

***PRELIMINARY MINUTES***

**TOWN OF LUDLOW  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING  
&  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
March 6, 2023 and March 7, 2023**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Bruce Schmidt, Chairman  
Scott Baitz

Bob Brandt  
Justin Hyjek

Brett Sanderson

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Scott Murphy

Ulla Cook

Newton Rose, Moderator

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

George Abraham  
Julie Abraham  
Paul Alcorn  
Shodie Alcorn  
Eric Alden  
Dean Alexander  
Linda Alexander  
Evelyn Baldwin  
Ronald Berk  
Jeff Billings  
Ron Bixby  
Sharon Bixby  
Gary Blodgett  
Marilee Blodgett  
John Bohrer  
Georgia Brehm  
Dan Buckley  
Suzy Buckley  
Phil Carter  
Terry Carter  
Alan Couch  
John Denner  
Marissa Foote  
Robert Fortuna  
Terry Fortuna  
Suzanne Garvey  
Peter Girouard  
Andrea Goldman  
Stephanie Grover

Debra Guillow  
Jordan Harper  
Jennifer Harper  
Glenn Heitsmith  
Mary Hoyne  
Bill Huber  
Gary Joseph  
Joe Josselyn  
Jay Jurkoic  
Rachel Karner  
Edward Kelly  
Heather Kelly  
Angela Kissell  
Frank Kissell  
Peter Kolenda  
David Ladd  
Donald Lagro  
Eric Lever  
Leslie Lever  
Mary Mancino  
Mariel Meringolo  
Joan Merrill  
Steve Meyers  
Chris Miele  
Meredith Milliken  
Cynthia Mischel  
Maryann Neal  
Otis Nelson  
Julie Nicoll

Logan Nicoll  
Alice Nitka  
Pam O'Neil  
Rhinard Parry  
Rebecca Pavlik  
Cynthia Plimpton  
Paula Pollender  
Peter Pollender  
Judith Pullinen  
Pat Pullinen  
Kendra Rickerby  
Charlie Rimer  
James Rumrill  
Patricia Rumrill  
Sherry Scales  
Lisa Schmidt  
Noah Schmidt  
Marissa Selleck  
Ginny Snyder  
Jean Strong  
Alice Thayne  
Terry Thayne  
Deborah Tucker  
George Tucker  
George Tucker, Jr.  
Jerry Tucker  
Sheree Tucker  
Earl Washburn

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

- A. Bruce Schmidt called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance. He advised that Marty Nitka is unable to attend tonight's meeting and that we would need to nominate a moderator. He reminded people that if they are not registered voters in the Town of Ludlow, they may speak, but are not able to vote.
- B. **MOTION by Brett Sanderson and seconded by Bob Brandt to nominate Newton Rose as Moderator. Motion passed.**
- C. Scott Murphy read aloud Vermont State House of Representatives House concurrent resolution H.C.R. 43, honoring Ludlow Select board Chair Bruce Schmidt for his distinguished civic leadership. (Copy attached at end of minutes.)
- D. Scott Murphy read aloud Vermont State House of Representatives House concurrent resolution H.C.R. 44, honoring Phil Carter for his exemplary community service in the Town of Ludlow. (Copy attached at end of minutes.)
- E. Newton Rose said that this meeting will adhere to Roberts Rules of Order and is modeled by State statute. He said this meeting is to discuss and vote on the articles. He said there will be no separate informational meeting. He said that he will read the article and there will be a motion to approve and seconded, then there will be discussion on the motion. The voters will vote to accept or no. He said that once an article has been voted on, you can't go back to it. Voting will be by voice, aye or nay. He will call the vote as he hears it. A voter may ask for a division of the house or request paper ballot (7 requests are needed.) In order to participate, you must be a registered voter of Ludlow. He said that Scott Murphy and Stephanie Grover are present to speak for the town and Ambulance Service.

