

PRELIMINARY MINUTES

**TOWN OF LUDLOW
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

May 6, 2019

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bruce Schmidt, Chairman	Brett Sanderson
John Neal	Heather Tucker

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Justin Hyjeck

STAFF PRESENT:

Scott Murphy

OTHERS PRESENT:

Daniel Buckley	Carol Lighthall	Marissa Selleck
Suzanne Buckley	Stu Lindberg	Ron Tarbell
Aaron Galley	Chris Miele	Brooke Willard
Abe Gross	Faith (Connie) Miele	Joann Wilson
Sharon Huntley	Paul Orzechowski	Ed McEneaney (Okemo Valley-TV)

1. Call to Order

- A. Bruce Schmidt called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. All members present.
- B. Bruce Schmidt led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Consideration of any Changes, Additions or Removals to the Agenda

- A. Scott Murphy advised that no changes were necessary.

3. Approve Minutes of Previous Meetings

- A. Bruce Schmidt advised that the minutes to be approved are from the regular meeting of April 1, 2019.
- B. **MOTION by John Neal and seconded by Brett Sanderson to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 1, 2019 as presented. Motion passed unanimously.**

4. Comments from Citizens

- A. Drainage Issue
 - i. Connie Miele said that there is a brook by her house that runs over in rains and floods her basement. This is an ongoing issue. She said there was debris in front of the culvert. It is near the old Gill Apartments parking lot.

- ii. Scott Murphy said that he has looked at it and it is part of the FEMA project. The town will try to work on it this summer. Staff went out on the 15th of April and there is no easy solution. They will try to do something.
 - iii. Bruce Schmidt asked Ms. Miele if she has any suggestions.
 - iv. Connie Miele said they could make the lip of the culvert higher.
 - v. Scott Murphy said it is an old culvert. They could possibly raise the bank or put in some berms. This would only be a temporary solution. He added that he is hopeful about movement on the FEMA project.
 - vi. Chris Miele said the property floods even in normal rains. He said that last winter the culvert was jammed. He said that FEMA said the culvert should be replaced. The flooding is causing their foundation to erode. He doesn't know if there is enough room for berms.
 - vii. Scott Murphy repeated that there is no easy solution and that he doesn't have an answer tonight. The town is trying to do what it can. He added that there is a public aspect and also a private aspect. He said they could put in Jersey barriers.
 - viii. Chris Miele said they need to do something.
 - ix. Brett Sanderson said the brook aims towards the house.
 - x. Bruce Schmidt said he would like to have an update and said that something should be done. He asked Scott Murphy to keep the Miele's updated. He said that the water will go down toward Meadow Street. He asked about Gill.
 - xi. Ron Tarbell said there is nothing.
 - xii. Connie Miele said that a neighbor said the parking lot is eroding.
 - xiii. John Neal asked about the FEMA project.
 - xiv. Scott Murphy said that FEMA has approved the project, but the property owners below would lose part of their lawns and protested the project. The brakes went on the project. Now, FEMA has split the project into 2 projects – Design as Part 1 and Implementation as Part 2. We may be able to accelerate the project.
- B. Snow-blowing Issue
- i. Connie Miele said that during the winter, the sidewalk snow-blowers blew the snow onto her lawns and bushes and the salt and sand ruin her shrubs. They were blowing the snow over the fence.
 - ii. Ron Tarbell said that he has spoken to staff and they know that they are not supposed to be doing that.
 - iii. Bruce Schmidt said that they can't blow the snow into the street.
 - iv. Ron Tarbell said if there is a lawn, they blow the snow on the lawn. They do pick up the snow as fast as possible after storms.
 - v. Bruce Schmidt said that Ron Tarbell is now aware of the problem and will do as good a job as they can in the future.

