

PRELIMINARY MINUTES

**TOWN OF LUDLOW
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Special Meeting

May 1, 2024

**Heald Auditorium
6:00 P.M.**

**Meeting ID: 944 1171 8280
Passcode: 255344**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brett Sanderson, Chairman	Noah Schmidt
Scott Baitz	George Tucker, Jr.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Justin Hyjek

STAFF PRESENT:

Brendan McNamara	Ulla Cook
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OTHERS PRESENT:

Gail Beardmore	John Denner	Melissa Rockhill
Sandy Burgess	Alice Nitka	Sue Rohdieck
Alan Couch	Michael Normyle	

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. None were needed

3. DISCUSSION FOR APPROPRIATION OF ARPA FUNDS

- A. Brendan McNamara explained that this is the second meeting for public input for the use of the ARPA funds and we had received some good input. He said that the Town had received \$331,926.00 in ARPA funds. We must commit to the appropriation of these funds by December 31, 2024 and funds must be totally expenses by December 31, 2026. He said that sidewalks and recreation were brought up by the public. He said that by the end of May, he will put together a proposal of projects that he will present to the Trustees at their June meeting. He said that he has already discussed the suggestions with the respective Department Heads and that some community members have offered to help develop

- suggestions. He said that by the end of May, he will put together a proposal of projects that he will present to the Select Board at their June meeting. They will decide how the funds will be allocated. He said that the bathroom at the Transfer Station is very important and that it is key not to use the funds on projects that will be a continuous cost of money to us.
- B.** John Denner asked where he can see the list of projects.
 - C.** Brendan McNamara said that a priority for the Village are sidewalks and for the Town, the bathroom at the Transfer Station. He said also being discussed are: the Dog Park, the Jewel Brook Dam Alert System, Mountain Bike Trails, Tennis courts at Dorsey Park and the West Hill Recreation Area. He said that today, we received a request from the Black River Museum Historical Society for a donation. His answer to Mr. Denner is that he has not prioritized projects yet. He said they may be able to put some of the funds to each of the proposed ideas. He said there are many big projects in town that have to be done. We don't want to bury the funds in the ground. Signages, the playground, sidewalks all have been mentioned. He said that he will leave it to the board and himself to prioritize and allocate.
 - D.** Gail Beardmore said that she supports the Dog Park and they have \$4,000 for it and \$7,500 designated from the flood. Everyone is very passionate about it and ask all the time about it.
 - E.** Brett Sanderson said we have to find a location for it.
 - F.** Brendan McNamara said that it is key to find a place for it that is very important. He said that the Vermont Community Fund is looking for projects to fund and Dorsey Tennis Courts and the Dog park may be possible for them. BUT, we can't involve FEMA. If FEMA funds a project, we cannot get money from the Vermont Community Fund. We may get more from the Vermont Community Fund and not accept money from FEMA for those. The Vermont Community Fund got money from the Phish Concert.
 - G.** Gail Beardmore asked if they will decide in June.
 - H.** Brendan McNamara said FEMA is involved and the leadership has been scrubbed again. We are now on our 6th project manager.
 - I.** Michael Normyle said that he supports the Tennis Courts at Dorsey Park. He said that he has spoken to Ulla Cook and since 2005, they have spent \$30,100 on the tennis courts at Dorsey – in 2016, they recoated them and in 2022, they pressure washed and repaired cracks. He said that he has reached out to Springfield Paving, Vermont Tennis Courts, Wilk and Lawrence and Advantage. He said that he is volunteering to help the town manager and Recreation department in developing a scope of work for repairs of the tennis courts. He said that the Recreation Manager does not play tennis. He said that he has taken and sent pictures of the tennis courts to the contractors. He said that he is not sure that he will have a preliminary scope in 2 to 3 weeks. He said that the Dog Park is also important and suggested that they relocate it to West Hill. He has also researched possible grants and that the Vermont Buildings and General Services Department may have money for grants for recreation. He said that there are volunteers out there will to help. He suggested that board members visit Dorsey Park. Good, Better, Best. He said there are volunteers out there willing to help.
 - J.** Scott Baitz said that the Recreation Committee has discussed West Hill and the Town owns that property. They are looking at the basketball court area.
 - K.** Alice Nitka said that the bathroom at the Transfer Station is long overdue. She said that Mountain Bike trails were also discussed at the last meeting and in the Northeast Kingdom and in Killington they are a success and attract younger people.

- L. Alan Couch said that at the last meeting he had brought up that Vermont received \$2.7 Billion in ARPA funds. There are 200 towns and if divided evenly, each town would have received \$13 million. He said that he agrees with the need for the bathroom at the transfer station is needed but using the ARPA funds is a gross waste of money for something that should have been in the budget. He said the Ludlow should have received more money and asked if the amount received is commensurate with the amount received by other towns and if it is, where did the rest of the money go. He is going to write to the governor and the treasurer, Mike Pieciak and ask for a detailed breakdown of the allocations to each town. We should use the funds to spruce up the town and does not agree with spending the money on sidewalks because he thinks that should be done by the highway department. He agrees with the Mountain Bike trails and Dog park. He also thinks the funds should not be spent on something that will require constant funds. He said possibly a piece of equipment for the Highway Department or a snow blower.
- M. Brendan McNamara said this will be on the agenda for the June meeting.
- N. Noah Schmidt said that recreation had huge support. He suggested something like an art project, bonus stuff that we don't normally invest in.
- O. Brendan McNamara indicated that a mural would be a wonderful idea and said he would entertain similar ideas. He mentioned that the mural at Brewfest is beautiful and enjoyable.

4. **OTHER BUSINESS**

- A. There was none.

5. **ADJOURN**

- A. **MOTION by Scott Baitz and seconded by George Tucker, Jr. to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.**
- B. Meeting adjourned at 6:25p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisha Klaiber

Brett Sanderson, Chairman

Noah Schmidt

Scott Baitz

George Tucker, Jr.

Justin Hyjek

