

PRELIMINARY MINUTES

**VILLAGE OF LUDLOW
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

VILLAGE ANNUAL MEETING

MONDAY MARCH 26, 2024

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

Bob Brandt, Chairman

Justin Hyjek

Earl Washburn

STAFF:

Ulla Cook

Brendan McNamara

MODERATOR:

Newton Rose

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ron Bixby

Kathleen Grant

Virginia Snyder

Sharon Bixby

Lorraine Hughes

Jean Strong

Michelle Brandt

Julie Nicoll

Alice Thayne

Alan Couch

David Rose

Terry Thayne

1. **Call To Order**

- A. Moderator Newton Rose called the Public Informational Meeting for the Village of Ludlow to order at 7:00 p.m. He asked for a moment of silence in respect of the passing of two men who has served the Town and Village of Ludlow for many years: Howard Barton, Sr. and Herb Van Guilder. He said that Mr. Barton had been the Superintendent of Ludlow Electric and Mr. Van Guilder had been Village moderator and served on several boards. He said that if there are any non-residents of the Village and noted that they are not eligible to vote. He said he will read each article and ask for a motion and second. After the motion is made and seconded, there will be discussion. They will be following Roberts Rules of Order (as modified by the State of Vermont.) No decisions may be made on any item not previously duly warned. Once an Article has been voted on, we may not go back and discuss it again. He said that Mr. McNamara may participate.

2. **Review & Discuss Article 1: To elect Village Officers for the ensuing year.**

- B. Newton Rose advised that voting by paper ballot, as indicated on pages 8 and 9 of the Village Report.
- C. Newton Rose noted that there were no questions or comments.

3. **Review & Discuss Article 2: Shall the voters of the Village of Ludlow fix the salaries of the Village Trustees, Water Commission and Village Clerk the same as last year, Village Trustees \$1,000.00; Water Commission \$1,000.00, Village Clerk \$1,000.00?**

- A. **MOTION by David Rose and seconded by Alan Couch to approve forward with Article 2.**
- B. David Rose said this has been discussed before, but when was the last time the salaries for these positions had been increased.
- C. Earl Washburn said he does not remember.

-
- D. Newton Rose noted that it is possible to make an amendment to this article.
- E. **MOTION by Alan Couch and seconded by David Rose to amend this motion by increasing the salaries of the Village Trustees to \$2,000, the Water Commissioners and Village Clerk to \$1,500.00 each.**
- F. Newton Rose said they will first vote on the amendment to increase the salaries of the Village Trustees to \$2,000, the Water Commissioners and Village Clerk to \$1,500.00 each. He noted that there were no comments.
- G. **THE MOTION WAS VOTED AND THE AMENDMENT WAS PASSED.**
- H. Newton Rose asked for comments on the main article and noting that there were none, called for a vote.
- I. **THE MOTION WAS VOTED AND THE ARTICLE WAS PASSED AS AMENDED.**
4. **Review & Discuss Article 3: Shall the voters of the Village of Ludlow authorize the Board of Trustees to borrow money in anticipation of taxes or other income to meet the expenses of the Village and any part of its indebtedness?**
- A. **MOTION to accept Article 3 by Sharon Bixby and seconded by Kathleen Grant.**
- B. Alan Couch noted that in Article 5, they will be voting on an amount per the budget. If they go over the budget, this article allows the trustees to borrow money. But this would then be more money than what we voted on for the budget. So, the Trustees would be borrowing above and beyond the budget.
- C. Brendan McNamara said this article is for unexpected events such as the recent flood and allows the Trustees to handle those unexpected expenses.
- D. Alan Couch said that this would allow them the meet expenditures above the budget.
- E. Justin Hyjek said it would be used for emergency situations, infrastructure and unexpected vehicle expense.
- F. Newton Rose noted that there were no further comments and called for a vote.
- G. **THE MOTION WAS VOTED AND THE ARTICLE WAS PASSED.**
5. **Review & Discuss Article 4: Shall the Village of Ludlow collect taxes on Real Property in installments, taxes to be paid to the Town Treasurer on August 15, 2024, November 15, 2024, February 15, 2024 and May 16, 2024, and must be delivered to the Town Treasurer and postmarked on or before the due date?**
- A. **MOTION by Alan Couch and seconded by Julie Nicoll to approve Article 4.**
- B. Justin Hyjek noted that the dates as posted for February and May should read 2025.
- C. **MOTION by Justin Hyjek and seconded by Sharon Bixby to amend Article 4 to read:**
Shall the Village of Ludlow collect taxes on Real Property in installments, taxes to be paid to the Town Treasurer on August 15, 2024, November 15, 2024, February 15, 2025 and May 16, 2025, and must be delivered to the Town Treasurer and postmarked on or before the due date?
- D. Newton Rose noted that there were no comments and called for a vote on the amendment.
- E. **THE MOTION WAS VOTED AND THE AMENDMENT WAS PASSED.**
- F. Newton Rose noted that there were no further comments and called for a vote on the main article
- G. **THE MOTION WAS VOTED AND THE ARTICLE WAS PASSED.**

