

MINUTES

**VILLAGE OF LUDLOW
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

REGULAR MEETING

6:00 PM

Tuesday December 2, 2014

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bob Gilmore

Richard Harrison

David Rose

STAFF:

Frank Heald

1. **Call to Order**

- A. Bob Gilmore called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. All members present.

2. **Approve Minutes from Previous Meeting**

- A. Bob Gilmore advised the minutes to be approved are from the regular meeting of November 4, 2014.
B. **MOTION by David Rose and seconded by Richard Harrison to approve minutes from the regular meeting of November 4, 2014. Motion passed unanimously.**

3. **Comments From Citizens**

- A. There were none

4. **Consider Sign Issues**

- A. Frank Heald advised that letters from Tina Rosen (Tina's Fun Stuff) and Greg Mauriello had been included in the packets. In her letter, Ms. Rosen explained that Bob Gilmore had suggested that she get on the meeting agenda. She has requested assistance with placing an off-premises sign for her shop. Frank Heald said that he explained in his letter that such signs are illegal in Vermont. In his letter, Greg Mauriello advised that the current signpost for the property at 47 Depot is actually located on his property and that he does not want any more signs put on the post. Frank Heald included this information in his letter to Ms. Rosen. Since she is not present at this meeting, maybe this item is closed.
- B. Richard Harrison suggested tabling this item.
- C. Bob Gilmore said it should be closed. He said that at the time he spoke to her, he was unaware that the sign post is on Greg Mauriello's property and that he does not want any additional signs.

5. **FY2016 Budget Workshop**

- A. Frank Heald advised that the Village and Waste Water budgets presented tonight are first drafts. The easier budget is the Waste Water Budget.
- B. Waste Water Budget
- i. Frank Heald explained that the Waste Water Department is down one employee and there have been salary adjustments made within the department. Chuck Craig has been named to lead the department and his rate is commensurate with similar positions across the state. He has completed the 90 day probation period and all parties agree that everything is fine. Frank Heald said that he and Chuck Craig have gone through the budget. Frank Heald said that he still considers it a draft and will need to look it over again. They threw off about \$120,000. They do not have any Capital projects or depreciation monies in there. They do maintain a Capital Account funded through depreciation or overages. They do not plan to change sewer fees in FY 2016. They are considering an upgrade to the water/sewer/storm lines on High Street from Depot to Thompson Avenue. A cost estimate has not been prepared, yet, but will possibly be done in January.
 - ii. Bob Gilmore noted the blank space in that column.
 - iii. Frank Heald said that would be the Capital Project Depreciation. We continue to fund it and the money comes from hook-on and allocation fees. There is no need to replace the service truck. The costs for the new highway backhoe will be shared proportionately with the Water/Sewer Department.
- C. Village Budget
- i. Frank Heald said it will be up about 9%. The Trustees will have to make a decision or decide to present it to the taxpayers whether to continue with trash pickup or not. If it is continued, there will also have to be pickup of recyclables. The additional cost for recyclable pickup will be about \$17,000 over the regular trash pickup cost of about \$36,000.
 - ii. Bob Gilmore asked if that \$17,000 included totes.
 - iii. Frank Heald said no.
 - iv. Bob Gilmore asked who would bear the costs of the totes.
 - v. Frank Heald said that is an interesting conundrum. The District contract is also expiring and will go out to bid by February and be returned by April. The district negotiates on behalf of the five towns: Ludlow, Cavendish, Rockingham, Weathersfield and Springfield. Negotiation for totes is up in the air. Casella will amortize the cost of the totes for a long term contract. If the Village buys the totes, the cost for the totes will be about \$40,000. We would have to finance them and that would add about 2 ½¢ to 3¢ to the tax rate.
 - vi. David Rose said if we own them, we would have to maintain and store them.
 - vii. Bob Gilmore said if we go long term with Casella, they would maintain them.
 - viii. Frank Heald suggested keeping this open to Village Meeting.
 - ix. Bob Gilmore asked what the Select Board is doing.
 - x. Frank Heald said that they have decided to try to get by with the existing 2 compactors. One will be used for Zero sort and the other for trash. They have decided to go with the bag system. They have also decided to sell transfer station stickers at half price that would be good from January 1st through June 30th. There will be a new fee structure in the next fiscal year and we will get on a fiscal year basis.
 - xi. Richard Harrison said that he likes to throw his trash in the pickup and go over the scales.
 - xii. Frank Heald said that is his option. He asked, as a board, do you want to continue village pickup or let the voters decide. It may attract a larger crowd.
 - xiii. David Rose asked if it could be on the ballot.
 - xiv. Frank Heald said possibly.
 - xv. Bob Gilmore asked the board their feelings on this.

