

PRELIMINARY MINUTES

**TOWN OF LUDLOW
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

SPECIAL MEETING

January 12, 2009

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

John Neal, Vice Chairman Bruce Schmidt Earl Washburn

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Howard Barton, Jr., Chairman Brett Sanderson

STAFF:

Frank Heald

OTHERS PRESENT:

Marilyn LeDoux P J Pollard Judy Pullinen
Howie Paul

1. Call to Order

- A. Vice Chairman John Neal called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.
- B. Howard Barton and Brett Sanderson absent.
- C. John Neal advised that some of the department heads had been asked to attend this meeting.

2. FY 2010 Budget Workshop

- A. Frank Heald advised that all department sections, except Town Clerk/Treasurer have been completed.
- B. John Neal asked if Insurance was complete.
- C. Frank Heald said that he switched the numbers to reflect the correct spending area and that is complete. The only area of concern is Interest Income under Debt Management. The number in the budget is conservative. He also located another savings under Intergovernmental of about \$7,000 in County Taxes. He explained that after he downloaded the 2009 report, he notices that taxes will be about \$6,850 less. Ludlow is responsible for about 20% of the County taxes. The total will be \$140,150 instead of \$147,000.
- D. TOWN CLERK/TREASURER
 - 1. John Neal asked about the 80% increase in Licenses.
 - 2. Frank Heald said that was due to increased costs from the state, particularly in Marriage Licenses.
 - 3. Bruce Schmidt noted the decrease in income from recording fees. He indicated that Ralph Pace had done a survey and without Jackson Gore sales, the town gross total is still up about 3%.
 - 4. Frank Heald said that while volume is down, prices are still up.
 - 5. Bruce Schmidt noted that Ulla Cook did take the decrease in real estate sales into consideration when she budgeted the recording fees.
 - 6. General Consensus that Town Clerk/Treasurer is complete
- E. HIGHWAY
 - 1. Frank Heald said that he had a long discussion with the state highway department and he would like to add another \$10,000 to the budget for engineering for bridges.
 - 2. Bruce Schmidt asked if the board should be confident that would be enough.
 - 3. Frank Heald said that VLCT recommends 10%. Joint fiscal withheld funds until the legislature gets back in session. Secretary of Transportation Gill suggested that the state would either put money in for AMTRAK or town highway money. The Legislature would be crazy to withhold transportation money from the towns. It just won't happen.
 - 4. John Neal questioned the \$20,000 for the study.

5. Frank Heald said you couldn't do the repairs without the engineering. The soft costs are included in there. We need to fix South Hill, Dorsey, Rod and Gun Club bridges. Regarding Walker Street, even though we want to try to get the state to do the repairs, we need to understand what the bridge needs before we can go to the state. He would like \$40,000 for next year.
6. John Neal said to have the study done.
7. Earl Washburn said that he is with Howard Barton in wanting to get the state to fix that bridge, but he agrees that we do need to be able to tell the state what repairs are needed.
8. Bruce Schmidt asked if there were to be any surplus left over from this year, could that be put into bridges.
9. Frank Heald said that it could.
10. Bruce Schmidt asked if \$10,000 would be enough.
11. Frank Heald said no, but we can do with that amount. We can take the near \$7,000 from County taxes. That would still leave the increase to be raised in taxes to 2.3%.

F. AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM

1. Bruce Schmidt asked how Ludlow is protected regarding its share of the amount of the grant. Last year, Ludlow gave \$6,000 to the program. What is its share of the grant with relation to Mount Holly's?
2. P J Pollard said that this is the 5th year of the grant. The first year, all of the money went to Ludlow. It was a short program for 7-9 graders from the Middle School (LMS). The cost was \$50,000. The second year, Ludlow got the lion's share for that program. Mount Holly 4-6 graders had a program with longer hours and started charging fees. LMS's program was about 1/3 the size of Mount Holly's program. The 4th year, Mount Holly started K-6 and Ludlow Elementary School (LES) also sent K-6 and LMS. Last year, Mount Holly's program had longer hours (2:45 to 5:00 p.m.) and 4 days per week. LES's hours were 2:45 to 4:00 p.m. This year, things are more equal. LMS is phasing out. The state requires that 1/3 of the total grant be spent on administrative costs. LES and Mount Holly both have K-6, but Ludlow gets a little more because of the remaining LMS students.
3. July Pullinen agreed that over the 5 years, Ludlow has gotten the lion's share of the grant money. She added that the program is asked Mount Holly for \$10,000 this year.
4. P J Pollard said that they are also asking Mount Holly to fund the program directly instead of having the money go through the school. This is the last year of the grant, but we can apply for another 5-year grant. We have to show sustainability and that we get 50% from sources other than the grant, such as the towns, individuals and other grants.
5. Judy Pullinen advised that the program may apply for a grant of up to \$102,000, but they are asking for less because they don't feel that they can raise the matching funds.
6. Frank Heald asked about their 2010 budget. They will probably request \$60,000 to \$80,000.
7. Judy Pullinen said it is not due until February. She added that the program did receive an offer from the Okemo Challenge to fund the \$18,000 that the program is requesting from the town, but there would still be a gap and it would probably only be for one year. They have to show sustainability.
8. P J Pollard said that the Okemo Challenge funds would not look good if it was only for one year.
9. Frank Heald suggested that the program list it as a one-time donation, spread out over 5 years, to be used proportionately. He went on to say that this board did have concerns about the request from the program. The board wants to help the schools and the at-risk children, but the budget is black and white. The program seemed to be "squishy" to some of the board members.
10. Earl Washburn said that the board struggled with the manipulation to avoid Act 60 and they don't want double spending.
11. P J Pollard said that the money that Ludlow puts in would be earmarked for LES and LMS.
12. Judy Pullinen said that the money that Karen Trimboli requested was not for the after school program, but for Odyssey of the Mind, the French Club and Cross Country. Fees are not charged for these programs. They are listed as Club Activities, not part of the after school program. There are no after school fees in the LES of Middle school budgets.
13. Earl Washburn said that was what the perception was.
14. Judy Pullinen said that these are extracurricular activities.

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15. Earl Washburn said there was also concern of the parts of some of the board members about Exclusivity within the program, that it was not open to all students. The activities could not accommodate all of the students who wanted to participate.
 16. Judy Pullinen said that she agrees philosophically, but sometimes they have to match the activity to the number of students.
 17. Bruce Schmidt said that the activities may have been open, but were limited.
 18. Judy Pullinen said the Enrichment Activities, such as cooking, have limited space because the facilities and staff are limited. They are on a first come, first served basis. The program cannot have endless numbers of spaces available. They do offer other things for the children to do.
 19. Howie Paul said that the Recreation Department began working with this program because they can offer bigger programs now. Karate is open enrolment. They can offer more programs.
 20. Earl Washburn said he understands now, but the perception was different.
 21. P J Pollard added that LES and Mount Holly are licensed childcare and subject to more regulations. This grant also has to observe those regulations and has some of its own.
 22. Judy Pullinen said that all of the money was going to Rutland Windsor Supervisory Union (RWSU). The program has to have an advisory board that meets monthly. Members of the board are the building principals, herself, P J Pollard, a board member from RWSU, Howie Paul and a member from BRACC.
 23. Earl Washburn asked if it saves the town money from Act 60.
 24. Judy Pullinen said that the program is trying to get out of the 2-vote situation required by Act 82 and the Maximum Inflation Rate. This year, the 3.9% is based on the state average per student spending. If a town budget increase exceeds that 3.9%, the town must have 2 votes on the school budget. We are trying to keep out budgets under 3.9% to avoid that. She has also spoken to the Mount Holly Select Board about this.
 25. Earl Washburn suggested that the board put this in the budget and take it out of voted articles.
 26. Bruce Schmidt said put it in appropriations.
 27. Howie Paul said that he had taken all after school items out of his budget.
 28. Bruce Schmidt said it is probably the right thing to do. He would think they would keep the enrichment programs open to all students, not just the at risk students. Those things always get cut first.
 29. John Neal agreed that the request from the After School program should be taken out of voted articles and put under appropriations.
 30. Bruce Schmidt said that, as a citizen, he encourages the program to take a long hard look and accept the offer from the Okemo Challenge.
 31. Judy Pullinen said that it was a great idea to prorate the offer over 5 years.
 32. Bruce Schmidt said that it would also show the voters that the program is getting money from other sources.
 33. Judy Pullinen said the program is looking at other sources and hoping to fill in the gaps.
- G. Frank Heald said that is about the end of the budget.
 - H. John Neal said that putting in the request from the After School program raises the amount of increase to be raised in taxes from the 2.3% to 2.9%.
 - I. Frank Heald said that there would be one more cut for the board to review. Taking the after school program out of articles reduces that to \$102,000. It is also consistent with the wishes of the voters to limit the number of articles to be voted on.
 - J. Bruce Schmidt said that it is important to educate the voters why we put the After School program into appropriations.
 - K. Frank Heald said that he would like someone from the program to attend town meeting.
 - L. P J Pollard said that she would be there. She added that her 2010 budget would be completed by then.
 - M. Bruce Schmidt said that people may question whether this is the best use of the town's money. This board needs to be able to answer their questions.
 - N. Frank Heald said that he would get the last draft out to the board members.