2. **REVIEW & DISCUSS ARTICLE 1 – To Elect Town Officers for the coming year**

- A. Newton Rose said that that voting for this article will be by Australian ballot tomorrow at Town Hall.

3. **REVIEW & DISCUSS ARTICLE 2 - SHALL the voters of the Town of Ludlow vote to exempt the property located at 22 Buttermilk Falls Road and owned by the Ludlow Masonic Building Association from the property tax for a period of five (5) years: commencing with the 2023 tax year?**

- A. **MOTION by Don Lagro and seconded by Pat Pullinen to adopt this article.**
- B. Newton Rose called for questions or comments.
- C. Earl Washburn read following statement from the Masonic Lafayette Lodge:

**VOTE YES ON ARTICLE #2**

Black River – Lafayette Lodge is asking again for the voters of Ludlow to renew its tax exempt status for a period of five years and we thank you for doing so for the past 15 years.

2023 is a significant year for our lodge. We were chartered on September 18, 1868 and will celebrate that date this fall.

BRL is a 990n nonprofit and Masonic Charities of Vermont, Inc. is a 501.c3. Our philanthropic efforts are divided between local, state, nation and world.

Locally we have supported organizations, provided scholarships to local students and help to fund our Expeditionary School at Black River. On a state level we have finance the training of teacher through our Masonic Model Student Assistance Program. The training started in 1990 and continues today. It teaches how to recognize "Children with Broken Hearts". Our support for this program has reached in excess of \$700,000 to date. On a national level we participate in funding the Masonic Service Association of North America Veterans Administrations visitation program. Besides offering toiletries are books, magazines, puzzle for the patience, we support a disaster relief programs for state who are hit with hurricanes, tornados, flood or fire. A few years ago we supported the devastation in Kentucky's tornado and generated \$270,000 to help in their recovery effort. Worldwide we finance the Shriners Hospitals for Children which offer free medical services. Every cent we raise goes directly to the funding aid.

In a way, with allowing our lodge tax exempt status you are contributing with our philanthropic efforts and we thank you for that.

- D. Peter Girouard asked what the taxes on the property are.
- E. Ulla Cook said about \$3,360.
- F. Newton Rose called for a vote. He noted that the ayes have it.
- G. Article 2 is adopted.

4. **REVIEW & DISCUSS ARTICLE 3 - Shall the voters of the Town of Ludlow fix the salaries of the Select Board, Cemetery Commissioners and Trustees of Public Funds the same as last year, Select Board \$1,600, Cemetery Commissioners \$900, Trustee of Public Funds \$400?**

- A. **MOTION by Bob Fortuna and seconded by John Boehrer to adopt Article 3 to fix the salaries as described above.**
- B. Alan Couch said that the Select Board, Trustees of Public Funds and other commissions work all year. The Cemetery commissioners meet 6 to 8 times per year and, no disrespect, but get paid whether or not they attend meetings. Their meetings usually run between 11 and 37 minutes. The Planning Commissioners get paid \$25 per meeting and meetings run about 1 ½ hours. He suggests that the revisit salaries for the commissions for next year's budget.
- C. Newton Rose called for a vote. He noted that the ayes have it.
- D. Article 3 is adopted.

5. **REVIEW & DISCUSS ARTICLE 4 - Shall the voters of the Town of Ludlow collect taxes on Real Property in installments to be paid to the Town Treasurer on August 15, 2023, November 15, 2023,**

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**February 15, 2024 and May 15, 2024, and must be delivered to the Town Treasurer and postmarked on or before the due date.**

