

PRELIMINARY MINUTES

**VILLAGE OF LUDLOW
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

SPECIAL MEETING

5:00 PM

Tuesday June 16, 2015

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bob Gilmore, Chairman Richard Harrison David Rose

STAFF:

Frank Heald Ulla Cook Pam Cruickshank

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jane Bixby	Ronald Greenberg	Barbara Ruiss
Paul Bostock	Virginia Gurdak	Mary Lou Shaw
Helen Grace Bostock	Lorraine Hughes	Virginia Snyder
Gary Boyle	Ashley Keefe	Beverly Stepp
Georgia Brehm	Tom Kennedy	Ember Tilton
Mary Conrad	Roger Massey	Linda Tucker
Frank Ellison	Mary Jane O'Hara	Bob Tucker
Rich Frank	Lynn Reilly	Joyce Washburn
Suzanne Garvey	Leonard Rogers	Ed McEaney (LPC-TV)

A. Call to Order

1. Chairman, Bob Gilmore, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m., all members present.

B. Re-Consider Village Trash & Recyclables Pickup

1. Bob Gilmore introduced himself, Dave Rose and Richard Harrison as board members. He said that they will be following Robert's Rules of Order for this meeting and asked that anyone wishing to speak, please raise their hand and they will be recognized by the chair.
2. Frank Heald started with a history of pertinent events. He said that in the fall, the town and village held public hearings to advise voters about Act 148 and the upcoming triggers connected with, starting in July of 2014 and going up until July 2020. A serious trigger will occur on July 1, 2015. Act 148 is a state law to put procedures in place for moving trash disposal costs from all in taxes to Pay to Throw. The theory is that Pay to Throw will encourage more recycling because recyclables are free. The transfer station accepts MSW in containers. The town residents will continue to source separate recyclables at the transfer station. Village Residents have been having street pickup, but that paradigm will change on July 1st. At Village Meeting, the Trustees put up an item to continue with village pickup with the estimated cost of about \$55,000, or a \$.04 increase in the tax rate. Of the 537 possible voters, only 52 came to Village Meeting and only 51 voted. They voted to continue village pickup with a vote of 42 yes, and 9 no. The trustees put the service out to bid to 6 or 7 recognized trash haulers and there were only 2 responses. The RFP was for weekly pickup of trash and biweekly pickup of recyclables. The two responses were from Able for \$92,000, not including totes and from Casella for \$94,000, including totes. At their May meeting, the trustees discussed the bid results and noted that \$94,000 was more than the original estimate. They voted to discontinue village pickup effective June 30, 2015 and to put a procedure in place to accept village trash at the transfer station, the same as town residents. When the Water/Sewer bills went out, we sent notices to village residents about the change and people asked to look at this again. The item voted on was implicit, if the bids were near \$55,000 to \$60,000, the amount would be added to the village budget and taxes. He said that he reached out to VLCT and were told that we needed to be explicit in the ballot. Today, the board will decide whether village pickup goes away or we warn a Special Village Meeting to add a specific amount to the taxes which will mean a \$.07 increase or about 4 ½ ¢ increase over last year.
3. Richard Frank said that he called the town office and was told the cost would be \$90,000 with a \$.09 increase in taxes and now you are saying \$.07. Where did the numbers come from?
4. Bob Gilmore said it was in the bid.
5. Richard Frank asked if he could see the bid.