- xvi. David Rose said he can go either way. It is an expense and we can spend the money.
- xvii. Richard Harrison said he does not like the idea of totes. They will break and people will leave them out.
- xviii. Bob Gilmore said he likes the concept of Zero Sort and pick up of recyclables every other week. There are a lot of renters on Pleasant Street and he is not sure of their ability to go to the transfer station.
- xix. Richard Harrison said some people put their trash in the truck and go up there.
- xx. David Rose said if there is no Village pickup, maybe this is an opportunity for someone to start a private pickup service. He said he is neutral.
- xxi. Bob Gilmore said if Casella owns the totes, they will be responsible if any break. He added that sometimes we think about our own experiences with things, but we should look at the end goal...more recycling.
- xxii. Richard Harrison said he doesn't separate his trash.
- xxiii. Bob Gilmore said we need to encourage people to separate. With Zero Sort, wine bottles, paper, plastic and glass all on the tote.
- xxiv. David Rose asked if there would be a tote for recyclables.
- xxv. Frank Heald said there would be 1 tote for trash each week. Recyclables would be picked up every other week. On January 1, 2015 there is mandatory recycling in Vermont. It is the law.
- xxvi. Bob Gilmore said if the voters reject the totes and village pick up, how we will remove trash from the streets.
- xxvii. Frank Heald said the transfer station is open 4 days per week. The one in Rutland is only open a couple of days per week. They manage.
- xxviii. Bob Gilmore said he likes the idea of piling recycling all into one tote and pick up every other week.
- xxix. Frank Heald asked the board to think about what they want to do and make a decision at the January meeting.
- xxx. Bob Gilmore said he would like to look at the bids and see what leverage they have. He asked the costs.
- xxxi. Frank Heald said pick up in the village is about \$34,500 for 335 pickups; add \$17,000 for recyclables. He said that \$53,000 on the tax rate would be about 3¢ to 3 ½¢.
- xxxii. Frank Heald said in the rest of the village budget, Planning is up the most. They upped storm drains and need to get more aggressive with them.
- xxxiii. Bob Gilmore asked if the money is factored in what is the increase.
- xxxiv. Frank Heald said about \$9,000. He said there is a 2.75% increase without recycling, but that is not an option. It is mandatory.
- xxxv. Bob Gilmore said he would advocate for totes and village pick up.
- xxxvi. David Rose said they would decide at the next meeting.
- xxxvii. Bob Gilmore asked if there would be a special ballot.
- xxxviii. Frank Heald said possibly an Australian ballot at Village Meeting. He said the elections are first, then the Village Meeting. He will have a budget prepared both ways for the budget to be approved after the ballot. He will have Capital and Waste Water numbers in January. They will not be doing many sidewalks this year.
- xxxix. Bob Gilmore asked if they would skip sidewalks.
- xl. Frank Heald said typically, they do them every other year.
- xli. Richard Harrison said they should pass the recycling vote on to the taxpayers.
- xlii. Bob Gilmore said it is the law. We will make a decision in January how to present it. It is mandatory.
- xliii. Frank Heald said they would have a public information meeting prior to Village Meeting, close to the date. He would have dates for that at the next meeting.

6. **Other Business**

A. **Gas Prices**

- i. Bob Gilmore said that Frank Heald had written a compelling letter to the Attorney General. It was well written. It questioned why gas prices in Ludlow were higher than surrounding towns. He cc'd owners of all 4 gas stations in town and prices did come down. Sometimes it is worth raising an issue on behalf of the citizens.
- ii. Frank Heald said town and village get gas from Sandri.
- iii. Richard Harrison said he uses his pellet bags.
- iv. Frank Heald said that would not work. The bags would all have to be the same. He advised that board that the Select Board had discussed, last night, a possible abuse of the pickup at the lower end of Main Street.
- v. Bob Gilmore said that commercial properties are not supposed to put bags out.

B. **Frank Heald Review**

- i. Bob Gilmore said that he has Frank Heald's review papers.
- ii. David Rose and Richard Harrison gave their copies to Bob Gilmore.

7. **Set Date for Next Meeting**

- A. Next regular meeting set for Tuesday January 6, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

8. **Sign Warrant Orders**

- A. Bob Gilmore advised that Warrant Orders have been signed.

9. **Possible Executive Session/Personnel/Contracts/Legal**

- A. Frank Heald said one was not needed.

10. **Adjourn**

- A. **MOTION to adjourn by David Rose and seconded by Richard Harrison. Motion passed unanimously.**
- B. Meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisha Klaiber

Robert Gilmore, Chairman

David Rose

Richard Harrison