

PRELIMINARY MINUTES

**TOWN OF LUDLOW
SELECT BOARD**

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Monday, January 15, 2018**

Board Members Present:

Howard Barton, Jr.
Brett Sanderson

Bruce Schmidt
Logan Nicoll (absent)

John Neal (absent)

Staff Present:

Frank Heald

Others Present:

Paul Orzechowski

Call to Order:

- a. Chairman Howard Barton, Jr. called the Special Meeting of Select Board to order at 7:00 pm.

Consideration of any Changes, Additions or Removal to the Agenda:

- a. Frank Heald said there is a draft of the Select Board Annual Report for the board members to review, along with a FY 2019 budget summary.

Consider & Approve Van Rentals from Merchants Automotive Group

- a. Howard Barton asked who is paying for the van drivers.
- b. Frank Heald said the town is and it is all covered under the town insurance. He said he hopes the school will pick up the cost of van rental.
- c. Bruce Schmidt said he would make a recommendation to the board that they consider it. He said Mt. Holly and Ludlow will pay for it together. He said it is not a large amount of money and there is a surplus.
- d. Bruce Schmidt asked how does the insurance will work.
- e. Frank Heald said that because 12-passenger vans do not require a CDL, so coaches can also drive. He said all van drivers will need to be on our payroll and vetted with the Ludlow Police prior to driving.
- f. Bruce Schmidt asked if drivers would be paid a stipend?
- g. Howard Barton asked if there were a lot of games left.
- h. Frank Heald said they would be paid an hourly rate. He said the school has many games and field trips scheduled, and with only two CDL drivers we cannot accommodate the schedules and drivers are tired.

- i. Howard Barton asked if the school could scale back a bit.
- j. Bruce Schmidt said they need to find a balance with the kids.
- k. Frank Heald said the theory behind the vans is to take the heat off the two drivers we have already scheduled and to avoid having them work a 12-16-hour day. He added that there are not a lot of CDL drivers looking for work.
- l. Howard Barton asked why the parents can't drive their own kids.
- m. Bruce Schmidt said he mentioned that to administration, but added that if we didn't transport kids to the gym, many would not play because some parents are unable to drive them.
- n. Paul Orzechowski asked if we could hire the coaches to drive the kids.
- o. MOTION by Bruce Schmidt and seconded by Brett Sanderson to approve the van rentals from Merchants Automotive Group.**
- p. Howard Barton asked for discussion on the motion.
- q. Bruce Schmidt asked when the vans will be returned.
- r. Frank Heald said they need to be back on February 16, 2018.
- s. Motion passed unanimously.**

Consider & Approve FY 2019 Town Budget

- a. Frank Heald said he made some adjustments to the budget since the last meeting so the bottom line is 3.08%. He said the town budget summary shows the articles and exemptions to be voted upon, so when combined, the bottom line is a 3.04% increase.
- b. Howard Barton questioned the appropriation requests. He said that every time there is a new request should it go to the floor to defend and after one year we add it to the appropriations.
- c. Howard Barton questioned why Streetscapes and Women's Freedom Center were newly added and treated differently and why the Museum's fuel line item did not decrease. He said the museum did improvements recently.
- d. Howard Barton asked about the Library books use vs. actuals. He said there is a big overage and asked who pays the difference.
- e. Frank Heald said we reduced the Library spending and the Librarians understand their budget parameters.
- f. Frank Heald said the Black River Senior Center asked for \$20,000 in their request letter.
- g. Howard Barton asked if there is a reason for the increase.
- h. Frank Heald said the town pays a portion of the fuel bill from the \$20,000.
- i. Bruce Schmidt proposes that we take the Women's Freedom Center out of Appropriations and include it as an article.
- j. Bruce Schmidt asked if the library electric or fuel goes back into the general fund if it isn't all used.
- k. Frank Heald said yes.
- l. Frank Heald wanted to clarify that there are three ways approach the appropriations: by petition, as an article, or place into appropriations.
- m. Bruce Schmidt said it is important to have these discussions and people expect us to. He said he personally doesn't think \$20,000 or the Senior Center and \$9,000 for meals is too much because it serves a lot of people.
- n. Frank Heald said we will move Women's Freedom Center to the articles.

- o. Bruce Schmidt asked Frank Heald if there is anything that was cut from the budget that he would be concerned about.
- p. Frank Heald said no. He mentioned that the Senate bill 285 in the Legislature may do away with the pay to throw and MSW may need to go across the scales. He said that would not happen until May and become effective until July 1st.
- q. Bruce Schmidt said we will take another look at the fee structure if that takes place.
- r. Howard Barton and Bruce Schmidt asked if there was any consideration to take another look at the options tax.
- s. Frank Heald said that Ulla Cook feels strongly that we should.
- t. Howard Barton suggested waiting another year and breaking the options tax into three separate articles.
- u. Howard Barton asked if there was any further discussion on the budget and asked for a motion.
- v. MOTION by Bruce Schmidt and seconded by Brett Sanderson to approve the FY 2019 Town Budget. All in favor and the motion passed.

Adjourn:

- a. MOTION to adjourn by Brett Sanderson and seconded by Bruce Schmidt. All in favor and the motion passed.
- b. Meeting was adjourned at 7:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Cruickshank
Recording Secretary

Howard Barton Jr., Chairman

John Neal

Bruce Schmidt

Brett Sanderson

Logan Nicoll