6. Bob Gilmore said at the town office tomorrow.
7. Richard Frank asked if they had considered that this is a resort town and people expect pickup. They won't recycle and there will be lots of garbage on the streets and varmints. There will be long lines at the transfer station. He said he prefers pickup and there should be a new vote.
8. Bob Gilmore said he hears what Richard Frank is saying and has mulled over the practical impact of discontinuing pickup. He agrees there will be clusters at the transfer station. He knows there are people who don't have cars to get to the transfer station. He said there may be property managers who are entrepreneurs and will propose to do village pickup, but they will have to recycle. He said that he has also quantified the cost to residents to hire property managers and estimates about \$10 to \$20 per pickup, at least \$520 per year. This would be more than the increase in taxes with village pickup and containers. If a property is assessed at \$200,000 the increase at \$.0675 would be about \$135 per year. For a property assessed at \$250,000, the increase would be about \$168.75/year. He thinks we should have a ballot and pickup.
9. Richard Frank said it would be worth the costs. He said people are leaving their garbage in the dumpsters around town.
10. Bob Gilmore said he is concerned about the trash and the increases at the transfer station. They are looking to lease a larger compactor for the transfer station.
11. Richard Frank said the staff at the transfer station will be overwhelmed.
12. Bob Gilmore said that's why he thinks we should have a special village meeting and do a new Australian ballot. It would have to be no less than 30 days and no more than 45 days. There would be an informational meeting on a Monday night, with voting the following day.
13. Helen Bostock asked if people live in the village, can they use bags at the transfer station.
14. Frank Heald said they can buy a sticker and get the bags.
15. David Rose said that if they have village pickup, they will get the totes and no bags.
16. Bob Gilmore said that recycling is good for the environment. He asked the specifics about the totes.
17. Tom Kennedy said the trash totes are 46 gallon and the recyclable containers 96 gallon.
18. Helen Bostock asked if they will blow away when empty.
19. Bob Gilmore said maybe.
20. Suzanne Garvey asked if they vote to continue village pickup, will individual residents be able to opt out.
21. Bob Gilmore said no.
22. Gary Boyle asked if they have village pickup, will they have to purchase bags if they exceed the totes.
23. Frank Heald advised that including in the taxes would be one tote per week of trash. If you exceed that, the STATE by Act 148 requires that you pay to throw. You will put trash in an approved bag at \$1.00 each and may put out as many as you need. This will satisfy the state Pay to Throw provision of Act 148.
24. Gary Boyle asked what happens if there is no village pickup.
25. Frank Heald said you will buy a sticker for the transfer station for \$10.00 and with it receive 52 bags. You may buy additional bags at \$26 for 26 bags.
26. Gary Boyle said he has a family of four and will probably need 208 bags.
27. Bob Gilmore asked what is the size of the bags that Gary Boyle was basing his 208 number on.
28. Gary Boyle said kitchen trash bags.
29. Frank Heald said the town bags are 33 gallons.
30. Suzanne Garvey noted that with single sort recycling, you would be removing the recyclables from the trash and reducing the trash volume.
31. Bob Gilmore asked about glass.
32. Frank Heald said that it would be single sort for curbside pickup, not at the transfer station.
33. Helen Bostock asked if they have more recyclables than what would fill the big container, can they take it to the transfer station.
34. Bob Gilmore said yes.
35. Gary Boyle asked if they can put the kitchen trash bags inside the Ludlow bags if there is no pickup.
36. Frank Heald said yes, they can put as much as they can in the bags.
37. Barbara Ruiss said if a rental property has 5 units in the village, would they get 5 sets of totes.
38. Frank Heald said it is based on per living unit.
39. Mary Jane O'Hara asked if tenants can put garbage out.
40. Frank Heald specified residential units will have pickup, not commercial.
41. Richard Frank said they will see 2-yard dumpsters all over the village. He said that he has one customer that puts out 20-30 bags over Thanksgiving and Christmas weekends. How will we handle the overflow? We put it curbside now.
42. Frank Heald said in totes or approved town bags.
43. Richard Frank said we will have to purchase the bags.
44. Mary Conrad asked if they have to separate glass in the village.