5. **Consider Request from BRACC to Host a 5K Run/Walk for Prevention**

- A. Brooke Willard would like to hold a 5K Walk/Run for Prevention on Saturday, June 22, 2019. This will be held together with their annual Wellness Fair. She said the part of the proceeds will go to Turning Point in Springfield
- B. Scott Murphy asked about the route.
- C. Brooke Willard said the route will be the same as in the past, starting at the Community Center.
- D. **MOTION by John Neal and seconded by Heather Tucker to approve the BRACC request for the Walk/Run as presented. Motion passed unanimously.**

6. **Review Request to Form a Resort/Community Relations Committee**

- A. Marissa Selleck said that the goal of the committee would be to promote relations between the community and resort. They want to keep communications open between the community and Vail.
- B. Bruce Schmidt asked what this actually has to do with the town. He thinks it may be more of a school issue. He said that he spoke to the president of the Killington organization and it is more task oriented than town.
- C. Scott Murphy said tonight is the first presentation of the request. He said it is not really a town issue.
- D. Bruce Schmidt noted that affordable housing is on the list.
- E. Marissa Selleck said this is about how to support the community as a whole.
- F. Heather Tucker said they had discussed things that Okemo had done for the community and that Vail may not continue to do, such as concerts and the ice house.
- G. Bruce Schmidt said they do not need town approval to start this committee. The town should not be involved in situations that tell businesses what they should do. He said this board can agree that this is a good idea.
- H. John Neal advised that there is a vehicle at Vail called Epic Promise. He advised that he is the Chair of that group and it is about community. West Hill is on their agenda. He said that the committee will be meeting with John Garrou, chairman of the Vail Epic Promise. He offered that, the week after that meeting, he can meet with this group.
- I. Scott Murphy added that on September 14th, there will be a West Hill project meeting.

7. **Possibly Appoint Recreation Committee Member**

- A. Scott Murphy advised that at their last meeting there were late applications, for the positions on the Recreation Committee. He said that since then, one of the applicants has withdrawn and Marissa Selleck has applied.
- B. **MOTION by John Neal and seconded by Heather Tucker to appoint Marissa Selleck to the open position on the Recreation Committee. Motion passed unanimously.**

8. **Review Request to Reduce the Speed Limit on Witalec Road**

- A. Scott Murphy advised that a letter had been received requesting that the speed limit (35 MPH) on Witalec Road be lowered to 25 MPH. He said that he has spoken with Chief Billings and he had not heard of any incidents on the road, but had no objection to lowering the speed limit.
- B. John Neal said that the traffic is heavy there in the winter, as the road is a cut-through.
- C. Bruce Schmidt said that this board had opted not to lower the speed limit on East Lake Road. He said that the Planning Commission wants to lower the speed limit on Main Street to 25 MPH. He said that lowering the speed limit on Witalec Road will only work if enforced.
- D. Brett Sanderson said if we lower the speed limit on one road, others will come asking reduced speed limits on their roads.
- E. Scott Murphy said we can have increased police presence in the winter.
- F. Bruce Schmidt said that in the winter, when the mountain is using the Blue Lot, people can't use Witalec Road. He would like to have Chief Billings monitor this.
- G. Scott Murphy said he will talk to the chief.
- H. Bruce Schmidt said that he would like input from people, the police and Ron Tarbell.
- I. Scott Murphy said that they could look at all of the roads.

- J. Aaron Galley said that the state does put out guidelines for towns on how to set speed limits.
- K. Scott Murphy said that VTRANS will be in the process of monitoring the number of vehicles on Main Street this summer.
- L. Ron Tarbell suggested that they can also put up the yellow cautionary speed limit signs.
- M. Bruce Schmidt said that was a good idea and tabled further discussion on this topic.

9. **Review Ludlow Enterprise Fund Request & Possibly Approve Funding**

- A. Scott Murphy advised that the Enterprise Fund Committee has been dormant since the agreement with Okemo expired. There is about \$11,500 remaining in the fund and the Chamber of Commerce has applied for that money. Since the committee has dissolved, the decision goes to the Select Board.
- B. John Neal said that the committee used to bring suggestions to the Select Board to make the decisions.
- C. Bruce Schmidt said that the application process has a deadline of June 1st. This application is dated March 16th.
- D. Scott Murphy said that another application was received last week from the new school group. He hasn't had the chance to work on it yet.
- E. Bruce Schmidt said the board will review the applications for June 1st.
- F. Carol Lighthall said that part of the bigger request is for the magazine's advertising and marketing, website, digital social media integration. She said they also have \$30,000 in pending grant applications. Most of the members and advertisers are located in Ludlow. We want to improve the customer experience. There is also a transportation plan. She said that she did not know about the deadlines.
- G. Bruce Schmidt said this board will wait until the June deadline to make its decision. He said that the application from the Chamber mentioned that 1/3 of the members are from the Ludlow region. This fund is for Ludlow businesses. If the funds are given to the Chamber, it would be used for the region.
- H. Carol Lighthall said that Ludlow leads the region and is the majority of messages and brands and most of the advertising is about Ludlow. She said the region also includes Chester, Weston and Shrewsbury. The money would be used to increase sales for members and most would impact Ludlow.
- I. Bruce Schmidt said this board will wait until June 1st to make its decision. He asked Scott Murphy to let the committee know that the Select Board will take back the decision.
- J. Scott Murphy said he will talk to committee members.