-
6. **Review & Discuss Article 5:** *Shall the voters of the Village of Ludlow vote a specific amount in lieu of a rate on a dollar on the Grand List as set forth in the Board of Trustees' budget? Then the Trustees shall set the tax rate necessary to raise this amount after the Grand List has been completed and lodged in the office of the Village Clerk. The amount to be raised by taxes is \$390,375.00?*
- A. **MOTION by Ron Bixby and seconded by David Rose to approve Article 5.**
 - B. **MOTION by Sharon Bixby to raise the amount by the additional \$5,000 as approved for the increases in salaries in Article 2?**
 - C. Earl Washburn said that was not necessary, we are voting on the budget as presented. The additional monies will be automatically transferred.
 - D. Sharon Bixby rescinded her motion.
 - E. Newton Rose noted that there were no comments and called for a vote on Article 5.
 - F. **THE MOTION WAS VOTED AND THE ARTICLE WAS PASSED.**
7. **Review & Discuss Article 6:** *Shall the voters of the Village of Ludlow, pursuant to Title 24, Vermont State Annotated, Section 1682, allow for optional electronic delivery of the Annual Village Report?*
- A. **MOTION by Alan Couch and seconded by Lorraine Hughes to approve Article 6.**
 - B. David Rose asked if that meant they would no longer be printing copies.
 - C. Earl Washburn said no, this would be optional.
 - D. Justin Hyjek said people could opt in or opt out.
 - E. Brendan McNamara said that printed copies will be available and the report would also be available online.
 - F. Ginny Snyder asked if there is any way that they could limit the mailings to one copy per house. She said she gets more than one and it is a waste of money.
 - G. Brendan McNamara said they may be ways, but presently, we do not have the software to do that.
 - H. Justin Hyjek said that updating the voter rolls is huge.
 - I. Newton Rose noted that there were no further comments and called for a vote.
 - J. **THE MOTION WAS VOTED AND THE ARTICLE WAS PASSED.**
8. **Review & Discuss Article 7:** *To transact any other business necessary and proper when met.*
- A. Newton Rose said that no vote is necessary on this Article. He said that this is the portion of the meeting when people discuss things not on the agenda. These cannot be voted on. It is for discussion only.
 - B. Bob Brandt said he would like to thank Earl Washburn for his many years of service to the Town and Village of Ludlow.
 - C. David Rose noted that the Village has received about \$100,000 in ARPA funds. These funds must be used by a certain date. What are the plans for those funds?
 - D. Justin Hyjek said that the Trustees will be holding public meetings to get public comments for the use of the funds.
 - E. Brendan McNamara said one thing being considered is sidewalks.
 - F. Justin Hyjek added infrastructure.

- G. Brendan McNamara said at their next regular meeting, the trustees will set up dates for public meetings for use of ARPA funds.
- H. David Rose said the funds have to be allocated by December 31, 2024.
- I. Alan Couch said that he would like the Trustee to have conversations about a merger between the Town and Village. He said there are redundancies between the Town and Village.
- J. Justin Hyjek said the board is interested in how best to proceed. It is on the top of our agenda list.
- K. Brendan McNamara said that he had discussed this with Logan Nicoll and it has been down in other towns in the past. He said that he would like to start movement on this soon.
- L. David Rose said both the town and the village would have to vote on this.
- M. Brendan McNamara said the board would have to hold public hearings. There is a primary vote in August. He would like to see a vote on a possible merger in November.
- N. Sharon Bixby said that Ludlow Electric is a big part of this.
- O. Brendan McNamara said the town adopted a charter last year. The Village has an extensive charter that would have to be changed. The town would have to adopt parts of the Village charter. He said that the Electric Company has its own board of directors. He said that it would streamline things and eliminate the redundancies. He noted that in the July flood, we were unable to complete repaving of the full access road, because part of it is in the Village and the Village did not have the funds to pay for their portion.
- P. Ulla Cook advised at the end of the meeting that the results of the vote had been counted and were ready. She read the results. (See end of minutes)

9. **Adjourn**

- A. Newton Rose advised that they have gone through all of the Articles and asked for further comments. There were no further comments
- B. **MOTION to adjourn by Ron Bixby and seconded by David Rose. Motion passed unanimously.**
- C. Meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisha Klaiber

Newton Rose, Moderator

Ulla Cook, Village Clerk

BCA Member

2024 Village Voting Results - March 26, 2024

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u># VOTES</u>
MODERATOR	Newton J. Rose	48
TRUSTEE – 3 YEAR	Julie G. Nicoll	48
ELECTIC LIGHT COMMISSIONER – 2 YEAR (BALANCE OF 3 YEAR TERM)	Gary Peter Pollender II	44
ELECTRIC LIGHT COMMISSIONER – 3 YEAR	Sharon Barton Stark	43
WATER COMMISSIONER – 3 YEAR	Ronald Bixby	48