45. Frank Heald said no, if they have pickup, it would go in Zero sort containers. They do separate glass at the transfer station.
46. Richard Frank asked how this will be policed.
47. Bob Gilmore said it is the law! He added that one size does not always fit all and asked people to do the best they can.
48. Richard Frank said he has a customer that is open to recycling, but is worried if there is no pickup.
49. Bob Gilmore said he is pushing for it and hopes more people will recycle.
50. Barbara Ruiss asked if 2nd home owners have been notified.
51. Frank Heald said that the property owners have been notified. For rental properties, he hopes that the owners share the information with their tenants. He had hoped to do a mass mailing about it.
52. Barbara Ruiss said that many people do not have cars. She added that owners will have to increase rental properties.
53. Bob Gilmore said that's their option.
54. Frank Heald said owners have been notified.
55. Richard Harrison said he has been using pellet bags for his trash at the transfer station.
56. Bob Gilmore said that the bags have to be uniform.
57. Frank Heald said that if someone does as Richard Harrison does, which is goes across the scales for \$.07 per pound, they do not need the bags. That is only if they go across the scales.
58. David Rose advised that commercial haulers will need to offer recycling and have to certify or sign an affidavit of compliance with Act 148.
59. Mary Jane O'Hara asked how Bob Gilmore calculated the figured he quantified.
60. Frank Heald said it is based on the value of the property.
61. Mary Jane O'Hara asked about commercial properties.
62. Frank Heald said there is no pickup for them.
63. Ron Greenberg asked why the increase from \$34,000.
64. Bob Gilmore said they put out a request for bids according to proper procedure. The request was based on Act 148. We had estimated about \$55,000 and the bids were much higher, \$92,000 without totes and \$94,000 with totes.
65. Suzanne Garvey asked if they continue pickup, can they purchase bags.
66. David Rose said yes.
67. Frank Heald said if they have more trash than fits in the totes, it MUST go in town bags.
68. Virginia Gurdak asked if they would be able to do the ballot before July 1st.
69. Bob Gilmore repeated that the vote would be in not less than 30 days and not more than 45 days.
70. Mary Jane O'Hara said many people do not put garbage out. Why not do it by property.
71. Bob Gilmore repeated that he had said one size does not fit all. Everyone will be entitled to a tote and a recyclable container.
72. Mary Conrad asked about town residents.
73. Bob Gilmore said they must also comply with Act 148 and will still go to the transfer station.
74. Mary Lou Shaw asked about the town.
75. Frank Heald said they must purchase a sticker to the transfer station for \$10.00 and they will receive 52 bags with that. They can buy more bags at \$26 for a roll of 26 bags. With a residential sticker, they may also go across the scales for larger items at \$.05 per lb.
76. Mary Jane O'Hara commented that if we are charged by property, that ½ the year is a bonanza for the pickup company.
77. Frank Heald said that any municipal service cost is spread throughout the GL tax base. The bid request that was put out was for the same number of properties stops as we have today. That is about 325 to 350 residential stops being made today. If there are more stops added, the price will go up.
78. Roger Massey said that based on the current stops, many people in the village don't use the service and we are getting doubly shafted. He said he would have to buy 52 bags and a \$10 sticker, plus have the increase in taxes.
79. Bob Gilmore asked why Mr. Massey doesn't use the pickup service.
80. Roger Massey said the pickup is too early and he works nights. He prefers to use the transfer station. He said he has never used the pickup service.
81. Frank Heald said anyone with a \$10 sticker will get 52 bags. He encourages people to use the transfer station and recycle.
82. Roger Massey said there are others.
83. Bob Gilmore said there are a lot of moving parts to this, but it is the law. We can get an extension on the contract to have the new vote. This is the process. This is not just happening in Ludlow, it is statewide. We need more recycling and our system must comply with the state law.
84. David Rose said that he is a village resident and uses the transfer station. He said that he wrestled with the \$94,000. He added that water just went up 15%. He is struggling with village pickup. He knows that many village people do not use.