- A. **MOTION by Mariel Meringolo and seconded by Sharon Bixby to adopt Article 4.**
  - B. Chris Miele asked, if the state does not publish education rates on time, does the town have the ability to move these dates.
  - C. Scott Murphy said yes.
  - D. Newton Rose called for a vote. He noted that the ayes have it.
  - E. Article 4 is adopted.
6. **REVIEW & DISCUSS ARTICLE 5 – Shall the voters of the Town of Ludlow authorize the Select Board to borrow money to pay the necessary expenses of the Town and any part of its indebtedness?**
- A. **MOTION by Pat Pullinen and seconded by Sharon Bixby to adopt Article 5 to authorize the Select Board to borrow money to pay the necessary expenses of the Town and any part of its indebtedness.**
  - B. There was no discussion
  - C. Newton Rose called for the vote. He noted that the ayes have it.
  - D. Article 5 is adopted.
7. **REVIEW & DISCUSS ARTICLE 6 – Shall the voters of the Town of Ludlow vote a specific amount in lieu of a rate on a dollar on the Grand List as set forth in the Select Board’s budget and the Windsor County budget? Then the Select Board shall set the tax rate necessary to raise this amount after the Grand List has been completed and lodged in the office of the Town Clerk. The amount to be raised by taxes will be \$4,409,115.00**
- A. **MOTION by Dan Buckley and seconded by Bob Fortuna to adopt article 6.**
  - B. Peter Girouard said that is a lot of money and goes up every year. Is Article 9 a slush fund or is it part of the budget.
  - C. Scott Murphy said it is in the budget. He said if a truck is purchased, it would be in Article 9.
  - D. Peter Girouard said it should be in Article 6 and it is foolish to throw money into Article 9.
  - E. Bruce Schmidt said Article 9 is for Capital purchases or building renovations. Day to day items such as fixing a furnace are in article 6, in the budget.
  - F. Gary Blodgett said he commends the Select Board on this budget. According to VPR, other towns across the state have much higher percentages than the proposed 3.7% here.
  - G. Bruce Schmidt said that the Select Board took many things into account. We work with the Department heads and scrutinize every line. We felt that the employees needed a significant increase. We needed a new staff member for Buildings and Grounds. There is inflation and also, increases in diesel and sand. He said that we started with a larger budget and worked on it. He said that our employees are our biggest asset. He added that health insurance is also part of the change. We work hard to keep this level.
  - H. Chris Miele said that the budget is \$4.4 million and another \$97,000 for Article 9 that is about \$4.5 million.

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- I. Ron Parry said there is \$87,000 in the budget for the high school building. Are we ever going to break even on it.
- J. Bruce Schmidt said the town bought the building and plan to do something with it within 5 years. The board is aware of the expense and it went down from the projected \$100,000 to \$87,000. The school is a great tenant and we want to balance what its needs are. It is a concern that needs to be addressed.
- K. There was no further discussion.
- L. Newton Rose called for a vote and noted that the ayes have it.
- M. Article 6 is adopted.
8. **REVIEW AND DISCUSS ARTICLE 7 – Shall the voters of the Town of Ludlow appropriate a sum of \$312,085.000 to the Ludlow Community Ambulance Service to support their overall operations?**
- A. **MOTION by Mariel Meringolo and seconded Pam O’Neil to adopt Article 7.**
- B. Peter Girouard said that we bought a new ambulance last year and they run into things. This is a white elephant. They give great service but 80% of the calls are on the mountain. Other communities contribute, but we should sell this. There are only 5-6 employees.
- C. Bruce Schmidt said he disagrees. The staff are hardworking people and we want response when it is needed. Cavendish and Plymouth contribute. In the next article, we are asking for the service to be moved from a proprietary fund to a department, included within the budget. We bought the ambulance because we needed it and we don’t waste money. They don’t run into things. They are an asset to the town.
- D. Steve Meyers asked about Okemo’s contributions.
- E. Scott Murphy said that we met with them several times over the summer and most of the issues from last year have been solved. Stephanie Grover has worked with their staff and we are able to staff 2 ambulances at high peak times this winter. Okemo contributes \$38,000.
- F. Andrea Goldman said that the budget shows revenue of \$829,000 and expenses of \$808,000. She asked where the \$312,085 is shown.
- G. Bruce Schmidt said it is included in their revenue. We are hoping.
- H. Newton Rose called for a vote and noted that the ayes have it.
- I. Article 7 is adopted.
9. **REVIEW AND DISCUSS ARTICLE 8 – Shall the voters of the Town of Ludlow vote to eliminate the Ludlow Community Ambulance Service as a Proprietary Fund and to include it into the Town’s General Fund budget beginning FY 2025?**
- A. **MOTION by Terry Carter and seconded by Sharon Bixby to approve Article 8.**
- B. Steve Meyers said that 50% of the calls are from Okemo and they pay less than 10% of the costs.
- C. Dean Alexander asked why this is a proprietary fund.
- D. Scott Murphy said it is a proprietary or enterprise fund. It is self-supporting and the town cannot transfer funds into or out of their accounts from the General Fund. We are hamstrung. If they need funds, we can’t fix it. If they are put under the umbrella of the

