

MINUTES

**TOWN OF LUDLOW
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

REGULAR MEETING

September 1, 2014

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Howard Barton, Jr., Chairman Logan Nicoll Bruce Schmidt
John Neal Brett Sanderson

STAFF PRESENT:

Frank Heald

OTHERS PRESENT:

Eliza Greene Ted Reeves Steve Seitz (LPC-TV)
Justin Hyjek

1. **Call to Order**

A. Howard Barton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., all members present.

2. **Approve Minutes of Previous Meetings**

A. Howard Barton advised that the minutes to be approved are from the regular meeting of August 4, 2014.

B. **MOTION by Bruce Schmidt and seconded by Brett Sanderson to approve the minutes of August 4, 2014 as presented. Motion passed unanimously.**

3. **Comments from Citizens**

A. There were none.

4. **Award 2015 Small Bus Bid**

A. Frank Heald distributed the minutes of the bid opening meeting held on Friday, August 29, 2014. He advised that all 3 bids are for GM gas chassis. They can save about \$300 on the Cressey Bid if they accept the alternate 2014 model and this would also shorten the delivery time.

B. Howard Barton asked about a trade in for the 2014 model.

C. Frank Heald said that it would not matter much in 6 to 7 years when they would be trading it in. He advised that the Blue Bird bid, the most expensive, is a 24 passenger. The DATTCO and Cressey buses are both 30 passenger.

D. Bruce Schmidt noted that we have used DATTCO frequently and been satisfied with it. He asked why the bids were \$6,000 apart. He said that he had never seen Cressey before.

E. Frank Heald said the Freightliner was from the Thomas dealership in Massachusetts and he would not deal with them again. He said that the Cressey deals with Thomas in Maine and uses Arthur's in Rutland for service. He said that the door and window openings are different (DATTCO and Cressey.) He said the Collins is about 10 inches taller. He noted that the difference between Cressey and DATTCO is only about \$3,000 after trade in.

F. Bruce Schmidt expressed concern that the bus would be delivered by basketball season.

G. Frank Heald said he expected it around the end of October. He said that he is comfortable with the Cressey dealer and the Collins bus is a fine little rig.

H. **MOTION by Bruce Schmidt and seconded by John Neal to award the bid for the little bus to Cressey for the 2014 model.**

I. Howard Barton asked if Frank Heald would be getting rid of 2 buses.

J. Frank Heald said yes.

K. **Motion passed unanimously.**

L. Bruce Schmidt asked if municipalities get better deals on the trade ins.

M. Brett Sanderson said some dealers play with the price to make the trade in look better.

N. Frank Heald said that we have not done well selling buses. They go to the secondary market and are painted because of the color. He said that he had tried to sell these buses all summer.

5. **Liquor Control Board**

- A. Howard Barton said that this is for Home Style Hostel located at 119 Main Street.
- B. Frank Heald said that it would be an inn, hostel and coffee shop. A nice addition to town.
- C. **MOTION by John Neal and seconded by Brett Sanderson to approve the liquor license for Homestyle Hostel. Motion passed unanimously.**
- D. Bruce Schmidt asked when they plan to open.
- E. Justin Hyjek said November 1st.

6. **Sign Resolution for Disaster Recovery Grant Application**

- A. Frank Heald advised that he has been working with the Ludlow Economic Corp., the Regional Planning Commission and the SRDC to get a grant to evaluate and create business plans for marketing the Industrial Park and working on storefronts. LEC will put up the 10%. This will be tied to recovering from the storm disaster.
- B. **MOTION by John Neal and seconded by Bruce Schmidt to approve and sign the Executive Resolution for the Disaster Recovery Grant. Motion passed unanimously.**

7. **Consider Request from Ludlow Garden Club RE: Mini-Park Christmas Tree**

- A. Howard Barton said this would be the same as last year.
- B. Frank Heald said that they would try to get an extension cord across for lights. He discussed planting a permanent tree in the park, but it doesn't work well.
- C. **MOTION by Brett Sanderson and seconded by Logan Nicoll to approve the request from the Ludlow Garden Club for a Christmas tree at the Mini-Park. Motion passed unanimously.**

