

*MINUTES*

**TOWN OF LUDLOW  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**SPECIAL MEETING**

December 17, 2012

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Howard Barton, Jr., Chairman      Brett Sanderson      John Neal  
Douglas Ficken      Bruce Schmidt

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Frank Heald

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Duncan Love (LPC-TV)

**1. Call to Order**

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

**2. Continue FY2014 Budget Workshop**

- A. Frank Heald advised that at the last meeting, board members had made some suggestions for changes. In his memo, he highlighted the changes. He has also included a large spreadsheet detailing Debt Services. He tries to keep payments the same over periods of time, while keeping equipment current. He noted that there is about a 1% increase in Wages and Benefits.
- B. Howard Barton asked about the line item for masonry repairs at the Community Center. Frank Heald said it is for pointing and sealing of vertical masonry and will add \$8,167 to the expenses. They do put money aside each year for capital improvements.
- C. Howard Barton noted that they postponed gravel crushing
- D. Frank Heald said that it would save a little and they just buy what they need. He added that they still plan to do the work at Site 3 taking up space in the dam. It will be surveyed in the spring. We would like to go in and let the water down. They will excavate and truck the gravel over to the Highway Department and then crush it every few years as needed.
- E. Howard Barton asked if the County Tax number is definite.
- F. Frank Heald said that there would be a meeting this week to discuss it. It may come down to the voters of the county for a bond to upgrade the courthouse.
- G. Bruce Schmidt noted that the budget is up \$87,000.
- H. John Neal asked what the \$35,324 in "Other" is
- I. Frank Heald said it is the net amount of each department, Wages & Benefits is \$32,000, and Insurance is \$20,000.
- J. Bruce Schmidt asked if there had been any conversation with the Ambulance Department about the \$9,000 increase in "On Call" charges.
- K. Howard Barton said that they had changed shifts.
- L. Frank Heald said that it is a multifold issue. Coordinators have changed and membership cycles. They re-did the On Call times to have 2 people on at critical times. Also, they no longer have the AMERICORPS volunteer that they have had for a couple of years.
- M. Bruce Schmidt asked if there was any way to increase their revenue.
- N. Frank Heald said that they would not be raising fees at this time. Their rates are competitive with surrounding services. He added that illness and accidents will raise revenue.
- O. Bruce Schmidt asked about the Audit line item.
- P. Frank Heald said we charges them back for the audit costs.
- Q. John Neal said that the Ambulance Department carries itself and is one of the few departments that does.
- R. Bruce Schmidt said it still should be discussed. He referred to the increase in Health/Dental/Life costs.
- S. Frank Heald said that they went from one person to a person with a family. He added that the Ambulance Department funds Depreciation; they throw off more than they spend and they totally cover the cost of their existence. They operate at no cost to the town.
- T. Bruce Schmidt noted that the budget for repairs to the Mill Street Bridge had been removed.
- U. Frank Heald said they will keep it as a walking only bridge. The abutments are still good and it would be more than \$100,000 just for a new footbridge. He said that it would be hard to get funding for it. He said it would be interesting to have someone come in and give an estimate to

- sell it for scrap. He added that the budgeted work on the Pleasant Street Bridge and West Hill storm drain and culvert depends on Structures grants at 90% funding.
- V. Howard Barton said that the Mill Street Bridge was too narrow for big trucks.
  - W. Bruce Schmidt asked if there is a reimbursement when Officer King works in other towns.
  - X. Frank Heald said that if it is with the Task Force, supposedly we will get money back.
  - Y. Bruce Schmidt said the board needs to come up with numbers that we can live with. Do we want to go with a 2.66% increase?
  - Z. John Neal asked what it was last year.
  - AA. Frank Heald said it was up \$38,851 last year after we put everything in including articles. Cemetery was down \$15,000 last year and is also down this year.
  - BB. Howard Barton said the County tax could change the numbers.
  - CC. Frank Heald asked if they wanted to continue this at their next meeting as he should know the County numbers by then.
  - DD. Howard Barton said that would be the only way to know where we really are.
  - EE. Bruce Schmidt said that \$35,000 in Other is not a lot, but we still have to look people in the eyes. Most of the increase is in Wages and Benefits and Insurance. There is nothing frivolous.
  - FF. Frank Heald said the Capital purchases will not hit until 2015 and does not affect spending now. He added that he thinks that the Fund Balance may be significant this year.
  - GG. Bruce Schmidt asked if there would be a significant impact on Capital in 2015.
  - HH. Frank Heald referred to the spreadsheet noting that the 5-year payment cycles for some items works well keeping payments fairly consistent.
  - II. Howard Barton suggested waiting for the next meeting to firm this up.
  - JJ. Frank Heald added that the CLA is up a couple of points to 95 and the COD is 10.9, a significant improvement in property values.

### 3. Adjourn

- A. **MOTION by Brett Sanderson and seconded by Doug Ficken to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.**
- B. Meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisha Klaiber

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Howard Barton, Jr., Chairman

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Brett Sanderson

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Doug Ficken

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Bruce Schmidt

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John Neal