

**VILLAGE OF LUDLOW
BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS**

SPECIAL MEETING

**September 16, 2008
5:00 PM**

Board Present:

David Rose, Chair, John Murphy, Sr., Richard Strong

Staff Present:

Frank Heald, Municipal Manager, Pam Cruickshank

Citizens Present:

Ralph Pace

Call to Order

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

Consider & Approve Water Project Letter & Fact Sheet

John Murphy asked if the Water Project would be a general obligation bond and who would pay for it.

Frank Heald responded that in talking with both Rural Development & Giuliani's office, they suggested that it be warned as a general obligation bond for the community. If you specifically reference Rural Development and something happened with interest rates between now and the commitment, we would preclude. If you go for an obligation, the options continue to be open.

Frank added that it would be an obligation of the users of the enterprise (water users) to pay, but the Village is the borrowing entity.

John Murphy questioned the difference between water users and Village voters.

Frank Heald explained that as Water Commissioners, they do not have the authority to borrow. They find their authority under the Village Charter. It is a general obligation of the Village, paid for by the water users.

Ralph Pace asked what his role would be as a Village resident, who is not a water user.

David Rose explained that he would be able to vote on the issue, even though he is not on the system.

David Rose discussed the Water Project Letter & Fact Sheet and felt that it was very clear cut.

John Murphy mentioned that it was the first time he realized that it would be consumer voting/consumer paid – a general obligation.

Richard Strong wondered if it was all state money that they were borrowing.

Frank Heald responded by saying that if all goes along with the financial plan that they are currently working with, it would be Federal Funds, with Rural Development money coming through the state.

Richard Strong asked if there would be a question about meters.

Frank Heald said no and added that this money comes from U.S. Department of Agriculture/Rural Development. He explained that the discussion with Rural Development went along the lines that it would not be cost effective to incur the cost of meters based on the way we bill things, but does not want to specifically reference getting the money from Rural Development. He said there was also room for discussion with the reserve account. Frank Heald added that they won't know how much it will cost until the project goes out to bid. He felt that they could get a really good price from contractors starting in May. He also added that the size of the tank was still up for discussion.

Richard Strong asked if they were going to hook onto the new line and start on Andover Road.

Frank Heald explained that they do not have a plan yet, but new service connections would come off of the main.

Richard Strong asked if they needed permits to cross the brook.

David Rose said he recalled that the reason they put the pipe through the brook was because they already had a stream alteration permit, so that was the time to put the pipe in.

Richard Strong wondered what would happen if the project isn't voted. We are going to get the money back and put it into our savings. He added that we don't even know what it costs.

David Rose said there are preliminary estimates and the brook crossing is included in the price.

A discussion took place regarding the pipe under the brook and the cost.

Frank Heald said that the Water Commissioners were told what it was going to cost to cross the bridge and they approved it at a previous meeting.

David Rose said it was discussed, voted and past.

David Rose asked for comments on the Open Letter to Village Residents.

Richard Strong said it looks “ok.”

Frank Heald wanted to be sure that they discussed it and were comfortable with it. He added that there would also be two meetings and one statutory meeting.

Richard Strong asked how many rate payers they had.

Pam Cruickshank said she would get him the information on the rate payer numbers.

Frank Heald and David Rose reiterated that there would be three meetings: October 15; October 23; and November 17, 2008 at 7:00 pm in the Town Hall.

Richard Strong asked if they should meet with the Fire Department or Select Board on the fire hydrants because that will be on the bid.

Frank Heald explained that they will meet with the Fire Department and engineer as things progress to talk about the technical capabilities and bring the Town into the discussion.

John Murphy made a motion to approve and sign the Water Project Letter and Fact Sheet. Richard Strong seconded the motion. All in favor and the motion passed.

Frank Heald said that the Commissioners will need to ask the Village Trustees to warn a November vote. John Murphy made a motion instructing Frank Heald to ask the Village Trustees to warn a vote for November 18, 2008. Motion was seconded by Richard Strong. All in favor and the motion passed.

David Rose asked when the vote needed to be warned.

Frank Heald said in the next 60 days.

Frank Heald said that the Water Project Letter and Fact Sheet was going into the mail tomorrow, so from this point on it will be public information.

John Murphy asked if a copy would be sent to the Rutland Herald, Eagle Times and weekly newspapers. He added that the more we advertise, the more people will have the right to say they knew about it.

Frank Heald said that the warnings will be posted in the paper-of-record and we will also get news stories out about the project.

Richard Strong said he would like to have Loran Greenslet attend the meetings. Frank Heald said Loran would be involved with the project as things progress.

Adjourn

Motion by John Murphy to adjourn. Seconded by Richard Strong. All in favor and the motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 5:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Cruickshank
Acting Clerk

David Rose, Chairman

John Murphy, Sr.

Richard Strong