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General Fund; the town has more flexibility to move funds as we do with other departments if needed and it will help reduce part of the town fund. As it is now, we can't do anything.

- E. Dean Alexander asked if it would affect the other towns.
- F. Scott Murphy said no, we have been increasing their contributions over the years. He added that Springfield now charges us for mutual aid and Chester will be starting to.
- G. Andrea Goldman asked if the \$38,000 is committed or a forecast.
- H. Scott Murphy said it was reached through an agreement based on number of calls and assistance we get from them.
- I. Andrea Goldman asked if it will cover 100% of their costs.
- J. Scott Murphy said insurance covers the ambulance rides and the \$38,000 should cover the rest.
- K. Steve Meyers said they are 50% of the calls, shouldn't they pay 50%.
- L. Stephanie Grover said in the winter, Okemo is about 20 to 40% of the calls. There were 800 calls, only 125 to the mountain. The money covers the 2<sup>nd</sup> ambulance. We don't have the staff to cover the 2<sup>nd</sup> ambulance without them. The \$38,000 will hopefully cover the stand-by. She said that with them, we have only had to use 5 mutual aid calls since September and last year, it was 5 times a day. Ski patrol staff is helping.
- M. Peter Girouard asked if they (current ambulance service staff) will be town employees.
- N. Bruce Schmidt said they are already town employees. They will still have the outside billing service. He said that at one time, they had a \$350,000 surplus and the town could not use it. This allows us to move funds and if there is a deficit, we will have more flexibility.
- O. Don Lagro asked if the Ambulance Service is making money.
- P. Scott Murphy said it is in better financial shape and yes it is making money.
- Q. Justin Hyjek said that the billing service allows us to capture more revenue.
- R. Scott Murphy said that this article is only whether to move the Ambulance Service from Proprietary to part of the General Fund. It will give the town more future financial flexibility. He said that the \$38,000 covers the 2<sup>nd</sup> ambulance.
- S. Newton Rose called for a vote and noted that the ayes have it.
- T. Article 8 is adopted.

10. **REVIEW AND DISCUSS ARTICLE 9 - Shall the voters of the Town of Ludlow authorize the Select Board to maintain a Capital Fund to support the following vehicle and equipment purchases, building maintenance and repairs and to fund programs?**

**Highway Equipment Fund \$30,000**

**Fire Equipment Fund \$30,000**

**Police Equipment Fund \$5,000,**

**Recreation Facilities Fund \$10,000,**

**Ludlow Town Hall Facilities Fund \$10,000,**

**Ludlow Community Center Facilities Fund \$5,000,**

**Black River Senior Center Facilities Fund \$2,500?**

**The amount to be raised by taxes will be \$97,500.00.**

- A. **MOTION by Don Lagro and seconded by Ron Bixby to adopt Article 9.**
- B. Alan Couch asked if these funds are designated to a specific fund and can't be used for other purposes.
- C. Scott Murphy said that each one is for specific purpose and can't be used for other purposes.
- D. Peter Kolenda noted that on page 14, it shows \$394,000. He said that the Fire Department is on a 20-year replacement schedule for trucks. He said they had sticker-shock when they

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priced the replacement truck at \$800,000 to \$900,000. For that, \$394,000 is nothing. They usually take half the cost out of Capital and bond the balance. Next year, they should include at least \$50,000 for the Fire Equipment fund.