8. **Designate VLCT Annual Business Meeting Delegate**

- A. **MOTION by Bruce Schmidt and seconded by John Neal to designate Frank Heald as delegate to the VLCT Annual Business meeting. Motion passed unanimously.**

9. **Execute Finance & Management Agreement for DOT Railroad Project & Crossing**

- A. Frank Heald explained that this is for the West Hill railroad crossing. He said that they had received the initial contract 2-3 months ago and it wanted Ludlow to do things that we couldn't do and we sent it back to them. They sent the contract back, cleaned up and he said that he has gone over this contract and is comfortable asking the board to execute the contract.
- B. Bruce Schmidt said that part of it deals with West Hill Road and also the Ludlow Municipal Park.
- C. Frank Heald said that is the town garage.
- D. Logan Nicoll asked when the project would start.
- E. Frank Heald said that he hopes it would be soon.
- F. Logan Nicoll asked if they would pause for the winter because it says that the road would be 1-way during construction.
- G. Frank Heald said not during the winter.
- H. **MOTION by Bruce Schmidt and seconded by Brett Sanderson to authorize Frank Heald to sign the Finance & Management Agreement for the DOT Railroad Crossing. Motion passed unanimously.**
- I. Frank Heald said that our road runs on either side of the crossing and we have water/sewer lines under the tracks.

10. **Update on Community Discussion for Act 148 (Vermont's Universal Recycling Law)**

- A. Frank Heald advised that a public meeting has been scheduled for September 23, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Auditorium. The meeting will be to discuss issues for the Town and Village and to explain the new law and its impact on Ludlow. In the Village, if they pick up trash, they must also pick up the recyclables. There is a possibility of having 1 64-gallon tote picked up every week for trash and 1 96-gallon tote for recyclables to be picked up every other week. At the Transfer Station, John Neal suggested having a scan card, similar to the one at toll booths. Some towns are selling bags. He said that he is not excited about having cash up there for the pay to throw. He said that it may be more efficient to go to Zero Sort. The issue is that they would need another compactor up

- there. They may also get a longer contract with Casella, and then they can own the compactor and totes.
- B. Bruce Schmidt asked who would run the meeting.
 - C. Frank Heald said he and Pam Cruickshank and also others from outside town; Tom Kennedy from the Regional Planning Commission and Mary O'Brien the Regional Recycling Coordinator. There are issues unique to Ludlow. We allow property managers to dump truck loads. One load is exempt. Homeowners pay the property managers, so indirectly; the trash is being paid for by the property owner.
 - D. Bruce Schmidt asked who cares if it is in bags.
 - E. Frank Heald said it would not be efficient for the guys to pick up 32 gallon bags.
 - F. Bruce Schmidt asked about Stowe, Warren and Sugarbush.
 - G. Frank Heald said that he will contact them. He thinks that Ludlow is the only town in the state with trash imbedded in the taxes. He said that he hopes to get public input at the meeting.
 - H. Bruce Schmidt said it should also be discussed at Town Meeting. It is a town issue and people may be more attentive.
 - I. John Neal said that they need to hold more than one meeting as March is too late. We need answers before the budget process starts. It is very complicated.
 - J. Logan Nicoll suggested forming a subcommittee.
 - K. Frank Heald said that he would like to get volunteers at the September meeting. He added that they may have to solicit people.
 - L. Bruce Schmidt agreed that they may have to solicit people. He said that the board needs answers and directions. We have to decide if we will have pay to throw and Zero Sort. He said that the law has provisions for a hybrid using 32 gallon totes.
 - M. Frank Heald said that part would be the village. He does not want to buy everyone in town a tote.
 - N. Bruce Schmidt said that they could have totes at the transfer station and anything over one tote and people pay. We need to have questions for the meeting and we need the answers.
 - O. Frank Heald said that because the budget is finalized by mid-January, we need to know what we are going to do so we can budget those costs.
 - P. Bruce Schmidt said we can still recycle.
 - Q. Logan Nicoll said if we switch to Zero Sort, recycling costs will also go up.
 - R. John Neal said this is part of the budget process and will be built into the tax rate. We need a lot of open discussions and we need to get it out there and make sure that people understand what is happening. We need to keep people informed before town meeting. He agreed that forming a subcommittee is a good idea.
 - S. Frank Heald said that they had formed subcommittees with both the Public Safety Building and the Armory and it worked well. He said that the meeting on the 23rd will give us a gauge. There will be articles in THE VERMONT JOURNAL and on LPCTV.

