

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
VILLAGE OF LUDLOW, VERMONT
ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING**

MARCH 27, 2018

Number in attendance: 12

The meeting was called to order by Moderator VanGuilder at 7:03 PM.

Town and Village Manager Frank Heald lead the audience with the pledge of allegiance. Then Moderator VanGuilder asked for a moment of silence for the residents and military personnel no longer with us.

Moderator VanGuilder stated we will operate the Village Meeting according to Roberts Rules of Order. He asked for non-residents of Ludlow to raise their hands.

Moderator VanGuilder introduced the head table Village Trustees Earl Washburn, David Rose and Robert Gilmore, Municipal Manager Frank Heald and Ulla Cook pro tem secretary. Also in the audience is Mr. Pallotta, Controller of the Electric Light Department and Mr. Howard Barton, outside operations for Electric Light Department.

ARTICLE 1. To elect Village Officers for the ensuing year by Australian Ballot.

See attached.

ARTICLE 2. Shall the voters of the Village of Ludlow act on the reports of the Village Officers for the period July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017.

Motion to adopt the article was made by Mr. Pace, second by Mr. Bixby. There was no discussion. The motion was voted and the article was adopted.

ARTICLE 3. Shall the voters of the Village of Ludlow fix the salaries of the elected Village Officers for the ensuing year?

Motion to adopt the article was made by Mr. Bixby to set the salaries at \$,1000 for the Village Clerk, \$1,000 for the Village Trustees and \$1,000 for the Water Commissioners, second by Mr. Kirkbride. There was no discussion. The motion was voted and the article was adopted.

ARTICLE 4. Shall the voters of the Village of Ludlow authorize the Board of Trustees to borrow money in anticipation of taxes or other income to meet the expenses of the Village and any part of its indebtedness?

Motion to adopt the article was made by Mr. Pace, second by Mr. Thayne. There was no discussion. The motion was voted and the article was adopted.

ARTICLE 5. Shall the Village of Ludlow collect taxes on Real Property in installments, taxes to be paid to the Treasurer on August 15, 2018, November 15, 2018, February 15, 2019 and May 15, 2019?

Motion to adopt the article was made by Mr. Bixby, second Mr. Kirkbride. There was no discussion. The motion was voted and the article was adopted.

ARTICLE 6. Shall the voters of the Village of Ludlow vote a specific amount in lieu of a rate on a dollar on the Grand List as set forth in the Board of Trustees' budget? Then the Trustees shall set the tax rate necessary to raise this amount after the Grand List has been completed and lodged in the office of the Village Clerk. **The amount to be raised by taxes is \$307,588.90.**

Motion to adopt the article was made by Mr. Pace, second Mr. Bixby. There was no

discussion. The motion was voted and the article was adopted.

ARTICLE 7. To transact any other business necessary and proper when met.

Municipal Manager Frank Heald stated that 15 years ago we gathered in this room with fluorescent lights, the railing was pretty ugly, the walls were sea misty green and the acoustics were like the inside of a drum. Over the past 15 years, working together with the elected officials, I have had the pleasure of serving the select board members, trustees and water commissioners and cemetery commissioners, I think we have made some fascinating progress in terms of fixing and cleaning things up starting with this building. We also built the public safety building. Some of the other things I am happy about include the community center that has been a marvelous asset to the community. Through the wisdom of the water commissioners, we had a shovel ready project when President Obama came up with AARA. Today I signed some IRS documents that will return about \$8,000 or \$9,000 in interest. We have made some interesting improvements in the wastewater treatment plant and there are things that you might hear about in the Village in the next 6 or 12 months. We are working on asset management program and an upgrade to parts and pieces of the wastewater treatment facility that literally circa 1960's. I do want to say that the bottom line of what we have accomplished in the past 15 years is due to working together. The boards have been fantastic to work with and we have accomplished great things because of what these guys have helped with. Ralph Pace has been instrumental in virtually every major project since I have been here. The reason we have accomplished so much is working together. I would encourage you to continue to elect good people, people that care and work together. There is no end what you can accomplish as time goes forward. Thank you for the support I have had this past 15 years.

Mr. Washburn wanted to convey his thanks to Frank Heald for sterling management not only in the Village but also the Cemetery, Water Commissioners, and the Town of Ludlow. It takes a good leader to point us in the right direction. Thank you very much.

Mr. Gilmore stated he has been a trustee for 30 years. We had some rough beginnings and then Frank came in and steadied the ship. He brought a lot of knowledge and reorganized all the departments and has them running like a top. I just want to say thank you for our generosity, knowledge and your perseverance and the Town and Village are better off because you served the last 15 years.

Moderator VanGuilder stated he will miss Mr. Heald along with everyone else.

Mr. Kirkbride questioned water commissioners on when will the work from High Street (Catholic Church) to Thompson Avenue be done. David Rose responded we have done the engineering on the project, first round, and are now waiting for our funding and our capital asset plan to be finished. We are looking to changing the sewer and the water. He does not believe it will be done this year but it is in the works.

No further business. Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Pace second Mr. Bixby. The motion was voted and the meeting adjourned at 7:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ulla Cook, Clerk

Jean Strong, Chair BCA

Herbert VanGuilder, Moderator