- E. Jordan Harper noted the caveat “and to fund programs.” What are those programs.
- F. Scott Murphy said sometimes the Recreation Department runs programs and we use the capital for that.
- G. Jordan Harper said that would usually be a specific line item.
- H. Scott Murphy said it could also be town hall renovation, this is an old building and needs repairs.
- I. Brett Sanderson said that each one of the listed funds is a program.
- J. Bruce Schmidt said it may be a holdover from past meetings.
- K. **MOTION by Jordan Harper to amend the Article 9 strike the words “and to fund programs.”**
- L. **Motion seconded by Dean Alexander.**
- M. Dan Buckley said it may have been for programs like Meals on Wheels for the Senior Center.
- N. Bruce Schmidt said it is strictly for capital and mechanical things.
- O. Newton Rose called for a vote on the amendment to Article 9. The ayes have it.
- P. Amendment to Article 9 is approved.
- Q. Newton Rose called for a vote on Article 9 as amended. The ayes have it.
- R. Article 9 is adopted.

11. **REVIEW & DISCUSS ARTICLE 10 – Shall the voters of the Town of Ludlow appropriate the sum of \$7,250.00 to The MOOvers, formerly The Current, to support the public transit bus service to Ludlow, from Bellows Falls and from Rutland?**

- A. **MOTION by Pam O’Neil and seconded by Peter Girouard to adopt Article 10.**
- B. Newton Rose called for a vote and the ayes have it.
- C. Article 10 is adopted.

12. **REVIEW & DISCUSS ARTICLE 11 - Shall the voters of the Town of Ludlow approve \$75,000.00 to support of the Expeditionary School at Black River to provide bridge funding for the 2023 – 2024 school year?**

- A. **MOTION by Otis Nelson and seconded by Mariel Meringolo to adopt Article 11.**
- B. Pat Pullinen said that the school is in its 3<sup>rd</sup> year. They had a 5-year plan and thought that they would have been fully approved by the State by the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year. They did not receive State approval as it was based on a one-time site visit and we didn’t know that we were supposed to have certain items on display. We are reapplying. This request will help us with the gap funding and hopefully we will be approved by June 2023.
- C. Mary Hoyne asked for details.
- D. Pat Pullinen said the \$150,000 budget limits their enrolment because there is less tuition. We need to secure our personnel and pay operational costs.
- E. Kendra Rickerby said the school has secured a partnership with the New Hampshire Academy of Science to provide high end science and STEMM camps and teacher training. Our

