

PRELIMINARY MINUTES
VILLAGE OF LUDLOW
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
VILLAGE ANNUAL MEETING
MONDAY MARCH 28, 2023

Zoom Electronic Meeting:

Village of Ludlow Public Informational Meeting March 28st @ 7:00 pm

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83071074636?pwd=aUJiRFZQNzJBTUlmemJHUWNVZ3NhUT09>

Meeting ID: 830 7107 4636

Passcode: 344753

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

David Rose, Chairman

Bob Brandt

Earl Washburn

STAFF:

Ulla Cook

MODERATOR:

Newton Rose

OTHERS PRESENT:

Paul Alcorn

Theresa Carter (not Village Res.)

Jean Strong

Shodie Alcorn

Alan Couch

Alice Thayne

Ron Bixby

Julie Nicoll

Terry Thayne

Sharon Bixby

Brett Sanderson (Not Village Res.)

Okemo Valley TV

Michelle Brandt

Noah Schmidt

Lisha Klaiber, Recording Sec.

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 then introduced the head table: Earl Washburn, David Rose, Bob Brandt, and Ulla Cook. He asked 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. After Articles 1 through 4 have been voted on, Article is the time for other comments and discussions. Once an Article has been voted on, we may not go back and discuss it again.

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

- A. See attached results
B. 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 Alan Couch and seconded by Julie Nicoll to move forward with Article 2.**
- B. Alan Couch said he would like it on the record that the salaries posted for the Town and Village commissioners are duly earned. The Planning Commission members receive only \$25.00 per meeting attended. This needs to be addressed. Also, there is redundancy in the Town and Village governments and at least one person is on both the Select Board and the Trustees and possibly one more after tonight's votes are counted. One person should not have 2 votes.
- C. Newton Rose noted that there were no other questions or comments.
- D. **THE MOTION WAS VOTED AND THE ARTICLE WAS PASSED.**
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 Ron Bixby.**
- B. Newton Rose noted that there were no comments.
- C. **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, 2023, November 15, 2023, 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 Julie Nicoll and seconded by Alice Thayne to approve Article 4.**
- B. Newton Rose noted that there were no comments.
- C. **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 \$359,493.50?*
- A. **MOTION by Ron Bixby and seconded by Alan Couch to approve Article 5.**
- B. Newton Rose noted that there were no comments.
- C. **THE MOTION WAS VOTED AND THE ARTICLE WAS PASSED.**
7. **Review & Discuss Article 6:** *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. Alan Couch said that he would like to hear the opinions of each Trustee on a merger between the Town and Village. He said he will also put this before the Select Board down the road. He said there are redundancies between the Town and Village.
 - C. David Rose said he would not be opposed to looking into and studying the requirements. He said this was looked into about 20 years ago and they need to look at all of the options and the process. He said the Village has a charter that would have to be changed.
 - D. Earl Washburn said they tried to do this in 1968 and he was on the committee. They revisited it in the mid-1980s.
 - E. Bob Brandt said he has no problem with a merger, it would require a Town vote and a Village vote. He added that he is not serving on the boards for a job.
 - F. Alan Couch said it was turned down because the Village had water/sewer and trash pick-up, as well as the Electric Department. The Village no longer gets trash pick-up and the electric is billed separately. There is no compelling reason why the Town and Village should not merge. He is looking to this board to consider and work with the Select Board on this. He added that Bob Brandt now has 2 votes and he doesn't agree with that. Why is this town in the Dark Ages and not progressing and still has a Town and Village.
 - G. Earl Washburn said that Alan Couch is mistaken with some of his comments. He said that in 1968, we researched this, dotted all of the I's and crossed all of the T's. We did our homework and it was voted down.
 - H. Alan Couch said this is no longer 1968 and this is "your grandkids' time." Be proactive in creating something better for them. There is redundancy and no reason why the Town and Village should not merge. He would appreciate the board to move forward with this.
 - I. Sharon Bixby advised that she has served on the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee and said there may be funds available for electric vehicle charging stations. She suggested that the Village look into this for possibly the Park and Ride by the Fire Station or the Municipal Lot by Brewfest.
 - J. David Rose said that Mr. McNamara may be familiar with this as Cavendish has one.

8. **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 Alan Couch. Motion passed unanimously.**
- C. Meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisha Klaiber

Newton Rose, Moderator

Ulla Cook, Village Clerk

BCA Member

2023 Village Voting Results - March 28, 2023

OFFICIAL RESULTS VILLAGE OF LUDLOW, VT March 28, 2023		
Number of Voters on Checklist	<u>630</u>	
Number Voted Absentee	<u>15</u>	
TOTAL VOTES CAST	<u>95</u>	
ARTICLE 1:		
FOR MODERATOR For 1 Year Vote for not more than ONE		
NEWTON J. ROSE	<input type="checkbox"/> 25	
Write In	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	Blanks <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 7
FOR TRUSTEE For 3 Years Vote for not more than ONE		
JUSTIN HYJEK	<input type="checkbox"/> 64	
DAVID ROSE	<input type="checkbox"/> 29	Blanks <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1
Write In	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	
FOR ELECTRIC LIGHT COMMISSIONER For 3 Years Vote for not more than ONE		
GEORGE DUNNETT	<input type="checkbox"/> 49	
EARL WASHBURN	<input type="checkbox"/> 44	Blanks <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1
Write In	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	
FOR WATER COMMISSIONER For 2 Years Vote for not more than ONE balance of three year term		
JACQUELINE GEER	<input type="checkbox"/> 78	Blanks <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1
Write In	<input type="checkbox"/>	
FOR WATER COMMISSIONER For 3 years Vote for not more than ONE		
DAVID ROSE	<input type="checkbox"/> 75	Blanks <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1
Write In	<input type="checkbox"/> 12	
<i>Richard C. [unclear]</i> <i>Thomas Donald Carter</i> <i>Michelle Brum et</i> <i>James S. Strong</i>		