85. Barbara Ruiss said this is a resort town and people on vacation expect to put the trash out. There is a huge influx of people here on weekends and hopefully all rentals will be filled.
86. Suzanne Garvey said that she spent time today, trying to figure out logistics for 2nd home owners because many of them are not here. The property managers put the trash out. If there is no curbside pickup and they can't go to the transfer station, they will have to hire someone to take care of it for them. If it is an absentee owner they will either have to pay the town or hire someone.
87. Bob Gilmore said Pat is a private pickup person.
88. Suzanne Garvey said now someone puts the trash out. If there is no pickup, what will the owners do?
89. Bob Gilmore said hopefully, there will be pickup. He said truly, we do have to hold the taxes, but after I analyzed the numbers, it may be worth it. The impact of no pickup is huge and yes, it will cost more. He said that he feels that this impact outweighs the increase in taxes.
90. Mary Lou Shaw said if they don't have pickup, they may have to hire people to pickup up the trash from the streets.
91. Bob Gilmore said that private collectors may not be as reliable as Casella.
92. David Rose said it is an educational process. Other towns such as Rutland, Cavendish and Springfield do not have pickup.
93. Rich Frank said people who come up here don't care and will leave their trash all over.
94. Lynn Reilly disagreed. She said that out of staters do recycle if given the tools and most will recycle. It is worth the \$136 increase.
95. Bob Gilmore said that on Saturdays and Sundays, the lines at the Bridgewater transfer station are a nightmare.
96. Frank Heald said let the voters have a chance to vote on this.
97. Virginia Gurdak said lots of locals can't get to the transfer station because they don't drive.
98. Ember Tilton asked what the procedure is from here.
99. Bob Gilmore said at the end of this meeting, he will call for a motion of board members to warn a special village meeting 30 days from now. If that vote passes, they will post an informational meeting on Monday, 30 days from now.
100. Frank Heald said the Informational Meeting would be on July 21 and the vote would be on July 22, 2015.
101. Rich Frank asked about an extension of the pickup contract.
102. Frank Heald said the current village contract will continue through September 1st, and the state has agreed to that.
103. Roger Massey asked if the vote passes, will we be restricted to Village pickup as we are now.
104. Frank Heald said those who want to may use the transfer station. They will purchase a \$10 sticker and that includes 52 bags.
105. Bob Gilmore asked where the bags will be available.
106. Frank Heald said at town hall and the transfer station. He added that the village tax bill will be delayed until after the special meeting and vote. We are working through the logistics of that.
107. Bob Gilmore made clear that the trustees and village completely complied with the law regarding the bids for village pickup.
108. Frank Heald said there are a number of players, Ruggiero, Casella, Hubbard, and Able and we sent out requests to every legitimate vendor. There were a variety of issues. Only Able and Casella responded. He noted that Gobin and North East are now part of Casella.
109. Helen Bostock asked if for trash disposal, if there is any option other than burying.
110. Frank Heald said no.
111. Bob Gilmore said there is a landfill in Coventry.
112. Frank Heald said they capture methane gas at the mature landfills. He is not sure if Coventry is mature enough.
113. Bob Gilmore said that methane gas is more harmful than CO2.
114. Frank Heald said more the reason to recycle.
115. Richard Harrison said we are heading in the right direction.
116. MOTION by Bob Gilmore and seconded by Richard Harrison to warn a Special Village meeting to consider adding \$94,000 budget for village pickup, including a Public Informational Hearing on Monday, July 21, 2015 and Australian ballot on Tuesday, July 22, 2015.
117. David Rose said that he is not in favor of village pickup. He added that if this motion is voted down tonight, the residents do have the right to petition a vote.
118. Bob Gilmore advised that David Rose is very diligent in watching the village budget.
119. Mary Conrad asked how long the contract would be for.
120. Frank Heald said 5 years, adding that there are adds built into the contract for inflation, fuel costs and the contract will go up progressively.
121. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Adjourn

1. **MOTION to adjourn by Bob Gilmore and seconded by David Rose. Motion passed unanimously.**
2. Meeting adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisha Klaiber

Robert Gilmore, Chairman

David Rose

Richard Harrison