

MINUTES

VILLAGE OF LUDLOW WATER COMMISSION

Regular Meeting
Tuesday, June 2, 2015

Board Present:

David Rose, Robert Gilmore, Ron Bixby

Staff Present:

Frank Heald, Municipal Manager
Chuck Craig, Chief Water & Wastewater Operator

Others Present:

Vincent Guerrero, LPC-TV

Call to Order:

A. David Rose called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

Approve Minutes:

A. **MOTION by Robert Gilmore and seconded by Ron Bixby to accept the minutes from May 5, 2015. All in favor and the motion passed.**

Comments from Citizens:

A. None.

Consider Water Request:

- A. Frank Heald said the water rate matrix shows rates for a 10%, 15% and 20% increase. He said at the last meeting they discussed the concern of not putting any money away and the unusual maintenance issue is past winter which has put us \$41,000 over budget.
- B. David Rose said with a 10% increase we would take in \$25,000, but would not put any money away.
- C. Robert Gilmore asked if we can put money away with a minimal increase of 10%.
- D. Frank Heald said this year we will have a \$40,000 – \$50,000 shortfall and should put at least one half back.
- E. David Rose said with a 15% increase it would raise the rates for a residential 3-bedroom home by \$12.75. He said we do need to increase the rates, but questioned if 15% do it.
- F. Frank Heald said it would take a few years to catch up.
- G. Ron Bixby said a 20% increase would equate to \$17.00 or an increase of \$3.00 per month.
- H. David Rose said that even with the increase, our overall rates are still very low.
- I. Robert Gilmore said on the commercial side a 20% increase is a \$0.12 per gallon increase.
- J. Ron Bixby said he recommends raising the rates by 20% because it is still minimal compared to other municipalities. Our rates are still very low.

- K. Frank Heald said we still have projects on High Street and Meadow Street that need work with more in the next 3-4 years.
- L. Ron Bixby said there is no guarantee that we won't have another tough winter.
- M. Robert Gilmore said we should hold at 15% because he is worried about the effect on businesses and rental properties.
- N. David Rose said he can see the merits in a 20% increase, but times are tight. He said we could consider another increase next year.
- O. MOTION by Robert Gilmore and seconded by Ron Bixby to raise the rates starting July 1st by 15%. All in favor and the motion passed.**
- P. David Rose said we will raise the rates by 15% this year and take a look again next year.

Other Business:

- A. Frank Heald said we are continuing on the High Street process, but have not heard from USDA. He said we are going with a minimal design so we can get it out to bid. He said we will need a survey and then the design.
- B. David Rose asked what the cost is for Pleasant Street.
- C. Frank Heald said \$9,000 with no survey.
- D. David Rose asked how the flow meter was working.
- E. Chuck Craig said it is functioning, but needs a few tweaks.
- F. David Rose asked about the culvert at the springs.
- G. Chuck Craig said that he and Ron Tarbell can fix the culvert in-house.

Set Date for Next Meeting:

- A. Next meeting has been scheduled on Tuesday, July 7, 2015 at 5:00 pm.

Possible Executive Session Personnel/Contracts/Legal:

- A. Frank Heald said an Executive Session for contracts was needed.
- B. MOTION by Ron Bixby and seconded by Robert Gilmore that in accordance with the provisions of 1VSA §313 (1) (B), he moves that the Ludlow Village Water Commission enter into Executive Session to consider a proposed labor relations agreement with certain Municipal Employees and also the evaluation/appointment of certain municipal employees. The premature public knowledge of this proposed agreement would place the Town and Village of Ludlow at a substantial disadvantage. This motion for Executive Session includes the members present and the Municipal Manager. Motion passed unanimously.**
- C. Board entered into Executive Session at 5:16 pm.
- D. Board exited Executive Session at 5:35 pm.
- E. MOTION by Ron Bixby and seconded by Robert Gilmore to approve the restricting of the wastewater staff as presented by the municipal manager. Motion passed unanimously.**
- F. MOTION by Ron Bixby and seconded by Robert Gilmore to approve the municipal manager's new contract through October 2017 as presented and to authorize the chairman to sign it on behalf to the Trustees. Motion passed unanimously.**

Adjourn:

- A. MOTION to adjourn by Ron Bixby and seconded by Robert Gilmore. All in favor and the motion passed.
- B. Meeting was adjourned at 5:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Cruickshank
Recording Secretary

David Rose, Chairman

Robert Gilmore

Ronald Bixby