

MINUTES

**TOWN OF LUDLOW
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

SPECIAL MEETING

November 17, 2014

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

STAFF PRESENT:

Frank Heald

OTHERS PRESENT:

Chief Billings

1. **Call to Order**

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

2. **Act 148 Update**

- A. Frank Heald advised that they have held two public meetings about Act 148 and people are starting to understand that this is state law. He said that the state has pretty much signed off on the proposal for one bag per dwelling per week to be included in the tax base. In the Village, they will continue to keep the routine of weekly trash pickup with a 46 gallon tote/33 gallon bag for trash. Anything over that will be charged and we will possibly use imprinted bags or stickers that will be sold by the town. In the Village, recyclables will be picked up biweekly in a 96 gallon tote. This will add about \$.01 onto the tax base in the village. There will be a zero sort situation. There are some issues. If we continue with residential only at the transfer station and the town and village are to remain equivalent, we will probably give each family 50-52 imprinted bags per year. The town will pay for about 945 bags per week. Anything over the 52 bags will go over the scales at \$.05/lb. He said that he is not sure how much money we will save – maybe \$25,000. He said that he would budget income on the low side. At the meeting someone asked about biodegradable bags. He said that in a modern landfill there is no anaerobic decomposition and that the biodegradable bags only break down into small pellets and don't really go away, so they would not make much of a difference. He said that one person wanted to use his pellet bags and Frank Heald explained to him that it would not work.
- B. Bruce Schmidt asked that since they start selling the permits on January 1st, and they would only be good until June 30th, would they sell them half price.
- C. Frank Heald said they would be for the fiscal year. They would be leaving about \$8,000 to \$9,000 if they sold the permits half price. They have not decided yet.
- D. Bruce Schmidt suggested charging \$5.00 for a permit running from January 1st through June 30th, or why charge at all. He then asked if the sticker fees were part of operations.
- E. Frank Heald said the permit is the privilege to use the Ludlow Transfer Station, but we do need to get it on to the fiscal year basis.
- F. Bruce Schmidt asked why we don't adjust transfer station rates. He said the new law will cost the town more.
- G. Howard Barton asked if they had considered family sized bags. He said that a family with children would generate more trash than a single person or couple.
- H. Frank Heald said that not everyone generates a lot of trash. He said that he does not expect answers tonight, but would appreciate input.
- I. Bruce Schmidt suggested allowing this year's permits to go through to June 30th and eat the \$8,000 to \$9,000.
- J. Brett Sanderson said that they will probably have to increase the permit costs and will have to deal with the bags.
- K. Frank Heald said that 10,000 bags will cost about \$800 and we will have to store them. He said that an alternative is cash, but that he does not want to have cash up there. He said that, statistically, across the country, bags seem to be the best idea. He said that he proposes a fee of \$1.00 per bag.

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- L. Bruce Schmidt suggested that they make as many changes now as they can and takes their lumps and complaints. It would be better than to keep on making many small changes.
 - M. Brett Sanderson said they should start looking at changing the rates to make sure we are covering our costs.
 - N. Frank Heald said that a 6 month grace period on the permits would have an \$18,000 to \$19,000 effect. We need to get at least half. This has to be done at town meeting and we have to get everything in place by July.
 - O. Logan Nicoll asked if we are going to do random checks to police solid waste. He said that some towns rip open bags to check for recyclables.
 - P. Frank Heald said the plan is to use clear bags with imprints. The attendant would be able to see recyclables. He said he would prefer to encourage voluntary compliance. However, there was some discussion about privacy and clear bags.
 - Q. Logan Nicoll said that clear bags would encourage compliance.
 - R. Frank Heald said that maybe down the road, the state will get more interested in compliance. He said that another concern is that with zero sort, they would need another compactor.
 - S. Brett Sanderson asked why. There are already 2 up there.
 - T. Frank Heald said that with zero sort they will need a separate container and we sometimes pull both units on Mondays and high volume ski weeks.
 - U. John Neal said that both units would be working all the time and there would not be any backup.
 - V. Frank Heald said that sometimes, we are well through the first compactor on Sunday.
 - W. Howard Barton said we should have less because we are taking out the recyclables.
 - X. Frank Heald said that statistics say there may be anywhere from 12 to 20% improvement. He said the compactor would be about \$22,000 installed and there would be trade-in on the baler.
 - Y. Logan Nicoll asked how often they would use the 3rd compactor.
 - Z. Frank Heald said we do a fair amount of cardboard and loose paper as well as tin cans and plastics. He said that the zero sort should be in the building.
 - AA. Howard Barton asked if the recyclables would be in open containers.
 - BB. Frank Heald said yes, like laundry bins. He asked the board to think about this.

