

MINUTES

**TOWN OF LUDLOW
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING and
REGULAR MEETING**

May 6, 2013

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Howard Barton, Jr., Chairman	John Neal	Bruce Schmidt
Douglas Ficken	Brett Sanderson	

STAFF PRESENT:

Frank Heald

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ron Bixby	Peter Kolenda	Ralph Pace
Sharon Bixby	Betty Merrill	Ted Reeves
Anne Gardner	Bob Merrill	Patrick Cody (LPC-TV)

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

1. Howard Barton opened this meeting at 7:00 p.m. and advised that this is a Special Town Meeting to approve the bonds for the Fire Truck for \$180,000 and Infrastructure Improvements to Pleasant Street Extension Bridge, Lake Pauline Dam Storm Drains, Culverts and work at Highway Garage for \$302,000.
2. Frank Heald said that these were articles that were approved at town meeting and this hearing is to correct an administrative error as the bonds also needed to be voted on by Australian ballot. The state requires this vote and there is no change in the money approved at town meeting. This is an administrative catch up. Voting is Tuesday, May 07, 2013.
3. Howard Barton asked for questions or comments and there were none.
4. **MOTION by Brett Sanderson and seconded by Bruce Schmidt to close the hearing. Motion passed unanimously.**

REGULAR MEETING

1. **Call to Order**
 - A. Chairman Howard Barton called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.
 - B. All members present.
2. **Approve Minutes of Previous Meetings**

- A. Howard Barton advised that the minutes to be approved are from the regular meeting of April 1, 2013.
 - B. **MOTION by Doug Ficken and seconded by John Neal to approve the minutes of April 1, 2013 as presented. Motion passed unanimously.**
3. **Comments from Citizens**
- A. There were none.
4. **Award 2014 Highway Truck Bid**
- A. Frank Heald advised that as per the relatively new Select Board Policy, 5 bids were opened on Friday, May 3rd at 1:30 p.m. Present were Frank Heald, Ulla Cook, Ron Tarbell and Brett Sanderson. The consensus was to recommend that the Select Board award this bid to low bidder, Clark's Truck Center for \$61,000. The bids were verified and reviewed thoroughly. There will also be additional costs of about \$50,000 for fit. The budget for this truck and fit was \$165,000, so this is under budget. They will discuss and vote on fit up at the next meeting.
 - B. Howard Barton asked the lead time on the truck.
 - C. Frank Heald said September/October.
 - D. **MOTION by Bruce Schmidt and seconded by Doug Ficken to accept the bid from Clark's Truck Center for \$61,000. Motion passed unanimously.**
 - E. Bruce Schmidt asked Frank Heald if the new bid process is working.
 - F. Frank Heald said yes. It gives staff more time to review the bids and it is easier for dealers to attend openings.
5. **Liquor Control Board**
- A. Howard Barton noted that this is for Tom's Loft Tavern and taxes are current.
 - B. **MOTION by Bruce Schmidt and seconded by Brett Sanderson to approve the liquor license application for Tom's Loft Tavern. Motion passed unanimously.**
6. **Consider and Sign Amendment #1 – Finance & Maintenance Agreement Between VTRANS and Town of Ludlow for Ludlow BFR 025-1(42) RE: Walker Bridge Contract**
- A. Frank Heald advised that there are no changes of substance in the "whereas is's" but the amendment clarifies the 95% state/federal participation. The town has to be careful to avoid additions because the town would have to pay 100% for them.
 - B. **MOTION by John Neal and seconded by Doug Ficken to sign the Amendment #1 as presented. Motion passed unanimously.**
7. **Sign VTRANS Resolution for Bridge #25 Associated Approach Work**
- A. Frank Heald advised that there are basically no "Meets and Bounds" on Route 103 and Main Street as it goes through town. Almost all of the roads are three (3) rods. This state requested

resolution that Ludlow will continue to maintain sidewalks on Bridge #25. He said that the ROW is 1.5 rods from the centerline of the road, or 49.5 feet. The line is rarely behind the sidewalks.

- B. John Neal asked if anyone would be losing property.
- C. Frank Heald said he did not think so. He thinks that all of the sidewalks are within the 3 rods. He added that all will go back to the same as it was when all is said and done.
- D. **MOTION by Bruce Schmidt and seconded by Doug Ficken to accept and sign the Resolution for Bridge #25 describing sidewalk maintenance and placement. Motion passed unanimously.**

8. **Sign Notice of Transfer of Municipal Real Estate for Highway Improvement Purposes**

- A. Frank Heald explained that the town would transfer a .086 acre parcel within Buttermilk Falls to the Masons. The purpose is to t-up Buttermilk Falls Road with Route 103 so that Okemo can build a turning lane and t-up the road as requested by AOT. He added that the board approved this some months ago. He said it is a simple solution and that he compliments Okemo's attorney and the town attorney on the simple solution to this situation.
- B. Howard Barton asked who would be doing the work.
- C. Ted Reeves said that Okemo would put it out to bid and VTRANS would oversee the project.
- D. Howard Barton asked who would pay for the project.
- E. Ted Reeves said Okemo.
- F. **MOTION by Bruce Schmidt and seconded by John Neal to designate Howard Barton to sign the Notice of Transfer of Municipal Real Estate as presented. Motion passed unanimously.**

9. **Continue Discussion Emergency Alarm Ordinance**

- A. Frank Heald asked that the board table this item to their next meeting as there has been no progress to report.
- B. Board tabled item.

