

PRELIMINARY MINUTES

**TOWN OF LUDLOW
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

JULY 11, 2022

**HEALD AUDITORIUM
6:00 P.M.**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bruce Schmidt, Chairman	Bob Brandt	Brett Sanderson
Scott Baitz	Justin Hyjek	

STAFF PRESENT:

Scott Murphy	Ulla Cook
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OTHERS PRESENT:

Eric Alden	Ed Kelly	Pat Pullinen
Jim Alic	Heather Kelly	Kendra Rickerby
Chief Billings	Steve Laskevich	Carla Sawicki
Gary Blodgett	Kyle Laurita	Noah Schmidt
Austin Danyew	Mary Mancino	Marissa Selleck
Larry Dockum	John McMullen	Nadine Spigel
Randy Ellison	Meredith Milliken	Marissa Tanner
Andrea Goldman	Betsy Mitchell	Ron Tarbell
Stephanie Grover	Ken Mitchell	Bonnie Tucker
Greg Hodges	Alice Nitka	Galvin Greenewalt

1. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Bruce Schmidt called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance. He asked everyone to remain standing for a moment of silence in memory of Donny Devereux, recently passed. He served the Town of Ludlow for many years.

2. CONSIDERATION OF ANY CHANGES, ADDITIONS OR REMOVALS TO THE AGENDA

- A. Scott Murphy said that two changes are needed. Agenda item #12 is to be pulled and under Agenda Item #5, they will pull The Loft.

3. APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- A. Bruce Schmidt advised that the minutes to be approved are from the Regular Meeting of June 6, 2022.
- B. **MOTION by Brett Sanderson and seconded Bob Brandt to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 6, 2022 as presented. Motion passed unanimously.**

4. **COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS**

- A. Andrea Goldman asked for an update on Zoom meetings for the Select Board
- B. Scott Murphy said they are close to being ready and expect that we will be able to start for the August 1, 2022 meeting.
- C. Bruce Schmidt said they will get the word out to the people, on the town website, social media, etc.

5. **LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD – Outside Consumption Permit**

- A. Expanded Outside Consumption Permit for Okemo
 - i. Scott Murphy said that wishes to expand its outside consumption area at the Jackson Gore Inn. This is really an FYI to the board.

6. **VAIL BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION DETOURS AND TRAFFIC ISSUES**

- A. Scott Murphy said that after their last meeting, he has spoken to the State, citizens and elected officials. There will be a 21 day closure of the road that will probably begin the middle of the week after Labor Day. The State is not concerned about local traffic. They are concerned about the truck traffic. He said that on Pond Street, there will be signs – NO TRUCKS AND NO THROUGH TRAFFIC. He said that he, Chiefs Billings and Kolenda and Ron Tarbell met with Gary Sweeney from VT Trans. They recommended a secondary pedestrian bridge from Shaw's to the back of Beverage Barn. That would be at a cost of about \$57,000 at the town's expense and is not reasonable. They will add YIELD sign on the Pond Street side of Dorsey Bridge. They will rent 2 temporary stop lights – one for Dug and one for High Street. The cost is \$5,000 each/per month plus \$200 set-up fees each for a total of \$10,400.00. There will be CAUTION signs on the Andover Street side of Dorsey Bridge. He said that after the first few days, the locals will figure it out.
- B. Bruce Schmidt asked – on High Street, where they would place the stop light.
- C. Scott Murphy said near where it had been before, but a bit closer to the Catholic Church
- D. Justin Hyjek said it worked fine last time and 21 days is not insurmountable. He said that VTRANS will be clear with the signage for trucks.
- E. Scott Murphy said we will still see box trucks.
- F. Justin Hyjek said the truck detour is all the way up to Route 155. He asked if there will be pedestrian traffic over Dorsey Bridge.
- G. Scott Murphy said yes. He said we could line it, but it is narrow.
- H. Bruce Schmidt said they can still cross the Lamere Square Bridge.
- I. Scott Murphy said that VTRANS will also have signs to stop cars from turning around in the Lamere Square parking lot. They can still turn around in the Shaw's parking lot.
- J. Bruce Schmidt asked about a sign in the island by Benson's to advise that businesses are still open and there should be no turnarounds in the Lamere Square parking lot. Make it clear that businesses are still open.
- K. Scott Murphy said that the State said they would look into our issues
- L. Bruce Schmidt said we need to do whatever we can. He said that he had been in favor of lights on Pond Street, but doesn't think that we can compare this project to the Walker Bridge project. As long as there is a sign for Dug Road, it should work out.
- M. Justin Hyjek said the sign on Dorsey Bridge will be different.