3. Executive Session/Contracts/Personnel

- A. Frank Heald advised that an executive session was needed for Real Estate contracts.
- B. **Motion by Earl Washburn and seconded by Bruce Schmidt to enter in to Executive Session for Contracts/Personnel. Motion passed unanimously.**
- C. Board entered into Executive Session at 8:02 p.m.
- D. Out of Executive Session at 8:25 p.m.

E. No action taken.

4. **Adjourn**

- A. **MOTION by Earl Washburn and seconded by Bruce Schmidt to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.**
- B. Meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisha Klaiber

Howard Barton, Jr., Chairman

John Neal

Brett Sanderson

Earl Washburn

Bruce Schmidt

RESOLUTION
TOWN OF LUDLOW, VERMONT
BLACK RIVER HIGH SCHOOL
GIRLS & BOYS SOCCER TEAMS
DIVISION IV VT STATE CHAMPIONS

WHEREAS: The 2008 Black River High School Girls & Boys Soccer Teams won the Division IV Vermont State Championships on Saturday, November 1, 2008; and

WHEREAS: The Black River High School Girls Soccer Team remains undefeated in 2007 & 2008; and

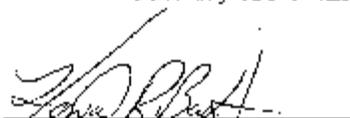
WHEREAS: The 2008 Black River High School Girls & Boys Soccer Teams have established a tradition of success and achievement in athletics; and

WHEREAS: The 2008 Black River High School Girls & Boys Soccer Teams displayed outstanding excellence in sportsmanship and preparation; and

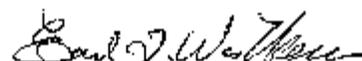
WHEREAS: The 2008 Black River High School Athletes and Coaching Staff and their accomplishments are a true credit to the school and community.

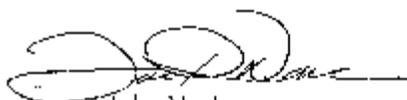
NOW, THEREFORE: The Select Board for the Town of Ludlow do hereby congratulate the 2008 Black River High School Girls & Boys Soccer Teams for their outstanding victories and the acknowledge the season-long support from the citizens of the Town of Ludlow, Vermont.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, WE have signed this **RESOLUTION** officially and caused the Executive Seal of the Ludlow Select Board to be affixed this 3rd day of November, 2008.


Howard Barton, Jr., Chair


Bruce Schmidt


Earl Washburn


John Neal


Brett Sanderson