

**TOWN OF LUDLOW
SELECT BOARD**

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

**July 13, 2009
8:00 AM**

Board Present:

Howard Barton, Jr., John Neal, Doug Ficken, Brett Sanderson, Bruce Schmidt (via telephone)

Staff Present:

Frank Heald, Ulla Cook, Ron Tarbell, Kevin MacPherson, Pam Cruickshank

Call to Order:

Chairman Howard Barton called the meeting to order at 8:03 AM

Set Town Tax Rate FY2010:

- a. Howard Barton asked Frank Heald if the budget summary was close to final.
- b. Frank Heald said yes, but there was minimal left that may be added.
- c. Howard Barton said that some departments were over, some under.
- d. Frank Heald referred to exhibit #4 which gives an analysis of each department. He said Planning fees were lower than expected and Recreation fees were also under.
- e. Frank Heald said that the Town departments did make up roughly \$180,000.
- f. Howard Barton asked if department heads review monthly budgets.
- g. Frank Heald said yes, they look at their budgets monthly.
- h. Howard Barton questioned the voted exemptions.
- i. Ulla Cook said that the exempted properties are exempt from the education tax.
- j. Frank Heald said we have to pay education taxes for three properties totaling roughly \$85,000.
- k. John Neal suggested we put an explanation in the budget summary so residents can see what it actually costs the voters when properties are exempt from paying taxes.
- l. Bruce Schmidt questioned the surplus to buy down the taxes stating that it could help the taxpayers, but we don't want to put the town in peril.
- m. Howard Barton asked Frank if \$00.2311 was his recommendation.
- n. Frank Heald said it was both his and the Treasurer's recommendation.
- o. Bruce Schmidt said he was in favor of supporting Frank Heald and Ulla Cook's tax recommendations. He added that the board should be aggressive in doing all they can to keep taxes down, but keep the health of the town in mind.
- p. John Neal agreed that the board needs to be fiscally responsible.
- q. **John Neal made a motion to set the Town Tax Rate for FY 2010 at \$00.2311. Motion was seconded by Brett Sanderson. All in favor and the motion passed.**

Award Chipper Bid:

- a. Ron Tarbell said his recommendation would be to go with the Morbark Model Twister 12 Brush Chipper. He added that this machine has more horsepower and was only one of two that met the specifications and since it was a new 2008 with "0" hours, the price was cheaper.
- b. Bruce Schmidt asked how much was in the budget.
- c. Frank Heald said \$27,000, but the price is \$23,500 with a trade-in.
- d. John Neal asked if it would be cheaper to sell the chipper ourselves and get more money.
- e. Ron Tarbell said they could try, but the machine is a 1992 with 3,000 + hours.
- f. Bruce Schmidt asked if it was worth it to leave the old chipper at the Transfer Station.
- g. Ron Tarbell said it may help, but the chipper had a fair amount of costly repairs last year.
- h. **Bruce Schmidt made a motion to accept the bid that Ron Tarbell proposed for the Morbark chipper. Motion was seconded by John Neal. All in favor and the motion passed.**

Award Mower Bid:

- a. Frank Heald said he asked Kevin MacPherson to compare the bids.
- b. Howard Barton asked if it was diesel or gas.
- c. Kevin MacPherson said the M72 Wide Track was gas and is similar to the machine we have now. He added it was very well built, had more horsepower and fit on the trailer better.
- d. Howard Barton said the price is \$9,399.20 less trade of \$2500.
- e. Frank Heald said this price is \$5,000 less than the budgeted price.
- f. **Motion by John Neal to purchase the M72 Wide Track 37 HP Cub Cadet Mower for \$6,899.20. Motion was seconded by Doug Ficken. All in favor and the motion passed.**

Adjourn:

Motion by John Neal to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Brett Sanderson. All in favor and the motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:42 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Cruickshank
Acting Clerk

Howard Barton, Jr., Chairman

John Neal

Bruce Schmidt

Brett Sanderson

Earl Washburn