

**PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING
PRELIMINARY MINUTES
VILLAGE OF LUDLOW
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

The legal voters of the Village of Ludlow are notified that a Public Informational Meeting will be held electronically via ZOOM on **Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.** for the purpose of explaining the subject proposed Water System Improvements, namely new transmission and distribution components on High Street, and the financing thereof. Voting will take place on Tuesday, January 12, 2021 between the hours of 10:00 am and 7:00 PM.

ZOOM Public Informational Meeting Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88624335163?pwd=OWh4enl4KzdrU2t5NGhYYmFRdnBPUT09>

Meeting ID:886 2433 5163 **Passcode:**444478

Dial by phone: +1 929 205 6099

Alternate numbers:

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kgxoAZ1xl>

Meeting ID: 886 2433 5163

Passcode: 444478 (That's HIGH-ST on a phone keypad)

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

David Rose, Chairman

Bob Brandt

Earl Washburn

WATER COMMISSIONERS

PRESENT:

David Rose, Chairman

George Abraham

Ron Bixby

STAFF:

Scott Murphy

Chuck Craig

Ulla Cook

OTHERS PRESENT:

Andrew Becker

Merrick Gillies

Eric Chattergee - OVTV

Sharon Bixby

Rich Radonis

Lisha Klaiber, Recording Sec.

Wayne Elliot – by phone

Tom Telling

1. **Call To Order**

- A. Chairman David Rose opened the Special Joint Meeting of the Village Trustees and the Water Commission at 6:01 p.m. He said that this meeting is to discuss and inform the proposed High Street Water/ Sewer/Stormwater Improvement Project. He said the vote for the bond will be held on Tuesday, January 12, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

2. **Public Informational Meeting**

- A. Wayne Elliott said that voters are encouraged to request absentee ballots from the Town Clerk's Office at 802-228-2828 or via email at treasure@ludlow.vt.us. Wayne Elliott said that the state had identified curves in the pipes. He explained the Purposes and Needs:
 - i. Minimum fire flow of 500 GPM cannot be achieved in the proper area with the existing 4" pipe.
 - ii. The existing sewer mains on High Street do not conform to required separation distances from potable water
 - iii. The existing 6" clay sewer main on High Street does not have adequate access for cleaning and repairs
 - iv. Addition of catch basins will convey stormwater off the existing roadway, reducing ponding and improving existing drainage issues.
- B. Wayne Elliott explained the Water Improvements
 - i. Installation of 1,090 linear feet of new 8" waterline
 - ii. New gate valves, fire hydrants, and water services and curb stops to the Village ROW.
- C. Wayne Elliott explained the Sewer Improvements
 - i. Construction of 1,035 linear feet of new 8" PVC sewer line
 - ii. New precast concrete manholes and replacement of existing sewer service lines up to the Village ROW
- D. Wayne Elliott explained the Storm Improvements
 - i. Construction of approximately 500 linear feet of 18" HDPE storm drain pipe and 8 new precast concrete catch basins.
- E. Wayne Elliott said that estimated construction costs are \$720,000, plus \$72,000 (10%) state required contingency. He said that the total estimated project cost is \$990,000. This includes construction and contingency, engineering, administration, permit fees, legal fees and short term interest. He explained that in July 2020, very attractive funding became available. Ludlow is on the priority list for clean water and drinking water. For Clean Water, there is a 50% subsidy on engineering and 40% subsidy on construction. He said that for the Drinking Water, there is a 75% subsidy for the first \$1,000,000 of a loan. This would amount to \$549,470 in total loan forgiveness. This money is available on a first come-first serve basis. The sooner Ludlow submits its paperwork, the better chance of receiving this funding. If this bond vote does not pass, he does not know if the funding will be available if Ludlow does a second vote.
- F. Impact of Sewer and Water Rates
 - i. On a loan of \$440,530 (2% at 30 years), the total annual loan payment would be about \$19,670 and will be split between water and sewer. The first loan payment will be due in late 2022.
 - ii. For FY2023, water customers will see an increase of about \$2.00 semi-annually and an increase of about \$3.00 semi-annually in the flat charge rate.
- G. David Rose explained that the commissioners had first started looking at this project in 2016, but funding fell through. The work needs to be done. We have fire hydrants with black tops. The State says we cannot use these hydrants because of inadequate flows.
- H. Ron Bixby said that this project would immensely help the fire department and it is really important for fire protection.
- I. Sharon Bixby asked about traffic on Orion Avenue.
- J. Wayne Elliott said they are still working on a plan and it will be challenging during construction. We will have to limit High Street traffic. We will work with the contractors.
- K. Rich Radonis said that he has to keep his water running in the winter to keep the pipes from freezing. He asked if the depth of the sewer and water lines would be deepened.
- L. Wayne Elliott asked if the lines are on his property.
- M. Rich Radonis said no.

- N. Wayne Elliott said the minimum depth of water lines is now 6 feet and sewer lines must be deeper. He does not expect freezing to be a problem in the street and public ROWs.
- O. David Rose asked if this vote does not pass, will the rates still be available.
- P. Wayne Elliott said yes, but the funding may not be available.
- Q. David Rose asked if it makes sense to do one project without the other.
- R. Wayne Elliott said not really, the street will be all dug up. It is better to do it all in one shot.
- S. Sharon Bixby asked if they would replace the lines on Thompson and Orchard.
- T. David Rose said that would have to be another project, but they are probably undersized.
- U. Chuck Craig said they are 4”.
- V. Sharon Bixby asked if there is more water on High Street, can it service the other streets.
- W. Wayne Elliott said there is tuberculation in the 4” lines, making it less flow. He said that 8” is the minimum for fire protection.
- X. David Rose said with the funding and low interest rates, we would have over one half of the project costs forgiven.
- Y. Scott Murphy asked voters to call in to the town clerk’s office at 802-228-2828 or email treasure@ludlow.vt.us to request absentee ballots.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisha Klaiber

David Rose, Chairman of Trustees

Earl Washburn, Trustee

Bob Brandt, Trustee