3. **FY 2016 Budget Workshop**

- A. Frank Heald said that he had hoped to have Ron Tarbell here as well as Chief Billings, but Ron had been up since 4 a.m. He noted that a number of years ago, he started capital planning that results in replacement of equipment without much change in money going out. He distributed a spreadsheet of recent and current notes. In addition to the compactor, other capital purchase for FY 2016 would be the backhoe. He has a quote of \$110,000, net. This will be covered by \$20,000 from water, \$20,000 from sewer, \$30,000 from highway and a note for \$40,000. Notes come at the end of the year. We bought the one we have now in 2006, they are on an 8 to 10 year cycle.
- B. Brett Sanderson asked why they aren't pulling any money out of the Transfer Station for it.
- C. Frank Heald said they are all town departments. It shows in debt service. He said that there are funds set aside in certain departments. Ambulance and Water/Sewer are Enterprise departments.
- D. Brett Sanderson said that Transfer uses the backhoe.
- E. Frank Heald said that Insurance rates are not all in. He said that if the rates are not in before the December meeting, he will make assumptions about them for the meeting draft.
- F. Brett Sanderson said they should increase Retreatment.
- G. Bruce Schmidt said the Select Board should be included in discussions regarding which new roads to pave.
- H. Frank Heald said they are finishing Upper Cross Road.
- I. Bruce Schmidt said that new paved roads also means more salt use.
- J. Frank Heald said that Upper Cross Road is in good shape. He added that they have to make sure the roads work in route structures.
- K. Bruce Schmidt suggested adding some percentage to Retreatment.
- L. Brett Sanderson said it should have been increased gradually over time.
- M. Frank Heald said that in 2015 they will finish Upper Cross Road. He added that they did Titcomb and some of East Hill and North Hill this summer. He said they spent \$87,000 to \$88,000 this year on paving.
- N. Brett Sanderson mentioned the need for paving the apron at Upper Cross Road.
- O. Frank Heald said they have been doing base and top coats.
- P. Brett Sanderson said they ripped up Ponus, but didn't replace it. He said they should increase Retreatment at least 10%.
- Q. Frank Heald said he would look at the numbers and get back to them.

R. Police Department

- i. Frank Heald said that Police are looking at purchasing a new cruiser.
- ii. Bruce Schmidt noted that they did not get one last year.
- iii. Jeff Billings said that is correct.
- iv. Bruce Schmidt asked about the increase in part time dispatch.
- v. Jeff Billings said it was taken out of the Police Duty line item.
- vi. Bruce Schmidt asked if they did replace the console.
- vii. Frank Heald said that the console and phone systems are done.
- viii. Bruce Schmidt asked if there are laptops in the cruisers.
- ix. Jeff Billings said yes and added that the money came from grants.
- x. Bruce Schmidt asked if they are looking at the same type cruiser.
- xi. Jeff Billings said he may put out for an AWD. He said he prefers a car, but the guys like the Explorers. He said that Ford and Dodge make AWD.
- xii. Howard Barton noted that it appears that there may be a typo on page 18 in the Police budget. It lists \$7,062 in the actual column for FY2014 and the budget was \$3,062.
- xiii. Frank Heald said he would check it.

S. Ambulance

- i. Frank Heald said that Karl Matteson was at a Regional meeting last Thursday and found out that the per capita is \$7.00.

T. Community Center

- i. Howard Barton asked about the big jump in costs.
- ii. Frank Heald said that there was an increase of \$8,000 in Utilities/Services and Supplies/Maintenance.
- iii. Howard Barton asked if usage has increased.
- iv. Frank Heald said that electricity and fuel usage was more than expected. He added that the schools are using the cafeteria more.
- v. Bruce Schmidt said that he had attended an event there the previous evening and asked if there was a staff member there. He said that he hadn't seen anyone and said someone should be visible.
- vi. Frank Heald said that Matt Wood should have been there.
- vii. Bruce Schmidt said he didn't see him.
- viii. Howard Barton said that a staff member should be there to answer questions if needed.
- ix. Frank Heald said that a staff member should have been there and asked if they had checked the gym.
- x. Logan Nicoll said someone had to have been there to lock up. He said that Matt Wood usually closes up.
- xi. Frank Heald asked if we prepare food here and take it up to Mount Holly.
- xii. Bruce Schmidt said that we used to, but they have a kitchen there, now. He said it may be a finishing kitchen.
- xiii. Frank Heald said he would check.
- xiv. Bruce Schmidt asked if Frank Heald had come up with suggestions regarding past discussions about giving fire fighters membership at the fitness center.
- xv. Brett Sanderson said all town employees.
- xvi. Frank Heald asked if they are willing to address why town employees are different from other people.
- xvii. Bruce Schmidt said that Okemo gives memberships to employees. He said it helps with insurance rates.
- xviii. Frank Heald said if an employee gets hurt while working out at the fitness center, it is Workman's Comp.
- xix. Bruce Schmidt said he wasn't sure about that.
- xx. Howard Barton said that some people may use it.
- xxi. John Neal said it would be a nice thing to offer.
- xxii. Bruce Schmidt said he thinks we should do it.

U. Parks and Recreation

- i. Frank Heald said that he and Howie Paul had met with Karen Trimboli and Shannon Martin regarding recreation programs. He said that we produce good programs at a price that people can afford, but less are attending. We may need to look at prices and programs offered. We may have to reach out to other town, like Cavendish.
- ii. Bruce Schmidt said that Cavendish started its own program this year.
- iii. Frank Heald said that he is asking for the board's input.
- iv. Bruce Schmidt noted that Frank Heald makes his own decisions about paving.

4. Sign Warrant Orders

- A. Warrant orders have been signed.

5. **Adjourn**

- A. **MOTION by John Neal and seconded by Logan Nicoll to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.**
- B. Meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisha Klaiber

Howard Barton, Jr., Chairman

Brett Sanderson

John Neal

Bruce Schmidt

Logan Nicoll