- N. Scott Murphy said it's almost a 3-way intersection.
- O. Justin Hyjek asked the difference in signs and the stop lights.
- P. Scott Murphy said he hadn't looked into the price of signs.
- Q. Bruce Schmidt asked how quickly we can get the stop lights.
- R. Scott Murphy said that he needs board approval tonight.
- S. Eric Alden asked about the bridge being on private property.
- T. Bruce Schmidt said it may come into the driveway. You need good signage there.
- U. Justin Hyjek asked if VTRANS checked with Betsy Mitchell
- V. Betsy Mitchell said that they have a very narrow parking lot and would it be possible to get a CAUTION – ACTIVE DRIVEWAY sign and say there are active businesses
- W. Bruce Schmidt said yes.
- X. Chief Billings said we are overthinking this with stop lights at Dorsey Park. The YIELD/Stop signs there will be good.
- Y. There was board consensus.
- Z. Eric Alden asked about a crosswalk at Lamere Square.
- AA. Justin Hyjek said yes, by the financial business.
- BB. Scott Murphy said one by that location should be fine.
- CC. Brett Sanderson said they may put the crane there.
- DD. Scott Murphy said we will build a temporary crosswalk if needed
- EE. Betsy Mitchell said if they put a crosswalk by Taco Taco, it will be a juggernaut.
- FF. Bruce Schmidt said we will try to use the existing one as long as possible. He said they don't want people walking on the side by the construction. They should be crossing by Brew Fest.
- GG. Scott Murphy said the state will start setting the signs after August 4th.
- HH. Bruce Schmidt said that is when they will be paving Route 100S.
- II. Scott Murphy said they can start anytime, but will do the signage first and probably start construction after Labor Day.
- JJ. Justin Hyjek said that completion date is October 28, 2022.
- KK. Bruce Schmidt said that the 21-day closure will be in September.
- LL. Scott Murphy said there will be construction work before and after the closure.

7. **DISCUSS THE USE OF TOWN ROADS BY ATVs**

- A. Scott Murphy advised that the town received a letter from Steve Laskevich requesting a town ordinance for ATV riders within the town be allowed to ride their ATVs on dirt roads on North Hill, Preedom Hill to Chapman Road; and on the Okemo side of Ludlow above the train tracks dirt roads beyond Ford Farm Road on East Hill. The period for this would be from May 15th through October 15th.
- B. Steve Laskevich said that the club is not trying to create or add to the trail system on North Hill. He said that there are lots of ATVs on the roads who try to get to the trail system who don't have trailers and just run on the roads. We want to get access to the road and to our trails – legally. He said that they are flexible with the dates. He said that their trails are open until December 15th.
- C. Justin Hyjek questioned Section 3 Section B – which says:
“Only those all-terrain vehicles conforming to the following requirements may be operated on those town highways set forth in Subparagraph A”
Justin Hyjek said that should not be on Main Street.
- D. Steve Laskevich said the club would eventually like to see ATVs allowed to go to restaurants and businesses in town. It would be a major economic boost to the town. He said that Island Pond and towns in New Hampshire already allow it. He said that Newport, VT, had set criteria last year

