

***PRELIMINARY MINUTES***

**VILLAGE OF LUDLOW  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**6:00 PM**

Tuesday, July 7, 2009

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Bob Gilmore, Chairman

Jim Fuller

David Rose

**STAFF:**

Frank Heald

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Taylor Gilmore

Duncan Love – LPCTV

1. **Call to Order**

A. Chairman Bob Gilmore called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. All members present.

2. **Approve Minutes from Previous Meetings**

A. Bob Gilmore advised the minutes to be approved are from the regular meeting of June 2, 2009 and the special meetings of June 4, June 11 and June 16, 2009.

B. **MOTION by David Rose and seconded by Jim Fuller to approve minutes from the regular meeting of June 2, 2009 and the special meetings of June 4, June 11 and June 16, 2009 as submitted. Motion passed unanimously.**

3. **Comments From Citizens**

A. There were none.

4. **Discuss Municipal Parking Proposal – 199 and 207 Main Street**

A. Frank Heald said that he has had several conversations with Jean Costa-McCutcheon regarding the property. He told the board that the snowboard shop has been rented to Equip Sports. Ms. McCutcheon sent the letter to stimulate discussion and would like to come to an agreement that would be beneficial to the town and tenant. He has told her that there is not money in the budget for parking spaces, but that he would bring her proposal to the board for discussion. Coldwell Banker is marketing the property.

B. Bob Gilmore advised that he was on the committee that arranged the first lease on the property and the lease was allowed to expire. He noted that leasing the property may be viable, but it needs to go to the litmus test. Will the merchants park their cars and have their employees also park their cars in the lot? If there is not a 100% commitment from the merchants, he does not think they should pursue the lease. He thinks they should call a meeting with the Merchants' Association, because leasing the property would be for them.

C. Jim Fuller said that he agrees with Bob Gilmore. If the lot were used, it would be beneficial, but if it were not used, it would be a huge expense. He asked if the property is for sale or lease. The sign just says to call Coldwell Banker.

D. Frank Heald said that they spent \$26,000 in the first 5 years of the original lease, including the upgrades to the property. It was a 7-year agreement and the Town/Village agreed to hold the owner harmless for tax increases resulting from the improvements. He said that he would contact the Merchants' Association.

E. Jim Fuller said that he thinks that Will Nye is the contact for the association.

5. **Water Project Update**

- A. Frank Heald advised that one of the bidders, Haluch Water Contracting, appealed the Trustees' decision from the protest hearing held on June 11, 2009 to the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR). He will attend the appeal hearing on Monday at 2:30 p.m. in Waterbury at the commissioner of ANR's office. The elements of the appeal have changed. Haluch claim they did not get proper notice of Contract #2 (water storage tank contract) but we did not notify them and have documentation from the two tank manufactures that Haluch never contacted them in regards to bidding the tank and they would not of supplied him with a tank if he had. The appeal on Contract #2, is a frivolity. The Trustees decision settled Contract #1 (water distribution main) from the legal standpoint. We are going through the motions with the state on the appeal and expect a timely decision. If ANR rules in our favor we hope to award the contract and get the project underway as soon as possible. We are in hopes getting the transmission line constructed as far down Route 100 this year as possible before snowfall and finish construction in the summer of 2010.
- B. Bob Gilmore asked if we were continuing to use Attorney William Gagnon to represent the Village.
- C. Frank Heald said yes.
- D. Bob Gilmore asked if this delay would cause us to lose stimulus money.
- E. Frank Heald said no. There was a fear that the apparent low bidder would lose his pipe pricing, but we have been told the pipe supply company has locked in on the current pipe pricing.
- F. Bob Gilmore asked if the ANR decision comes back favorable for the Village, is there a chance of appeal.
- G. Frank Heald said we are treading on untried ground and not sure. There is a point where Haluch's involvement will cause the Village damage and we may have to consider legal action , but if ANR finds in our favor, we on pretty sold ground.
- H. Bob Gilmore asked if ANR makes a favorable decision, how soon would we be able to start work.
- I. Frank Heald said as soon as possible.
- J. Jim Fuller asked if we would award the bid and contact the contractor immediately.
- K. Frank Heald said yes.
- L. Bob Gilmore asked Frank Heald to keep this board advised.
- M. Frank Heald said that he would.

6. **Other Business**

- A. Set Meeting to Set Tax Rate
  - i. Frank Heald advised that the listers finished off the grand list this morning. The village grand list will go down because the Gill Home was taken off the list. He thinks the village tax rate will go up about \$.009. They are in the process of finishing off the financials for the FY 2009 and he would like to meet at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, the 13<sup>th</sup> to set the rate. He said that David Rose can't make the meeting but could sign it later that day.
  - ii. Bob Gilmore said he would tentatively be able to make it.
  - iii. Jim Fuller said the he could make it.
  - iv. Frank Heald said they would like to get the tax bills out by the 15th.
- B. Radar Speed Signs and Crosswalk by the Post Office
  - i. Bob Gilmore said that at one time, board had discussed installing an additional radar speed sign at the northern entrance to the village by the firehouse. He also wanted to know about the stanchions on the cross walk by the post office. He said that maybe they could get Streetscapes involved. They need to be cut down and maybe have something decorative on the tops.
  - ii. David Rose asked if the radar sign by the school had ever been downloaded and had the data been reviewws.
  - iii. Frank Heald said he thought it had been, but he had not seen it.
  - iv. Jim Fuller said they should put the speed limit sign on the post.
  - v. Frank Heald said he would look at it.
  - vi. Jim Fuller said that the speed limit signs on all of the radar signs should be uniform
  - vii. Frank Heald said a radar speed sign on the north entrance to the village would be good and a speed limit sign would help at the village line. Chrisandra's would like to see the speed limit lowered. He said he was not sure exactly where the village line is. He thought it was by the cluster of signs.
  - viii. David Rose said he thinks that it is out further on Route 103 and will try to get the information.
- C. Depot Street Culvert Project

- i. Bob Gilmore asked how Sanderson was progressing with the project and when it will be finished.
  - ii. Frank Heald said that he does not know when the sidewalks will be finished. The culvert on west side is done. Ron Tarbell will meet with Sanderson. We have some granite curbing stockpiled to do the west side of the street also and we will also do the sidewalk on the west side. We can reduce our costs by supplying the curbing and having them install it. It would take out a fair amount.
  - iii. Bob Gilmore asked about the problem they had had.
  - iv. Frank Heald said there were catch basins above and below the trestle and the water/sewer had an interesting layout.
- D. Sidewalk Repairs
- i. Jim Fuller asked if funds for all repairs for sidewalks had been allocated for this year. He said there is a bad stretch on Main Street by Ludlow Cooking Company.
  - ii. Frank Heald said he would look into it.
  - iii. David Rose said they had talked about doing Depot Street after the water project was completed.
- E. Old Homes Ordinance
- i. Jim Fuller distributed an article about Barre. The town board toured the town and saw several abandoned and dangerous buildings. They looked into other towns and found an ordinance in South Burlington that encompassed vacant and dangerous buildings. Jim Fuller suggested that the village may want to look into this for safety, fire, police and aesthetic reasons. He would like to see the village have some control over abandoned buildings. He asked board members to review the article and asked that it be placed on the agenda for next month.

7. **Set Date for August Meeting**

- A. There was a general consensus to hold the regular meeting on August 4, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

8. **Possible Executive Session – Personnel/Contracts**

- A. Frank Heald said that an Executive Session was not needed.

9. **Adjourn**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Lisha Klaiber

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Robert Gilmore, Chairman

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David Rose

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Jim Fuller