

**PRELIMINARY MINUTES**

**TOWN OF LUDLOW  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING**

May 2, 2016

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

John Neal

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Frank Heald

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Jeff Billings	Dave Norton	Larry Wilfong
David Carpenter	Deb Norton	John Wu
Glenn Heitsmith	Ted Reeves	Ed McEneaney (LPC-TV)
Donald Lagro	Ron Tarbell	
Carl Matteson	Herb Van Guilder	

**PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING**

**The legal voters of the Town of Ludlow, Vermont, are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Town Hall in Ludlow at 37 Depot Street on Monday evening, the second day of May 2016, at seven o'clock PM (7:00 PM) in the Town Hall Conference Room for a Public Information Meeting pursuant to a petition received March 29, 2016 by Australian Ballot the following article:**

**Shall the voters of the Town of Ludlow renew the exempt status of the property located at 22 Buttermilk Falls Road owned by the Ludlow Masonic Association from property taxes for a period of (5) five years commencing with the 2016 Tax year?**

1. Howard Barton opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and advised that this is a public meeting to obtain public input for the tax exempt status of the Masonic Lodge, located at 22 Buttermilk Falls Road. He said that at town meeting, the Lodge members requested continuation of the tax exempt status for 5 years. It was defeated at town meeting. The question has been brought back by petition.
2. Herb Van Guilder advised that he is a member of the lodge and gave a comprehensive history of the Masons, worldwide and in Ludlow. He said that the Masons serve the community and also support the Shriners and other hospitals, the CARE program to help train educators who deal with at-risk students and many other programs. He asked the board's consideration for the exempt status.
3. Larry Wilfong asked what is the amount of the property taxes.
4. John Wu said it has been so long that the property has been tax exempt that he does not know the current amount.
5. Howard Barton said about \$3,000 to \$4,000.
6. Glenn Heitsmith asked how many members are in the Ludlow lodge.
7. John Wu said about 150, because once a person joins a lodge, they are members until they die, even if they move away.
8. Glenn Heitsmith noted that service organizations are having a hard time getting new members and the town should support them.
9. Frank Heald advised that there was a negative vote at town meeting and in order to pass this request, they will need to have over 230 people vote in favor of it next Tuesday.
10. Howard Barton advised that voting will take place on Tuesday, May 10, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
11. **MOTION by Brett Sanderson and seconded by Bruce Schmidt to close this public information meeting. Motion passed unanimously.**
12. Meeting closed at 7:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisha Klaiber

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Howard Barton, Jr., Chairman

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Brett Sanderson

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John Neal

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Bruce Schmidt

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Logan Nicoll