- as a trial basis. It went well and they made it permanent this year. We will also be going to Cavendish. He said that Plymouth is already on board.
- E. Justin Hyjek said that the letter mentioned North Hill, Preedom Hill Road and Chapman Road; he asked about Okemo.
- F. Steve Laskevich said Okemo and South Hill won't connect until we build our trails.
- G. Scott Baitz asked how the club would monitor this.
- H. Steve Laskevich said we will self-police and chase people causing a problem and turn them into the police.
- I. Scott Baitz said we need more information. He said that New Hampshire does a great job on this.
- J. Scott Murphy said that he also reached out to the Newport town manager. She said that at first, they were opposed to this and it was kept small. Then they expanded it and then approved all streets in Newport. She said the riders are respectful and even calm other traffic. He said she was very positive.
- K. Alice Nitka asked if they would be using the VAST trails on North Hill.
- L. Steve Laskevich said no. This would strictly be for road use.
- M. John McMullen asked how they get down North Hill without going on paved roads.
- N. Steve Laskevich said there will be parts of paved roads used.
- O. John McMullen said they are discriminating against North Hill.
- P. Steve Laskevich said the club wants to prove itself first.
- Q. John McMullen said what about Preedom Hill to Chapman.
- R. Steve Laskevich said we are just looking for a block of roads. He added that they still will not be able to reach their own trails without Cavendish.
- S. Bruce Schmidt said this is just a proposal and the Select Board will look at it. He said that any ordinance would be written by the Select Board.
- T. John McMullen asked who would make the decision.
- U. Bruce Schmidt said the Select Board may make the decision or it can decide to put it to a town vote. We are not at that point now.
- V. John McMullen said he is opposed to this and said what is good for North Hill should be good for the rest of the town.
- W. Randy Ellison said there are lots of new 4-wheelers that are speeding and there are lots of people walking up there. He said seen one case with an adult driving, speeding with children on and no helmets. Now, there is no legal ordinance that allows 4wheelers on town roads.
- X. Bruce Schmidt said that if they see something like this, they should let the police know.
- Y. Randy Ellison said he is concerned about his road. He said one of the 4-wheelers has his snowmobile sign.
- Z. Larry Dockum lives on Pentner Road and agrees with Steve Laskevich that it only takes one person to ruin it for everyone. He said there is one that rides on North Hill and speeds. He said that he called the Chief and Ron Tarbell about the way the riders treat the roads. There are lots of walkers, the roads are soft. Coming down Pent Road, they speed, have no helmets and kids are driving.
- AA. Gary Blodgett said that he is glad that they checked with Newport, but did they check with Morristown. They recently turned this down. He asked how much research the Select Board will do. They have to consider safety, wildlife, kids walking. He said property values will go down because of the huge noise levels and dust and dirt, accidents will increase. He said the peace and quiet of the area will be affected. He said that once you allow this, it would be hard to go back.
- BB. John McMullen said there was a life threatening accident on North Hill. He said traffic will increase and they will break the laws.
- CC. Steve Laskevich said the person in the accident has been unfriendly to the people on North Hill and was driving too fast. We need to shut those cowboys down.

- DD. Greg Hodges said he lives on Bixby Road and you have to go on the paved portion to get to the dirt road. How will you get to the dirt road? Where will they park trailers?
- EE. Bruce Schmidt said we are not discussing parking at this time.
- FF. Andrea Goldman asked if there is a sound ordinance. Can they muffle the sound? Who will set the hours?
- GG. Steve Laskevich said that would be up to the Select Board. We are just putting out the suggestions. He agreed that there are still older machines out there, but the newer ones are quieter.
- HH. Andrea Goldman suggested different sound standards for the roads and the forests. She suggested possibly a probationary trial with proper standards.
- II. Gary Blodgett said they should think about the people on Andover Road and the load motorcycles. People walk on our roads, it is quiet, there are deer and turkeys and there is not a lot of traffic. What if you put your house there?
- JJ. Austin Danyew said Steve Laskevich doesn't have access from your house.
- KK. Steve Laskevich said he trailers his ATV. This is for the club; we need more access to the trail system.
- LL. Austin Danyew asked about Twenty Mile Stream to Chapman.
- MM. Steve Laskevich said they will be going to Cavendish.
- NN. John McMullen asked what if Cavendish won't open Twenty Mile Stream. They will come up North Hill.
- OO. Austin Danyew said there will be no financial benefit to the town. No club money goes to the town.
- PP. Steve Laskevich said there is a possible economic impact – snowmobiles can get to the restaurants, and we want access to food and lodging.
- QQ. Gary Blodgett said the club members are not residents, and he hopes they will consider the residents.
- RR. Scott Baitz asked Chief Billings about self-policing.
- SS. Chief Billings said if club members do not adhere to the values, they will get spoken to. The Club can't bring it to us. If we don't catch them, we don't ticket them. We have to see them.
- TT. Scott Murphy said that Newport held open meetings, and then set up the trial run. Maybe we should have a special meeting for this and draft an ordinance for that meeting.
- UU. Scott Baitz asked about a town vote.
- VV. Bruce Schmidt said that as Select Board members, we have to understand that sometimes we have to make tough decisions. The closest vote would be the general election in November. We will review this at our next meeting. He said the as written, the suggested ordinance has incorrect road names. We need to look at the town and specifics. Some pavement will be ridden on. Should this be a town vote or Select Board decision? We will still need an ordinance.
- WW. Gary Blodgett said that Steve Laskevich had put this meeting up on Facebook and some people did not know anything about it. The Select Board should not make a decision without telling people about it.
- XX. Austin Danyew asked about snowmobiles crossing the roads.
- YY. Bruce Schmidt said that the town makes the decisions about crossing and connections. He asked Scott Murphy to reach out to other towns and the VLCT.
- ZZ. Scott Murphy said Bennington is also discussing this.
- AAA. Bruce Schmidt said that the Select Board receives information about things on the agenda in their packets.

