

**PRELIMINARY MINUTES**

**TOWN OF LUDLOW  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**Special Meeting**

**April 17, 2024**

**Howard Barton, Jr. Conference Room  
6:00 P.M.**

**Meeting ID: 944 1171 8280**

**Passcode: 255344**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Brett Sanderson, Chairman  
Scott Baitz

Justin Hyjek  
Noah Schmidt

George Tucker, Jr.

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Brendan McNamara

Ulla Cook

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Eric Alden

Joanna Bombadil

Sandy Burgess

Alan Couch

John Denner

Patty Greenwood

Lorraine Hughes

Peter Jenkins

Diane Ladden

Beth Lee

Otis Nelson

Julie Nicoll

Alice Nitka

Michael Normyle

Sue Pollender

Charlie Rimer

Melissa Rockhill

Sue Rohdieck

Bruce Schmidt

Jean Stasz

Scott Stearns

Rob Stoesser

Jean Strong

Kaitlyn Youtz

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

- A. Brett Sanderson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He then led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

- A. Brendan McNamara said that they will need to add an Executive Session for Personnel after other business.
- B. There was consensus among board members to do this.

**3. DISCUSSION FOR APPROPRIATION OF ARPA FUNDS**

- A. Brendan McNamara said that over the last year, the board has started to discuss what would be the best uses for the ARPA funds. (Final rules for the use of funds will be posted on the website.) He said that the funds must be appropriated by December 31, 2024 and fully expensed by December 31, 2026. The town's share is about \$330,000, not an exorbitant amount. We must decide the most cost-effective use. He said one thing mentioned was to offset the cost of the Transfer Station bathroom - \$50,000. Another need is to upgrade the Audio-Visual system at town hall - \$25,000 with the town share about \$15,000. The final decision will be up to the Select Board.
- B. Alan Couch suggested that any use should not require additional town funds down the road. He added that the State received \$2.7 Billion and there are 200 towns. Divided evenly, each town would receive \$6.5 million. He has been told that the distribution was based on population. Our representatives in Montpelier have failed us, by not fighting for more. We deserve a bigger share. He said that the sidewalks should be covered by the Highway department. He would like to see some go to parks and playgrounds.
- C. John Denner said the funds should go to something tangible and useful. He said that Dorsey Park has been neglected and was damaged by the flood. The tennis/pickle ball courts would draw about 50 to 60 people and he would like to see money used on them.
- D. Rob Stoesser said he would like to see another dog park as it adds to the character of the town and draws people.
- E. Michael Normyle said he echoes John Denner. He said that Dorsey Park needs work and he volunteered to help with a scope of work and bid proposals. He said that we could have a facility done by 2026, or do it in stages. The Dog Park is also a great idea – appearance is everything.
- F. Charlie Rimer said that they started a Mountain Bike Trail in 2022 and have spent \$22,000. Fletcher Farm gave us 600 acres. They have to put a bridge on the property. We have \$12,000 and the ARPA funds would really help.
- G. Justin Hyjek said we need to look at a practical solution – infrastructure, but also something that would benefit everyone, including out of staters – recreation.
- H. Nick Miele said that parks were damaged by the flood. We lost the Little League field and the Dog Park. He said that they have raised about \$10,000 - \$12,000 for the Dog Park, but the cost to put it back would be about \$35,000. He suggested putting a walking trail where the Little League field was. He said that Dorsey Park has the Skate Park, tennis/pickle ball courts and playground. The playground needs help. We need to look at all of the recreation facilities.
- I. Scott Baitz agreed that they do need a lot of help.
- J. Brendan McNamara said that the Dog Park was very popular. They have one quote of \$30,000 to fix it and have \$10,000 in donations. He added that part of the costs will be covered by insurance. They would only need about \$10,000 of the ARPA funds. Where can we get the most for our money – Dorsey, Fletcher or other? He will get an answer if we can use Town and Village funds together. We will have more meetings and will continue to take comments. He is available if people want to come into the office. He would like to have a decision within the next couple of months.
- K. Bruce Schmidt said that the Recreation Department has a budget of \$300,000 and if it can't fix the Dog Park where it is, they should consider moving it. The money should not be used on operational items. Maybe a temporary dog park. Just buy some fencing and get started. He suggested more informational signs – maybe one at the high school that would communicate information to people coming into town.
- L. John Denner said that people would come from other towns to play pickle ball and then have dinner in town.
- M. Noah Schmidt said Recreation brings people into town. Mountain biking is a big draw.

- N. Justin Hyjek said that Dorsey Park could be a stand-alone project with pickle ball, cycling, playground, picnic tables and fencing.
- O. Patty Greenwood said that Recreation is important. During COVID people could only socialize outside. They met at the dog park; Dorsey was a place for the kids to play and people to picnic.
- P. Scott Stearns said that he supports the upgrade of the Audio-Visual system at town hall. We need to support our technical capability.

4. **OTHER BUSINESS**

- A. Next ARPA meeting set for Wednesday, May 1, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

5. **EXECUTIVE SESSION/PERSONNEL**

- A. **MOTION by George Tucker, Jr. and seconded by Noah Schmidt to enter into Executive Session for Personnel. Motion passed unanimously.**
- B. Board entered into Executive Session at 6:30 p.m.
- C. **MOTION by Justin Hyjek and seconded by George Tucker, Jr. to exit Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously.**
- D. Board exited Executive Session at 6:47 p.m.

6. **ADJOURN**

- A. **MOTION by George Tucker, Jr. and seconded by Scott Baitz to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.**
- B. Meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisha Klaiber

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Brett Sanderson, Chairman

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Noah Schmidt

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Scott Baitz

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George Tucker, Jr.

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Justin Hyjek