10. **Possibly Award Town Summer Paving Bids**

- A. Scott Murphy advised that they held the bid opening last week. Much of the work will be done on Trailside and O'Connor Hill Road. The committee recommends Fuller Sand and Gravel. They are the low bidder and the town has worked with them before and they are very responsive. Ron Tarbell is comfortable with them.
- B. **MOTION by Brett Sanderson and seconded by John Neal to award the bid for Town paving to Fuller Sand and Gravel. Motion passed unanimously.**
- C. Bruce Schmidt asked about the Village paving.
- D. Scott Murphy said they are meeting tomorrow and he will recommend Fuller to them also. He said that the bid from Springfield is slightly lower, but Springfield is under new management and we are not sure about them.

11. Possibly Award East Hill Road Properties Demolition Contract

- A. Scott Murphy advised that the asbestos has been removed from the properties. The bids for the demolition were opened on Friday. There was a good response. The low bidder was Crown Point and we have done work with them before. They have done work in Springfield and Bellows Falls and with Tom Kennedy from the Regional Planning Commission. They have good references. They also helped us with the Stone House.
- B. **MOTION by Brett Sanderson and seconded by Heather Tucker to award the demolition project to Crown Point Excavation. Motion passed unanimously.**

12. Accept DRB Letter of Resignation from Linda Petty

- A. Bruce Schmidt advised that a letter of resignation from the DRB had been received from Linda Petty. She has been a long time member of the DRB and will be missed. He complimented Mrs. Petty on her attendance responsibility and excellent questions. We will accept her resignation, with regret. He asked Scott Murphy to write a letter to her.
- B. **MOTION by John Neal and seconded by Brett Sanderson to accept the resignation from Linda Petty. Motion passed unanimously.**

13. Possibly Appoint Members to Create the High School Building Feasibility Committee

- A. Scott Murphy advised that at their last meeting, the board decided to create a committee to explore options regarding the high school. Initially, the board had suggested a committee of 7 members. There is a list of persons who have volunteered.
 - i. Earl Washburn
 - ii. Patrick Pullinen
 - iii. Ralph Pace
 - iv. Joann Wilson
 - v. Representative from the Black River Museum Trustees (Sue Pollender or Georgia Brehm)
 - vi. Cheryl Gurdak
 - vii. Dan Buckley (Ludlow-Mount Holly School District Board)
 - viii. Mary Alberti (Ludlow-Mount Holly School District Board, Mt. Holly resident)
 - ix. Heather Tucker (Select Board member)
 - x. Justin Hyjeck (Select Board member)
- B. Bruce Schmidt suggested they go with Dan Buckley as he is a resident of Ludlow. He suggested that the museum can decide which of their two members will serve on the committee
- C. Dan Buckley said he has served on boards for 10 years and knows what is going on.
- D. **MOTION by Brett Sanderson and seconded by John Neal to form the committee with the 9 members. Motion passed unanimously.**
- E. Scott Murphy said that he met with Meg Powden last week and discussed the Select Board's concerns regarding the possible subdivision of the school land. He asked her to hold off on it and she agreed to hold off until September.
- F. Bruce Schmidt said the Select Board would prefer to keep the property all together.
- G. Paul Orzechowski said that the elementary school will still be functioning and the students use the fields and ropes course.
- H. Bruce Schmidt said that the school and town need to work together. He said that the school maintains the fields.

- I. Paul Orzechowski said that if the elementary school ever closes, then that piece of the property would also be offered to the town.
- J. Bruce Schmidt said that the new committee will consider all of this.