8. **POSSIBLY APPROVE POLICE UNION CONTRACT**

- A. Scott Murphy said the town has reached an agreement with the Police union (PEA27) and he has a copy. He said there are little changes in the agreement, expect for wages. They will be moving from a 10 step program to a 20 step program and the increase is about 12%. Our team feels comfortable with this. He noted that it is difficult to get officers. He said that we have 2 in the academy and one will graduate on Friday. He said that the agreement is fair given the status to attract and maintain officers and dispatchers.
- B. Bruce Schmidt said that the board appreciates the time that Chief Billings has put into this and he is able to walk the balance between the team, the Select Board and the Town. He said that in reality, we are not the highest paid in the state. He said that he and Brett Sanderson served on the committee and the union was reasonable and we had a good relationship.
- C. **MOTION by Justin Hyjek and seconded by Bob Brandt to approve the Police Union Contract as presented. Motion passed unanimously.**

9. **POSSIBLY WAIVE LATE PENALTY FOR LATE FILING OF HOMESTEAD DECLARATION**

- A. Bruce Schmidt said that they had received an email from Ulla Cook recommending that we waive the penalty for late filing of the Homestead Declaration. We normally do this. He asked Ulla Cook why we do this.
- B. Ulla Cook said there are only a handful, some of which are elderly and they don't realize they have to file it.
- C. **MOTION by Brett Sanderson and seconded by Bob Brandt to waive the late penalty for late filing of the Homestead Declaration. Motion passed unanimously.**

10. **POSSIBLE ROAD NAME CHANGE AT CANDELEROS COURT**

- A. Scott Murphy said that new owners of the 6-lot subdivision off Old Weston Road have requested to change the name of the property. They have submitted the following names and Rose Goings has indicated that all 3 meet 911 guidelines and are not close to another road name in town.
 - i. Treetop Terrace
 - ii. Balsam Court
 - iii. Middlebrook Lane.
- B. **MOTION by Bruce Schmidt and seconded by Brett Sanderson to accept the request for the change of the road name to Balsam Court. Motion passed unanimously.**

11. **POSSIBLY APPROVE WINTER SAND BID CONTRACT**

- A. Scott Murphy said that we received 2 bids and the recommendation is to award the bid for Pike Industries for town pick up at the rate of \$10.75 per cubic yard. He said we were surprised to get a quote of \$10.75, as prices are so high:

SCREENED WINTER SAND BID OPENING		
VENDOR	DELIVERED PER CY	LOADED AT SUPPLIER'S PIT PER CY
Adams Excavating	\$18.00	\$12.00
Pike Industries	\$22.72	\$10.75

- B. **MOTION by Brett Sanderson and seconded by Justin Hyjek to award the bid for winter sand to Pike Industries for \$10.75 per cubic year. MOTION approved unanimously**

12. **POSSIBLY APPROVE ENTERTAINMENT PERMIT FOR ESBF FUNDRAISER**

- A. Bruce Schmidt advised that this item had been pulled from the agenda.
B. Pat Pullinen asked to discuss this.
C. Kendra Rickerby said this one should not have been pulled; it should have been the August 5th event.
D. Scott Murphy said that Fletcher Farm talked to him on Friday and asked us to pull this. They do not allow alcohol on site. They did not mention the Mountain Bike event next month.
E. Pat Pullinen asked if here is any reason that we can't have the event on
F. Kendra Rickerby said there will not be any alcohol.
G. Bruce Schmidt said this item was posted on the agenda and we can vote on it.
H. **MOTION by Justin Hyjek and seconded by Brett Sanderson to approve the fund raiser for the Expeditionary School at Black River on July 15, 2022 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.**

