

DRAFT MINUTES

**TOWN OF LUDLOW
SELECT BOARD**

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, JULY 14, 2015

Board Members Present:

Howard Barton, Jr.
John Neal

Bruce Schmidt
Logan Nicoll

Brett Sanderson

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 2016 Tax Rate

- a. Howard Barton asked if the Grand List had gone down.
- b. Frank Heald said the Grand List was up slightly and the CLA is also up slightly.
- c. Howard Barton said the proposed tax rate is \$00.297.
- d. Ulla Cook said that many of the non-residents are shocked to know that residents pay more for the education tax.
- e. Frank Heald reported that the estimated surplus includes monies for the Pleasant Street Bridge and compensated absences, and when combined with the Transfer Station culvert that was approved in previous years and the gate valve on Site #3 Dam that needs replacing, there is no available surplus.
- f. Frank Heald also noted that the Cemetery adjusted expenses went to the capital account for retreatment, so there is no surplus for the Cemetery.
- g. Bruce Schmidt said the question is whether or not we do the capital projects.
- h. Frank Heald said the Select Board had agreed to do the projects in previous years, but they were postponed.
- i. MOTION by John Neal and seconded by Brett Sanderson to go forward with the recommendation to encumber funds for the Transfer Station Culvert and Site #3 Main Gate Valve. The motion passed unanimously.
- j. Brett Sanderson asked how we can save on postage when mailing out the Town and Village tax bills.
- k. Frank Heald said combining the bills is more cost effective, otherwise there would be separate bill preparation.
- l. Howard Barton asked why the Village does not contribute to the cost to mail the tax bills.
- m. Ulla Cook said Village residents pay Town taxes anyway so the cost is never separated.
- n. Howard Barton asked if Frank Heald has looked into whether we can change the voter approved tax collection dates set at Town Meeting.
- o. Frank Heald said he could not find a statute that said we either could or could not delay the collection dates, other than we have done it in the past when the state delayed setting the rates.
- p. Howard Barton said he feels we should stay the course and not delay the Town tax bills because it is a Village issue for the delay.
- q. Bruce Schmidt asked what the cost savings would be.
- r. Frank Heald said the savings is nominal, but creates more work internally and confusion for taxpayers.
- s. Ulla Cook said NEMRC would have to create a program to capture just the Village taxes.
- t. Bruce Schmidt said he is surprised that the Town doesn't share the cost of postage with the Village.
- u. John Neal asked what the difference in timing would be.
- v. Ulla Cook said it is 10 days difference.

- w. Howard Barton said we should follow what the voters approved and set at Town Meeting.
- x. MOTION by Bruce Schmidt and seconded by John Neal to accept the FY 2016 Town Tax Rates as presented with the Residential tax at \$2.0264 and Non-Residential tax at \$1.8250. The motion passed four in favor and one opposed. Brett Sanderson was opposed.
- y. MOTION by John Neal and seconded by Logan Nicoll to send out the Town tax bills together with the Village tax bills. The motion passed three in favor and two opposed. Howard Barton and Brett Sanderson opposed.

Adjourn:

- a. MOTION by John Neal and seconded by Bruce Schmidt to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. Meeting adjourned at 8:23 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Cruickshank
Acting Recording Secretary

Howard Barton Jr., Chairman

John Neal

Bruce Schmidt

Brett Sanderson

Logan Nicoll