:00 about the bond vote to be held on August 9th.

14. Sign Warrant Orders

- A. Warrant orders have been signed.

15. **Possible Executive Session/Personnel/Contracts/Legal Issues**

- A. Frank Heald advised that an Executive Session is not needed.

16. **Adjourn**

- A. **MOTION by John Neal and seconded by Bruce Schmidt to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.**
- B. Meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisha Klaiber

Howard Barton, Jr., Chairman

Brett Sanderson

John Neal

Bruce Schmidt

Logan Nicoll