13. **142 BROOKS ROAD DEMOLITION OF DANGEROUS BUILDING**

- A. Scott Murphy said that he is seeking authorization to proceed from the Select Board, with the process for the Demolition and disposal of the property at 142 Brooks Road He said that he has reached out to the property owner several times and the property has been abandoned for years. He said that in the winter, there are footprints in the snow, indicating that people have been using the house. The property owner will not respond. He said that he has spoken to our town attorney and he suggested that we serve a process letter to abate the nuisance. In the meantime, he would like to put out an RFP for the demolition and disposal. At the end of the process, we will put a lien on the property.
B. Bruce Schmidt said there is no way out
C. Scott Baitz said there is another property in bad shape, right down the road from that one
D. Scott Murphy said he hasn't received a complaint about it. He said that we changed the ordinance as a result of the Stone House situation and we can now remove the building.
E. **MOTION by Justin Hyjek and seconded by Bob Brandt to authorize the Town Manager to proceed with the process.**
F. Bruce Schmidt said that we don't act one complaint.
G. Scott Murphy said that a complaint will start the process. We will then go and look at the property and determine what steps to take.
H. **Motion passed unanimously.**

14. **REVIEW OF THE LUDLOW AMBULANCE SERVICE**

- A. Scott Murphy said that at our last meeting, there were some questions about the ambulance service. This is a good time to review the report from Stephanie Grover. It is good. He said that Springfield is now charging us for Mutual Aid. He said that he spoke to the Town Manager who spoke to their Select Board. Based on her report, call volume has increased 185 from last year.

- The service received \$47,298.07 in grants that allowed for the replacement of stretchers and funding for staff. The report also states that 702 out of the 756 calls were covered with full staff. One employee recently completed paramedic school and one completed the AEMT program. Another is starting paramedic school with expected completion in the fall of 2023. She said that of the calls we received, 123 were from Okemo and their volume of calls had increased 48% from the prior year. We requested paramedic intercept 14 times at Okemo, costing \$5,250.00.
- B. Scott Murphy said Nitrous oxide was deployed for pain management 19 times saving is \$7,125 in paramedic intercepts. This is the first time the service is in the black and Stephanie Grover is doing a great job.
 - C. Bruce Schmidt said that concerns were voiced at the last meeting.
 - D. Scott Murphy said that one was that the service was driving around in the ambulances.
 - E. Stephanie Grover said that they do not do unnecessary driving. They may pick up dinners – 1 or 2 times a day. They also drive around for training new staff members, indicating local landmarks.
 - F. Scott Murphy advised that Stephanie Grover is organizing a golf fund raiser on October 3, 2022 and is looking for sponsors for holes
 - G. Bruce Schmidt said that one person, at the last meeting said that it is illegal to eat or drink in the ambulance.
 - H. Stephanie Grover said there is nothing about that in Vermont State Statutes. We don't eat or drink when there are patients in the ambulance.
 - I. Gary Blodgett asked if Okemo will help with the finances.
 - J. Scott Murphy said we are reaching out to their agent.
 - K. Justin Hyjek said that the report says that there was an increase in calls – visits to Okemo. It is probably less than we think. He asked about unpaid bills.
 - L. Andrea Goldman asked if this information would be shared with the public.
 - M. Scott Murphy said the Select Board packets are on the town website.
 - N. Justin Hyjek asked about the data breach.
 - O. Stephanie Grover said that Comstar did have a data breach and it did shut down our billing for about a month. They are back on line and we are a little behind.
 - P. Bruce Schmidt asked if we have a list of all calls and payments and who did or did not pay.
 - Q. Scott Murphy asked if he meant something like an aging list.
 - R. Bruce Schmidt said with 756 calls, how many paid. How many were calls to Gill and do we get paid.
 - S. Scott Murphy said he can prepare that, but some of the information will be redacted.
 - T. Justin Hyjek said that the number of calls – 123 - to Okemo for FY 2022 was 16%. The next highest was 54 calls.
 - U. Bruce Schmidt said it is good to know where the calls are going.
 - V. Justin Hyjek asked if we are working with Okemo or the central office.
 - W. Scott Murphy said they will work locally. We have a meeting at the September Select Board meeting.
 - X. Bruce Schmidt said that letters sent out with the tax bills (3,400) is a great idea to support the service.
 - Y. Stephanie Grover said that they are sent out to any house in our coverage area, also some not in our area, but in the mutual aid area.
 - Z. Andrea Goldman asked what number of the Okemo calls are during ski season – December to March.
 - AA. Stephanie Grover said it does drop off in the summer, but she does not know the numbers.