14. **Possibly Create a Sinking Fund to Pay Debt Service on Walker Bridge Bond**

- A. Scott Murphy advised that there are unexpended funds from the Walker Bridge project they have to decide what to do with them. The funds about \$47,000 – may not go into the General Fund. There are three options:
 - i. The funds may be applied to the project, but there is no need there
 - ii. They may be applied to another Capital project
 - iii. They may be applied to debt service. They can be set aside in a dedicated fund (sinking fund) and used to pay the 2020 payment of about \$23,000 and the 2021 payment of \$22,000.
- B. Bruce Schmidt suggested that the third option is the most fiscally responsible.
- C. **MOTION by Brett Sanderson and seconded by John Neal to apply the unexpended funds, in the amount of \$47,542.07 to the dedicated (sinking) fund. Motion passed unanimously.**
- D. Bruce Schmidt said they thank the town and contractor for bringing the project in under budget.

15. **Liquor Control Board**

A. **Liquor License Renewals**

- i. Scott Murphy said the licenses were current on taxes and any other fees. He added that there are 2 licenses, both with outside consumption:

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Business Name</u>	<u>Additional Outside</u>
TBK Inc.	Tom's Loft Tavern	X
Outback of Ludlow	Mangiama	X

- ii. **MOTION by John Neal and seconded by Brett Sanderson to approve remaining liquor licenses as indicated. Motion passed unanimously.**

16. **Department Head Reports**

- A. Bruce Schmidt advised that all reports are in.

17. **Municipal Manager Updates**

- A. **Recent Rains**
 - i. Scott Murphy advised that the cost to the town for the recent heavy rains on April 15th amount to about \$57,000. They are waiting to hear from the state for assistance.

B. Ambulance Service RFP

- i. Scott Murphy advised that there is an RFP out, responses due by May 29, 2019 for professional review and evaluation of the Ambulance Service. He said that Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements are low and volunteers are down. The state does not give much help to ambulance services. He will get back to this at next month's meeting.

18. Other Business

A. Harley's Iron Adventure Run

- i. Scott Murphy advised that a letter has been received from the Chamber of Commerce, advising that the run will be held from July 18 to 21, 2019 and is expected to bring in about 800 to 1,000 visitors.

B. Solar Project

- i. Scott Murphy said that there are 7 large trucks coming soon to complete the storm drains, grading, and road stabilization and landscaping.
- ii. Bruce Schmidt said there is not much going on at this time. He would like an update on when this will be done, possibly July 4th?
- iii. Scott Murphy said he heard by July.
- iv. Bruce Schmidt asked if the town certifies this after the project is done.
- v. Scott Murphy said he will inspect it and sign off on it.

C. Senior Center

- i. Scott Murphy said there are foundation issues at the Senior Center. They are working on it.

D. La Mere Square Footbridge

- i. Scott Murphy said they are waiting for estimates for the repairs of the bridge. The bridge is blocked off.
- ii. Bruce Schmidt said he would like to have the estimates for the next meeting. We need to stay on top of it; it gets a lot of use.

E. Regional Ambulance Service

- i. Stu Lindberg said that he and Abe Gross (from Cavendish) have heard that Ludlow is considering possible regionalization of the Ambulance Department. They would like to coordinate with Ludlow.
- ii. Scott Murphy said there are no proposals at this point.

F. Cemetery Department

- i. Bruce Schmidt said that he would like to have the Department Head Reports include Cemetery Reports in the future.
- ii. Scott Murphy said he will include Kevin McPherson's reports in with the Department Head reports.

19. Set Date for Next Meeting

- A. Bruce Schmidt that the next regular meeting would be June 3, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

20. Possible Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- A. Not addressed.

21. **Sign Warrant Orders**

- A. Warrant orders have been signed.

22. **Possible Executive Session/Personnel/Contracts/Legal Issues**

- A. Scott Murphy advised that an Executive Session is not needed.

23. **Adjourn**

- A. **MOTION by Brett Sanderson and seconded by Heather Tucker to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.**
- B. Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisha Klaiber

Bruce Schmidt, Chairman

Brett Sanderson

Justin Hyjeck

Heather Tucker

John Neal