11. Department Head Reports

- A. Howard Barton advised that all reports are in.

12. Other Business

- A. Fire Department Auction
 - i. Brett Sanderson advised that the Fire Department was a success at \$49,873. They had a new auctioneer, Arbuckle, as Butch has retired. He said they gave Butch a watch and auctioned off his tie.
- B. Auditors
 - i. Frank Heald advised that the auditors did a pre-audit visit and everything went well. The actual audit will be in October. They come early to set up parameters for the audit.
- C. Use of Community Center for Town Employees
 - i. Brett Sanderson advised that he has been approached by town employees, not limited to Fire Department employees, who are asking for use of the gym at no charge.
 - ii. John Neal asked if it was for the fitness equipment.
 - iii. Brett Sanderson said it would be beneficial down the road.
 - iv. Bruce Schmidt asked the costs.
 - v. Frank Heald said that for 3 months, the cost is \$45.
 - vi. Bruce Schmidt asked if there is a yearly fee.
 - vii. Frank Heald said there hasn't been a demand for it, adding that only about 6 people use it regularly.
 - viii. Howard Barton asked Brett Sanderson about how many people may be interested.
 - ix. Brett Sanderson said 12 in all departments.
 - x. Bruce Schmidt asked if this would be for full time as well as part time.

- xi. Frank Heald said he doesn't think many will come, but is concerned that everyone is treated fairly, employees and others as well. He said it could be an employee benefit.
- xii. John Neal said it would be a nice thing to offer.
- xiii. Bruce Schmidt said for full time employees, it may help with insurance costs. He suggested opening it up to 10 to 15 people on a first come, first served basis.
- xiv. Brett Sanderson said they could set a time limit and see who comes.
- xv. Frank Heald said it is an equity issue for him, but he does not feel strongly about it.
- xvi. John Neal asked Frank Heald to come back to next month's meeting with recommendations.
- xvii. Brett Sanderson suggested putting a letter out to employees.
- xviii. Howard Barton said that he doesn't want to overwhelm the capacity of the equipment.
- xix. Bruce Schmidt suggested not letting employees going during busy times.
- xx. Frank Heald said that he would talk to Howie Paul and come back with recommendations for the next meeting.

13. **Set Date for Next Meeting**

- A. Howard Barton advised that the next regular meeting would be October 6, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

14. **Sign Warrant Orders**

- A. Warrant orders have been signed.

15. **Possible Executive Session/Personnel/Contracts/Legal**

- A. Frank Heald advised that an Executive Session is needed.
- B. **MOTION by Logan Nicoll and seconded by Brett Sanderson, in accordance with the provisions of 1VSA§ 313 (1)(B) to move that the Ludlow Select Board enter into Executive Session to consider:**
 - i. **A proposed labor relations agreement with certain Municipal Employees.**
 - ii. **The evaluation/appointment of certain Municipal Employees**
The premature public knowledge of this proposed agreement would place the Town & Village of Ludlow at a substantial disadvantage. This motion is for executive session and includes the members present and the Municipal Manager. Motion passed unanimously.
- C. Board entered into Executive Session at 7:47 p.m.
- D. Board exited Executive Session at 8:28 p.m.
- E. **MOTION by John Neal and seconded by Logan Nicoll to authorize Frank Heald to sign the revised town employees union contract for the next 3 years. Motion passed unanimously.**
- F. **MOTION by Bruce Schmidt and seconded by John Neal to authorize Frank Heald to give nonunion employees pay raises as discussed effective July 1, 2014. Motion passed unanimously.**
- G. **MOTION by Bruce Schmidt and seconded by John Neal to approve an increase, as discussed, for Frank Heald effective July 1, 2014. Motion passed unanimously.**

16. **Adjourn**

- A. **MOTION by John Neal and seconded by Logan Nicoll to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.**
- B. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisha Klaiber

Howard Barton, Jr., Chairman

Brett Sanderson

John Neal

Bruce Schmidt

Logan Nicoll