- BB. Andrea Goldman said if 2 out of 4 calls per month are to Okemo, do we ever not have coverage in town because of this.
- CC. Stephanie Grover said yes and we do triage, but it's not always Okemo. We have been working with ski patrol.
- DD. Scott Murphy said that Stephanie Grover is working with the ski patrol to coordinate employees for triage.
- EE. Andrea Goldman asked if we have enough equipment.
- FF. Stephanie Grover said we are working with Okemo to determine how we will operate next winter with personnel. We can't operate with one ambulance. We have 5 shared employees and will use their employees for peak times – December through March. We are looking to fix some of the issues, but will not be able to fix them all. She said that we were able to get stretchers with grant funds, but everything takes time. We are going in a good direction.
- GG. Andrea Goldman asked if the town should consider sharing expenses if there is one large user.
- HH. Bruce Schmidt said we have confidence in the Ambulance Service.
- II. Chief Billings said that this is probably, by far, the most professional and well run team and it works well.

15. POSSIBLY SET FY23 TAX RATE AND REVIEW YEAR FINANCIAL STATUS

- A. Scott Murphy said that the tax rate, including the budget, articles, voted exemptions would be \$.3294. He said that the Bennington town manager proposed to the Select Board, that they add 5% to the tax rate to cover fuel expenses. We are also facing these additional costs.
- B. Bruce Schmidt said that the Education Residential rate is \$1.5413, making the total residential rate \$1.8707. He said that the non-residential rate total would be \$1.8390. He said it looks like we are at a deficit of about \$300,000.
- C. Ulla Cook said that the balance is about \$588,000.
- D. Scott Murphy said that does not include the cemetery. He said that the auditors have recommended that we keep 2 months operating expenses available or \$500,000. He said that this year, we did the budget to that we would not accumulate unassigned funds. This year, we were almost on target with 99.63%. The FY2023 budget is tight and we will be seriously affected by fuel costs and an 8% inflation.
- E. Bruce Schmidt said we are still under last year in the total tax rate. He said that the Administrative Expenses are up 21%.
- F. Scott Murphy said that is attributed to tax abatements, Commonwealth block, Planning and Zoning and , totaling about \$52,000. He added that Buildings and Grounds is up 12.3% due to the boiler bump in town hall and the Senior Center elevator. He said that Cemetery is over \$33% for long term projects. We are trying to reduce the outstanding Capital balance. He said capital is at 62%, revenue from the Micro-transit grant. We used unassigned funds for the Stone House. We bought 2 cruisers this year because the one ordered the prior FY came in FY2022 along with the one ordered for FY2022. We also had the expense of the audio equipment for the Auditorium. He said that a lot of this is offset by revenue.
- G. Bruce Schmidt said that Planning is down 9%, but up in Administrative costs.
- H. Scott Murphy said there is a shared employee who spends 3 days in Planning and Zoning and 2 days in administration. He said that in the past, Planning and Zoning had a full time employee. They had 2 FT, now have 1 3/5 employees.

- I. Bruce Schmidt said there is \$450,000 can put back.
- J. Scott Murphy cautioned against taking it all.
- K. Bruce Schmidt said if we leave some and have an overage, we will be protected considering fuel costs.
- L. Justin Hyjek asked how much over the fuel projections are.
- M. Scott Murphy said he doesn't know at this time.
- N. Bruce Schmidt said that \$.01 is \$150,000 and leave the rest. Some of the money should go back to the tax payers.
- O. Scott Murphy said that the experts do not recommend it. We came in at almost 100% of expenditures.
- P. Bruce Schmidt said he is in support of dropping the tax rate \$.01.
- Q. Justin Hyjek said he is apprehensive.
- R. Bruce Schmidt said we have good credit scores and should bring some of the funds back to the taxpayers.
- S. **MOTION by Justin Hyjek and seconded by Brett Sanderson to take funds out of the \$450,000 that would be equivalent to bring the tax rate to \$.3194. Motion passed unanimously.**

16. **DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

- A. Recreation
 - i. Bruce Schmidt asked how the event with Taco Taco at the Skate Park went.
 - ii. Justin Hyjek said he heard that it went well.

