

MINUTES

VILLAGE OF LUDLOW WATER COMMISSION

Regular Meeting
Tuesday, May 5, 2015

Board Present:

David Rose, Robert Gilmore, Ron Bixby

Staff Present:

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

Others Present:

Michael Pacilio, Bob Friedrich

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 April 7, 2015. All in favor and the motion passed.

Comments from Citizens:

A. None.

Consider Water Requests:

Patricia Mainville – Terrace Avenue

- A. Frank Heald said Patricia Mainville have a reimbursement request but has not paid her bill from last year's water problems.
- B. Frank Heald said they spent a fair amount of money on Terrace Avenue this past winter.
- C. Chuck Craig said most of their time was spent on the water main.
- D. David Rose clarified that Patricia Mainville was not charged for any of the water thaw outs this winter and is just seeking a new hot water heater.
- E. David Rose said we sent her a bill last year in which she still owes. He said the reason the Water department paid for the thaw out last year was because there were children living in the apartment with no water and the landlord wasn't going to address it.
- F. Robert Gilmore said she should make good on last year's bill.
- G. Frank Heald said the reimbursement request she is asking for is \$476, and the unpaid bill she still owes the Village is \$312.50 so we could reimburse the difference.
- H. MOTION by Ron Bixby to reimburse Patricia Mainville the difference between last year's unpaid bill of \$312.50 and her reimbursement request of \$476.00. All in favor and the motion passed.

David Quatrella – Gill Terrace

- A. Frank Heald said the curbsto to this property is a long distance from the house. He said when the service was constructed they ran the waterline up to the top of Gill Terrace. He

said this is a vacation residence and when they realized the water service was frozen they contacted Cota & Cota.

- B. Frank Heald said the Water Department spent over \$11,000, plus the installation of a new curbstop at their property.
- C. Frank Heald said Mr. Quatrella is asking for reimbursement of the Cota & Cota charges.
- D. David Rose asked how far the water line is that runs to the house.
- E. Chuck Craig said the water line is 400 to 500 feet long.
- F. David Rose asked if Mr. Quatrella is aware that the Water Department has paid for the digging and a new curbstop.
- G. Frank Heald said he had a phone conversation with them, but wasn't sure if all of the Gurney invoices were in yet.
- H. David Rose said it was their service that froze and the board typically does not pay to fix the services.
- I. Robert Gilmore said they need to be consistent with all requests.
- J. David Rose said the consensus of the board is for no reimbursement.

Michael Pacilio & Bob Friedrich – Laundromat

- A. Frank Heald said he took a second look at the water regulations and he is able to make an adjustment. He said the Village does not meter so they use the state tables for allocation.
- B. Frank Heald said he was looking at the old water tables and found that the rules use 80% of the design flows over 50,000 gallons so it will represent an adjustment from 500 gpd to 400 gpd. He said this would result in a difference of \$840.
- C. Frank Heald said the same would happen for the wastewater with a reduction from 500 gpd to 400 gpd.
- D. Michael Pacilio said that even with the reduction from 7,000 gpd to 5,600 gpd on an exceptionally busy day they would only use 1,200 gpd.
- E. Bob Friedrich said he understands the Village does not meter, but said it is disproportionate.
- F. Michael Pacilio said they are trying to do something good for Ludlow with their business but with a cost of \$600 per month they are losing money and have to pay out of pocket.
- G. David Rose said the allocation is based on the state tables and they cannot pick and choose.
- H. Michael Pacilio said they are judicious users of water and only installed two 60-lb washers knowing they use more water than the smaller machines.
- I. Bob Friedrich asked who they can approach at the state level because it is disproportionate to pay for more than they are using.
- J. David Rose said that the regulations have been in place long before their laundromat came into business. He said the other laundromat in town is paying the same rate.
- K. Frank Heald said they are not just paying for the water, they are paying for the availability of the water.
- L. Robert Gilmore said their hands are tied because they have to follow the state regulations.
- M. Frank Heald said he understands their concern but they have to abide by the tables if they want the availability.
- N. Frank Heald said if Bob Friedrich and Michael Pacilio would give him the design criteria he will go further with it and talk with the state.
- O. Robert Gilmore suggested they take a closer look at their use and think about eliminating a few washers.
- P. Bob Friedrich and Michael Pacilio said that is not an option as they are trying to build the business.
- Q. Frank Heald said they will generate a new bill with the 20% decrease.

Discuss Water Rate Increase:

- A. David Rose said next on the agenda is to discuss a water rate increase.
- B. Frank Heald said they will need to consider adjusting the rates. He said the unplanned invoices from Gurney totaled more than \$42,000 so they are not able to put any additional money away. He said their resources are down to \$185,000 and revenues are decreasing.
- C. Frank Heald presented a matrix showing a 20% increase.
- D. David Rose asked if this increase would cover the cost of the freeze ups and enable them to still put money away.
- E. Frank Heald said the increase would raise \$50,000 this year. He said we could do a 10% increase and catch up over a number of years. Frank said if you consider a 20% increase, it would clear up some of the issues and put more money into the construction account for plans such as the High Street project. He said the last water increase was in 2012 after the water project.
- F. David Rose suggested looking at a 10-15% increase and to table this for the next meeting.
- G. Frank Heald said they can ponder this until the next meeting.
- H. MOTION by Ron Bixby and seconded by Robert Gilmore to table the rate increase until the June meeting. All in favor and the motion passed.

Set Date for Next Meeting:

- A. Next meeting has been scheduled on Tuesday, June 2, 2015 at 5:00 pm.

Possible Executive Session Personnel/Contracts/Legal:

- A. None needed.

Adjourn:

- A. MOTION to adjourn by Robert Gilmore and seconded by Ron Bixby. All in favor and the motion passed.
- B. Meeting was adjourned at 5:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Cruickshank
Recording Secretary

David Rose, Chairman

Robert Gilmore

Ronald Bixby