

PRELIMINARY MINUTES

**VILLAGE OF LUDLOW
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

SPECIAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2024

5:00 PM

HEALD AUDITORIUM

Meeting ID: 437 305 4865

Passcode: 138977

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

Bob Brandt, Chairman

Julie Nicoll

TRUSTEES ABSENT:

Justin Hyjek

STAFF:

Brendan McNamara

OTHERS PRESENT:

Scott Baitz

Kathy Grant

Melissa Rockhill

Alan Couch

Michael Normyle

George Tucker, Jr.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

- A. Bob Brandt called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. All members present. He led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Consideration of any Changes, Additions or Removals to the Agenda

- A. There were none.

3. DISCUSS APPROPRIATION OF ARPA FUNDS

- A. Brendan McNamara explained that this is the second meeting for public input for the use of the ARPA funds and we had received some good input. He said that sidewalks and recreation were

brought up by the public. He said that the Village had received \$232,936.04 in ARPA funds. We must commit to the appropriation of these funds by December 31, 2024 and funds must be totally expenses by December 31, 2026. He said that by the end of May, he will put together a proposal of projects that he will present to the Trustees at their June meeting. He said they may appropriate some funds to Recreation and put it, together with some funds in the Recreation budget for 1 to 3 year projects. We may touch on all suggestions and put some funds to each. He added that he has already discussed the suggestions with the respective Department Heads. He said that the Trustees will make the decisions for use of the funds.

- B. Julie Nicoll said that she has spoken with Nick Miele and he said that the repairs for the playground at Dorsey would run to about \$130,000 and that he is not ready to do that this year, but will be by the end of 2026.
- C. Michael Normyle said that he has spoken to Ulla Cook and since 2005, they have spent \$30,100 on the tennis courts at Dorsey – in 2016, they recoated them and in 2022, they pressure washed and repaired cracks. He said that he has reached out to Springfield Paving, Vermont Tennis Courts, Wilk and Lawrence and Advantage. He said that he is volunteering to help the town manager and Recreation department in developing a scope of work for repairs of the tennis courts. He said that the Recreation Manager does not play tennis. He said that he has taken and sent pictures of the tennis courts to the contractors. He said that he is not sure that he will have a preliminary scope in 2 to 3 weeks.
- D. Brendan McNamara said the tennis courts are vital, but bigger than ARPA. We can allocate some of the ARPA funds to the tennis courts and work with the recreation department on this. He said that the Vermont Community Foundation wants to help with funds for projects that are not FEMA related. They may be able to help with the tennis courts. BUT, if we use some of the ARPA funds for the tennis courts, they will not donate. He said he does not know – at this point – what FEMA will give us for the damages at the tennis courts. If we were to get more from the Community funds, we would not use ARPA funds for them.
- E. Michael Normyle said that we need to find the good, better, best possibility. He said VT. Buildings and General Services has a history of projects since 2023 – and would be a matching grant. He said he will help in any way possible.
- F. Brendan McNamara said that they have had some productive conversations this past week.
- G. Scott Baitz said that Nick Miele can use the help. He said that the Recreation Committee looked at less expenses for the playground.
- H. Julie Nicoll said she has specifically asked Nick Miele about the playground.
- I. Scott Baitz said there was a lot of support for sidewalk repair. He said we only put \$15,000 per year into the Trustees’ budget for sidewalks. He said that is barely enough for upkeep. He said we could use half of the ARPA funds on sidewalk.
- J. Brendan McNamara said that sidewalks are crucial. If we use \$100,000 for sidewalks, that would leave \$132,000 for other projects. He said that would include Pleasant Street culvert and that will have to be done this year, with or without ARPA funds.
- K. Scott Baitz said he would not feel right putting \$130,000 into the playground.
- L. George Tucker, Jr. asked about the Village portion of the Access Road and if Brendan McNamara had heard anything about the grant.
- M. Brendan McNamara said he had received a very promising email about it today.
- N. Bob Brandt suggested touching base with Ron Tarbell about how much money to put into the Access Road.
- O. Brendan McNamara said they have started the work and $\frac{3}{4}$ of the Access Road is in the Town.
- P. Alan Couch said we got a measly amount from ARPA and they said that the allocation was based on population. The state got \$2.7 billion and the Town and Village should have gotten millions. We need to spend the money on something that won’t cost more. He said that Parks

and Recreation are awesome. We should not spend it on infrastructure – that should be part of the budget. We need to be more proactive in creating our budgets. He agrees with Dorsey, Mountain Bike trails and the Dog Park. He suggested AEDs for restaurants and stores – items that are not part of the budgets. He suggested masks and Tyvek suits, rubber gloves –things for the Emergency Management Plan that right now is only numbers - Life Safety. He likes using it on Recreation. We have been reactive and should be proactive. We need to do something that makes us feel good – donate money to the Garden Club for plants for the bridges.

Q. Melissa Rockhill said that water/wastewater has been an issue in the village and there was a list of 37 projects in 2021. Did we receive grants for any of them? She suggested using ARPA funds for that.

4. Other Business

A. There was none

5. Adjourn

A. **MOTION by Julie Nicoll and seconded by Bob Brandt to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.**

B. Meeting adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisha Klaiber

Bob Brandt, Chairman of Trustees

Julie Nicoll

Justin Hyjek, Vice Chair