17. **MUNICIPAL MANAGER UPDATES**

- A. Charter Process Update
 - i. Scott Murphy said that it was not completed correctly and we need an Australian Ballot. We will add this in November to the General Election.
- B. High School Building
 - i. Scott Murphy said that the steps need work in order to get a CO. Kevin MacPherson is working on them.
 - ii. Justin Hyjek asked about the easterly steps.
 - iii. Scott Murphy said we have to put supports underneath
 - iv. Pat Pullinen said that the state is holding up the CO and we need it to be able to accept applications. We need to resolve the issues with the Fire Marshal.
 - v. Justin Hyjek asked if that is the only issue.
 - vi. Pat Pullinen said we have to have the CO first.
 - vii. Kendra Rickerby said that the Fire Marshal made a follow-up visit and because of the deficiencies, will not release the report.
 - viii. Bruce Schmidt asked the time frame on this.
 - ix. Scott Murphy said we need to do the work as quickly as possible. We will also need to purchase 4 or 5 fire doors that are also expensive.
 - x. Justin Hyjek asked about costs for the stairs.
 - xi. Scott Murphy said they will not be expensive, if we don't have to replace them.

- xii. Bruce Schmidt said he would like to see this pushed and done in two weeks. We are holding up their process.
- xiii. Scott Murphy said we need to fix and buy fire doors and have not ordered them yet. We will order them tomorrow.
- xiv. Bruce Schmidt said he would like an update on this at the next board meeting.
- xv. Eric Alden said that the report says that the stairs should not be used. Is that being pushed aside? We are setting up a huge liability.
- xvi. Scott Murphy said there are 2 sets and one is not used. The other just needs support and is used by the independent school
- xvii. Kendra Rickerby said that stairs must be checked.
- xviii. Scott Murphy said he will give an update next month.

C. Motorcycle Parade

- i. Scott Murphy said that this weekend there will be a motorcycle parade from Jackson Gore. Chief Billings will lead the parade through town. He has a plan. He said that Troy Caruso's shuttle buses will be running.

D. Chuck Craig

- i. Scott Murphy said that this Thursday at noon, we will have a luncheon for Chuck Craig.
- ii. Justin Hyjek said that Chuck Craig has been a great asset to the town.

18. **OTHER BUSINESS**

A. Health Officer

- i. Bob Brandt reported that there was rabid fox confirmed last week. The state will only list them if they are confirmed. We had 3 that were not confirmed. He said that he will list this on Front Page Forum. They are grey foxes. There was one on High Street and one at Jackson Gore that attacked a person. There was one last fall on Soapstone Road.
- ii. Chief Billings said there was one in Tuckerville.
- iii. Bob Brandt said he will post this on the website and other locations.

19. **POSSIBLE ITEMS AND DATES FOR NEXT MEETING**

- A. Review of speed limits on town roads
- B. Ghia Farm Road
- C. Next meeting August 1, 2022

20. **SIGN WARRANT ORDERS**

- A. Bruce Schmidt said that warrant orders have been signed.

21. **POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION/PERSONNEL/CONTRACTS/LEGAL –Review of evaluation of employees 1VSA 313 (a) (3)**

- A. Scott Murphy advised that an Executive Session is needed.

- B. MOTION by Brett Sanderson and seconded by Bob Brandt to enter into Executive Session for review of Employee evaluations. Motion passed unanimously.
- C. Board entered into Executive Session at 8:03 p.m.

22. **ADJOURN**

- A. **MOTION by Brett Sanderson and seconded by Justin Hyjek to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.**
- B. Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisha Klaiber

Bruce Schmidt, Chairman

Justin Hyjek

Scott Baitz

Brett Sanderson

Bob Brandt