

DRAFT MINUTES

**TOWN OF LUDLOW
SELECT BOARD**

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, JULY 7, 2016

Board Members Present:

Howard Barton, Jr.
Brett Sanderson

Bruce Schmidt

John Neal

Staff Present:

Frank Heald

Ulla Cook

Call to Order:

- a. Howard Barton, Jr. called the Special Meeting of Select Board to order at 8:00 am.

Set FY 2017 Town Tax Rate:

- a. Howard Barton, Jr. said the Board is here this morning to set the Town tax rate for FY 2017.
- b. Frank Heald reported that the Grand List was up slightly. He said the unaudited estimated surplus for FY 2016 was \$53,265, which will change in the next few weeks with invoices lagging in. He said the Audited fund balance is \$357,921.
- c. Frank Heald said he would propose using \$135,000 of the available surplus, which would bring the Town tax rate to \$00.2857.
- d. Bruce Schmidt suggested using the \$135,000 surplus for projects such as paving. He said the Select Board has talked about doing more road work and wondered if could be done.
- e. Frank Heald said we would not be able to use the money just for paving, but could instruct the Town to overspend and create a deficit or make the decision to increase the budget for FY 2018.
- f. Bruce Schmidt said it was discussed when the Board was considering a 1% option tax. He said we are already looking at a reduction in taxes and should be looking at areas (roads) that need work. He said it becomes more difficult to spend when there is an increase in taxes.
- g. Howard Barton, Jr. said if the Solar Project goes through the Town will receive additional money.
- h. Bruce Schmidt said we shouldn't just let the money sit, we should put it toward taxes.
- i. Ulla Cook said the taxes are already reduced this year so the board could leave the fund balance as is and take a look again next year and use the balance to reduce the taxes if there is an increase.
- j. Bruce Schmidt proposed a compromise to use \$67,500 of the surplus to reduce taxes.

- k. MOTION by Bruce Schmidt and seconded by John Neal to use \$67,500 of the available surplus to set the Town tax rate at \$00.2907. All in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn:

- a. MOTION to adjourn by Brett Sanderson and seconded by John Neal. All in favor and the motion passed.
b. Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Cruickshank
Acting Recording Secretary

Howard Barton Jr., Chairman

John Neal

Bruce Schmidt

Brett Sanderson

Logan Nicoll