

**PRELIMINARY MINUTES**

**TOWN OF LUDLOW  
SELECT BOARD**

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
Friday, July 7, 2017**

**Board Members Present:**

Howard Barton, Jr.  
Brett Sanderson

Bruce Schmidt  
Logan Nicoll

John Neal

**Staff Present:**

Frank Heald

Ulla Cook

**Call to Order:**

- a. Howard Barton, Jr. called the Special Meeting of Select Board to order at 8:00 am.

**Set FY 2018 Town Tax Rate:**

- a. Howard Barton, Jr. said the Select Board is here to set the Town Tax Rate for FY 2018.
- b. Frank Heald reported that the numbers are fairly close and that FY 2017 numbers are unaudited. He added that while there is a surplus, there are several tax appeals that could affect the Grand List.
- c. Frank Heald said he would suggest that there is no elasticity and we should not use the surplus.
- d. Bruce Schmidt asked what last year's tax rate was.
- e. Ulla Cook said it was \$.2907 but to keep in mind that the Cemetery encumbered funds so they will have \$80,000 which is reflected in the fund balance.
- f. Howard Barton, Jr. asked if we had collected monies from the new development at South Face.
- g. Frank Heald said yes and the Grand List is up but the CLA is down.
- h. Bruce Schmidt said we used \$60,000 last year and could do it again this year. He said he is also concerned with the tax appeals and how they will affect this year.
- i. Ulla Cook said it might not happen this year.
- j. John Neal asked if there were any predications on a settlement.
- k. Ulla said no.
- l. Bruce Schmidt said he would be comfortable using \$60,000.
- m. Frank Heald and Ulla Cook said they are on record as opposing the use of the surplus.
- n. Ulla Cook said now would be the time to look into an options tax.
- o. Howard Barton, Jr. suggested they break it down into 2 or 3 sections so one vote won't kill the rest of it.
- p. Ulla Cook said there are no elections this year in November.
- q. Ulla Cook said many other towns have an options tax and are able to do much more.

- r. Bruce Schmidt said it could mean more paved roads and a lower tax rate.
- s. **MOTION by Bruce Schmidt and seconded by John Neal to use \$65,000 of the surplus and set the FY 2018 Town tax rate at \$.2986.**
- t. Howard Barton, Jr. asked for discussion on the motion.
- u. Bruce Schmidt said that for the record he personally respects the opinions of the Town Clerk and Municipal Manager, but our responsibility is to give back as much as we can and be responsible if we under fund.
- v. **MOTION on the table to use \$65,000 of the surplus and set the FY 2018 Town tax rate at \$.2986 was passed unanimously.**

**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 8:19 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Cruickshank  
Acting Recording Secretary

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Howard Barton Jr., Chairman

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John Neal

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bruce Schmidt

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brett Sanderson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Logan Nicoll