10. **Discuss Fuel 2013/2014**

- A. Frank Heald asked the board to consider allowing him flexibility to lock in fuel prices for next year, as they did last year. He explained that he is working with Competitive Energy again and the prices that he locked in with them for last year were competitive. He said that there is a dynamic going on with propane pricing and he would like to lock it now. He explained that one of the main propane pipelines to this area is experiencing deterioration. This is a multi-fuel line. Also, many power plants are changing to natural gas and causing propane prices to go up. Additionally, there are less rail tanker cars because shale oil people are paying higher prices for the tanker usage. We can lock in at about \$1.70 (last year was \$1.66.) He said the fuel oil is different this year because last year we included the schools in the purchase. This year, with the new Two Rivers Supervisory Union negotiating separately, things are different. There is also a storage dynamic going on and last week the price was \$3.03/gallon and this week it was \$2.80/\$2.85. With prices changing, there is no time to call a special meeting. He said that they could also form a small committee.
- B. Consensus among board members to authorize Frank Heald to have the flexibility to lock in prices as he needs to do.

11. **Discuss West Hill Recreation Area**

- A. Frank Heald advised that the Recreation Committee meets on Wednesday. If they can't solve the geese problem, they are considering abandoning West Hill. They put a small fence around the edge of the water today and, he said that he has been told that if the geese cannot walk from the water to the land, they will eventually move away. He has asked Rural Development to survey the overburden at the end of the dam and he wants to recover and stockpile the gravel. They will need to muck out the beach area. If they decide to abandon West Hill, they will need to build a warming hut for the sewer pump and also find places to store what is still there. Then they will let the area go back to natural. He really wants to know what the community wants to do. People have not been skating there, don't picnic there and don't play basketball. He would like to move the basketball hoops to a place where they would get more use.
- B. Brett Sanderson noted that he saw people camping there today and the gates were open.
- C. Bruce Schmidt said that people are telling us that it doesn't look good up there. He agrees that they need to get public input.
- D. Doug Ficken said that he was told only about a week ago that people want to use it, but want to get rid of the geese.
- E. Bruce Schmidt said that he thinks the fence solved that problem at Plymouth Park, but you really need to be diligent about it.
- F. Frank Heald said he wants to get public input.

12. **Department Head Reports**

- A. Howard Barton advised that all reports are in.

13. **Other Business**

- A. **Quest Program**
 - i. Frank Heald advised the Quest program is moving along well. They need to see how many children they will get. They have gotten good support from Rotary and other individuals and groups. They want to try to make the program more interesting, and more intellectually and physically challenging.
 - ii. Doug Ficken asked what the target number of students is.
 - iii. Frank Heald said that Howie Paul thinks 25-30 students. They should know within the next month. It will be free to Ludlow residents and there is a contract to sign up. The curriculum will be interesting and they will also teach life skills. There will be hiking and they may also have an aeronautical piece. They will try to do a fun activity every other week. He used Great Escape as an example where they could have Barry Tucker describe the physics of how the rides operate.
 - iv. Sharon Bixby asked board members if they have any suggestions for activities.
 - v. Frank Heald suggested to Bruce Schmidt to have someone explain what Guest Services at Okemo is about.
- B. **Buses**
 - i. Frank Heald said that at the last meeting he discussed how he has been troubled about running the full-size bus to Rutland for rock climbing or Bromley for skiing with only 10 or so passengers. He would like to look at alternatives. He, along with Ron Tarbell, Chris Barlow and Dan Parker spend some time looking at the newer mid-sized bus. It has

the same seats as the regular buses. It is more efficient and gets better gas mileage (12-13 mpg as opposed to the 6-7 mpg of regular buses.) They come on a Ford or GM T-chassis. He would like to bring back some bids at the June meeting.

14. **Set Date for Next Meeting**

- A. Howard Barton advised that the next regular meeting would be June 3, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

15. **Sign Warrant Orders**

- A. Warrant orders have been signed.

16. **Possible Executive Session/Legal/Personnel Issues**

- A. Frank Heald said an Executive Session for Legal/Personnel issues is needed.
B. **MOTION by Bruce Schmidt and seconded by Doug Ficken to enter into Executive Session for Legal/Personnel issues. Motion passed unanimously.**
C. Board entered into Executive Session at 7:40 p.m.
D. Exited Executive Session at 8:15 p.m.
E. No action taken.

17. **Adjourn**

- A. **MOTION by Doug Ficken and seconded by John Neal to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.**
B. Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisha Klaiber

Howard Barton, Jr., Chairman

Brett Sanderson

Doug Ficken

Bruce Schmidt

John Neal