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- chemistry lab is well equipped. The funds will provide a bridge gap for staffing until we can re-apply.
- F. Peter Girouard asked how many students there are.
- G. Kendra Rickerby said 15, 6 from Ludlow. When we are approved, we hope to grow it to 40 students.
- H. Francis Kissell asked if the school has asked the other town (where students come from) for money.
- I. Pat Pullinen said this is a Ludlow based school.
- J. Kendra Rickerby said the timing of the AOE decision – 19 months is the issue. We are looking to get approval this year.
- K. Jordan Harper said that twice, this town voted not to support the high school. He said that he would never support using public funds to support a private school.
- L. Steve Meyers said Ludlow has to give a lot of money to the state and said we should keep it in town.
- M. Dan Buckley said they will get \$150,000 in tuition payments when the school is approved by the state.
- N. Andrea Goldman said we need education to have families stay in town. This bridge is only a one-time cost.
- O. Chris Miele said we voted to get rid of the school to save on the education tax, but it is still the same. The question is can we change this from a bridge to a loan of \$75,000.
- P. Logan Nicoll said the school has reached out to us and he has been actively trying to push the approval along. The Secretary of Education (Dan French) has the power and there is no point of intervention for a legislator. Dan French has tried to slow the process and I have called him several times. The AOE is understaffed.
- Q. Gary Blodgett said when the town closed the school, there was a committee. Some people did not want their children to go to Green Mountain or Mill River. Hopefully we could provide a choice and started an independent school. There are other independent schools in the state (Sharon, Burr & Burton, St. Johnsbury and Thetford Academy.) If the independent school grew, hopefully the families and students would stay in Ludlow.
- R. Steve Meyers said this is an opportunity to keep money in Ludlow and to have a school here.
- S. Jordan Harper asked what if the state does not approve the school. There is no state guarantee.
- T. Pat Pullinen said we are a “recognized school.” If we do not get approved, the funds will still help us operate as a “recognized school.”
- U. Gary Blodgett said he also wrote letters to the legislators. This is a drawn-out process. At first, we needed the Certificate of Occupancy because the building has changed hands and we needed new fire doors and elevator work. We have the CO now. We have formed a sub-committee to try to fast-track our application approval.
- V. Peter Girouard asked if they are receiving state funds.
- W. Pat Pullinen said no.
- X. Dean Alexander this town should support the students in town to go to school. We closed the school and bought the building. The school has used the building virtually rent-free and now wants an additional \$75,000. There are only 6 students from Ludlow. It is not the town’s job to give \$75,000 to 6 students. Where will it stop. We have supported them with little or no rent. There has to be a cut-off.
- Y. Sharon Bixby asked what a \$.01 increase in the tax rate would be.
- Z. Ulla Cook said \$150,000.
- AA. Pat Pullinen said we are talking about the future.

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- BB. Earl Washburn said that we have a proud history and the school closed, but we didn't want it to close.
- CC. Don Lagro said we have 2 choices: the students can go to Green Mountain or Mill River. Ludlow School belonged to Ludlow before the state took over and the state wants to dictate. We gave them the armory and they were supposed to give it back.
- DD. George Abraham asked if the school is less important than the purchase of a truck.
- EE. Otis Nelson said we pay TRSU \$20,000 tuition per student, \$75,000 is not that much.
- FF. Bruce Schmidt called the question.
- GG. Newton Rose ended the discussion. He said that to end the discussion, we must have a vote of 2/3 in favor.
- HH. Newton Rose called for a vote and the ayes have it. Debate ended.
- II. Newton Rose called for a vote on Article 11 and the ayes have it.
- JJ. Article 11 is adopted.
13. **REVIEW & DISCUSS ARTICLE 12 – To transact any other business necessary and proper when met. Voters to discuss whether to consider allowing optional delivery methods of the Annual Town Report**
- A. **MOTION by Otis Nelson and seconded by Chris Miele to adopt Article 12.**
- B. Newton Rose called for a vote, the ayes have it.
- C. Article 12 is adopted.
- D. Chris Miele said this is what matters, it is hard to find people to work for the town and thanked all of the public officials.
- E. Otis Nelson advised that the VPA has recognized Bruce Stryhas as an outstanding three-sport student-athlete for Black River High School class of 1962. Stryhas played soccer, was a great pitcher and hitter in baseball, and really shined on the basketball court. He was Black River's first player to score over 1,000 career points. Otis noted that Bruce Stryhas has also provided long term rentals for the town.
- F. Gary Blodgett advised that one time Ludlow student – Jake D'Arruda recently was a 3-day champion on JEOPARDY.
- G. Paul Alcorn noted that there are 3 Select Board seats that will be voted on tomorrow and he doesn't have any idea who they are. We need a better way to know who the elected officials are.
- H. Newton Rose said that Town Meetings cannot be used for campaigning. Scott Baitz, Bob Brandt, Justin Hyjek and George Tucker, Jr. stood up.
- I. Bruce Schmidt thanked his family and the town for their support of him. He also acknowledged Howard Barton, Jr. for the guidance he provided to him. In response to warnings of meetings, they are all posted on the town, post office bulletin boards. He said we do need to get more people involved. He thanked Phil Carter for his years of service and involvement in the town. He advised that Scott Murphy is leaving and thanked Scott for his service and leadership. Bruce said we got a lot of projects done.
- J. Earl Washburn said that the Schmidt family has a long history of service to the town and thanked Bruce Schmidt. He also thanked Scott Murphy for his service to the town.
- K. Bruce Schmidt asked for comments regarding sending out copies of the town report. He said 100 get returned. He said the cost is about \$4,000.

- L. Peter Girouard advised that the State of Vermont is going to add \$.70/gallon to fuel oil, propane and diesel.
- M. Andrea Goldman said if we can save money by not sending out copies of the annual report, we must make sure that people know that they are available and send them to those who request them – possibly notify by postcard.
- N. Don Lagro said he would like to see them continue to be sent to homes.

14. **ADJOURN**

- A. **MOTION by Sharon Bixby and seconded by Peter Girouard to adjourn.**
- B. Newton Rose adjourned the meeting at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisha Klaiber

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Bruce Schmidt, Chairman

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Justin Hyjek

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Scott Baitz

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Brett Sanderson

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Bob Brandt

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Ulla Cook, Town Clerk

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Jean Strong, BCA Chair

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Newton Rose, Town Moderator

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**State of Vermont**

**House of Representatives**

**Montpelier, Vermont**

**Concurrent House Resolution**

**H.C.R. 43**

House concurrent resolution honoring Ludlow Selectboard Chair Bruce Schmidt for his distinguished civic leadership

Offered by: Representative Nicoll of Ludlow

Offered by: Senators Clarkson, McCormack, and White

Whereas, Ludlow native Bruce Schmidt has devoted his life to the betterment of his hometown, and

Whereas, Bruce Schmidt graduated from Black River High School and proved his mettle as a conscientious and consistently reliable employee during a 38-year career at the Okemo Mountain Resort, beginning at the entry-level and rising to the position of general manager, and

Whereas, prior to graduating from high school, Bruce Schmidt started serving the Town of Ludlow as a cemetery employee, and, since 2019, he has served on the cemetery commission, and

Whereas, public education is a topic of great concern for Bruce Schmidt, and, for many years, he was a member of the board of Black River High School, and, for much of that time, he served ably as the chair of the panel, and

Whereas, since 2002, Bruce Schmidt has sat on the Ludlow Selectboard, participating in municipal governance decisions that impact a broad spectrum of public life, and

Whereas, since 2018, he has been privileged to serve as chair of the selectboard, and

Whereas, in 2023, this much-respected community leader in the Town of Ludlow will not be standing for reelection to the selectboard, concluding an exemplary tenure of 21 years, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Ludlow Selectboard Chair Bruce Schmidt for his distinguished civic leadership, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Bruce Schmidt.

**State of Vermont**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Montpelier, Vermont**  
**Concurrent House Resolution**  
**H.C.R. 44**

House concurrent resolution honoring Philip Carter for his exemplary community service in the Town of Ludlow

Offered by: Representative Nicoll of Ludlow

Whereas, Phil Carter has lived in the Town of Ludlow for 48 eventful years, serving the town in many capacities and always looking to be of assistance, and

Whereas, gardening and landscaping are special passions of Phil Carter, and he is known as both a master gardener and master composter at the Ludlow Community Garden, and

Whereas, his interest in beautiful landscapes also prompted a related concern for comprehensive town planning, the proper application of local zoning ordinances, and the thoughtful approval of proposed new construction projects, and

Whereas, these concerns resulted in his service for 37 years on the Ludlow Development Review Board, which he currently chairs, and

Whereas, his involvement with many community activities broadened his

exposure to a variety of municipal issues, prompting him to stand successfully for election to the selectboard, on which he served for three years, including as chair, and

Whereas, the Town of Ludlow has frequently availed itself of the numerous talents of Phil Carter, a citizen always ready to answer the call to duty, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Philip Carter for his exemplary community service in the Town of Ludlow, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Phil Carter.