

PRELIMINARY MINUTES

**VILLAGE OF LUDLOW
WATER COMMISSION**

REGULAR MEETING

5:00 PM

HOWARD BARTON, JR. CONFERENCE ROOM

Tuesday February 4, 2025

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

David Rose, Chairman Ron Bixby Jackie Cromwell

STAFF:

Brendan McNamara Joe Gaudiana

OTHERS PRESENT:

Troy Caruso

AGENDA

1. Call To Order
 - A. David Rose called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Consideration of any Changes, Additions or Removals to the Agenda
 - A. Brendan McNamara noted that no changes are needed.

3. Approve Minutes from Previous Meeting
 - A. David Rose noted that the minutes from January 7, 2024.
 - B. David Rose asked to clarify that in last month's department head report, that there was not a leak found on the Pine Hill line and no pipe was replaced.
 - C. **MOTION by Ron Bixby and seconded by Jackie Cromwell to approve the minutes from January 7, as presented. Motion passed unanimously.**

4. Comments from Citizens
 - A. Troy Caruso said that the water coming into the building is brown and is ruining the ice machines
 - B. Brendan McNamara asked if it is Off The Rails. He said the other restaurants, DJs, Killarney, Lil Mexico are not having the same problem
 - C. Troy Caruso said the Villages is also having the problem.
 - D. Joe Gaudiana suggested installing a whole building filter. He said it is iron in the water and they had tested the level (.13) and it was not a health risk.
 - E. Troy Caruso said it was .2 and .4 when Webb checked Sam's last year.

- F. Joe Gaudiana said the tanks will be cleaned this spring. He said that the iron settles out in certain places. He said that Lil Mexico had plain water
- G. Troy Caruso said his building is the next to last in the line and uses a Volume of water.
- H. Joe Gaudiana said they do use a lot of water and suggested again a whole building filter. He said the tanks do have sediment at the bottom and they will be cleaned in the spring
- I. Troy Caruso said they are going through a lot of filters
- J. Joe Gaudiana asked if those filters were individual pieces
- K. Troy Caruso said it is destroying the ice machines.
- L. Joe Gaudiana said the iron can hide in the pipes in town
- M. Troy Caruso said at the Villages they open the tap and let the water run. It was brown.
- N. David Rose asked if we can flush the line
- O. Joe Gaudiana said they have flushed it.
- P. David Rose said that he believes that a section of pipe was replaced by Off The Rails about 10-15 years ago.
- Q. Brendan McNamara said that last summer; they replaced the valve by the gazebo near The Villages motel.
- R. Troy Caruso asked what type of filter system
- S. Joe Gaudiana said the VT Department of Health has recommendations for calcium and iron. He gave Troy Caruso information. He said that he doubts that a reverse osmosis system would work. The whole build systems would work and Rob could do it or they could call a plumber
- T. Brendan McNamara said he will get the name of the person at the Water Department in Cavendish. He added that he lives in Cavendish and has filters in his house.
- U. Troy Caruso said if the brown is just ion, he will get filters
- V. Joe Gaudiana said he tested the water at Sam's and it was just iron, no bacteria
- W. Brendan McNamara said the filter would probably rectify the situation

5. Department Head Reports

- A. Brendan McNamara said that things are going well.
- B. David Rose asked that Joe Guadiana's report be added at the end of the minutes

6. Aged Receivables Report

- A. David Rose said it is about \$45,000 on the Water side, about as much as on the sewer side.
- B. Brendan McNamara said they set payment plans in place, but the amounts start to creep up again. We have started calling to remind people. FAILURE TO PAY ON TIME NULLIFIES THE PAYMENT PLAN is printed on the bills
- C. David Rose said it is the same few accounts

7. Water Allocation Requests/Possibly Approve

- A. 16 Bridge Street – Modern Venture Properties would like allocation for (3) 2 bedrooms units
 - i. Brendan McNamara said there are no issues and this will be a new building. It is across from Gasset's
 - ii. Bob Brandt asked if this will go to the DRB
 - iii. Brendan McNamara said yes.

- iv. **MOTION by Ron Bixby and seconded by Jackie Cromwell to approve the request for 16 Bridge Street for an allocation for (3) 2 bedrooms units. Motion passed unanimously.**

- B. 56 Pleasant Street – David Dziertmian has an allocation for 2 units: (1) 2-bedroom unit and (1) 3-bedroom unit. He would like to add 3 bedrooms to the 2-bedroom unit.
 - i. **MOTION by Ron Bixby and seconded by Jackie Cromwell to approve the request for 56 Pleasant Street for an allocation for 3 additional bedrooms to the 2-bedroom unit #1. Motion passed unanimously.**

- 8. Municipal Manager Updates
 - A. Iron Issue at Troy Caruso’s restaurant
 - i. Brendan McNamara advised that this is an ongoing issue. He complimented Joe Gaudiana and the department on their responsive actions.

 - B. Water Infrastructure Grant
 - i. Brendan McNamara advised that Cherry Nicoll is now handling grants for the town. He said that he will get together with Cherry in the next 2 days and look at which grants would best serve our needs. He said there is \$58,000 in the Capital fund. He said that we are getting back in line for the state funding priority list for the Pleasant Street Ext/Lower High Street project.
 - ii.

 - C. Spring House Repairs
 - i. Brendan McNamara said they will be looking at wasted space and the aging of the building. This is a priority

 - D. Town and Village Merger
 - i. Brendan McNamara said that by the end of the week, they will have the final proposed charter for the merger. We will be holding public hearing for all boards and hopefully vote on it at the Village meeting.
 - ii. David Rose asked there will be a Village vote and a Town vote
 - iii. Brendan McNamara said yes. He said if it passes, the Trustees will be gone. We will have one board for Water and Sewer; he said most towns have 5 members.

- 9. Other Business
 - A. Plumley Avenue
 - i. Brendan McNamara said the work is in process. We have FEMA funding for this. He said there is an alternate project consisting of doing away with the flood damaged Clark Drive Bridge and get a right of way off the end of Plumley Avenue to access Clark Drive. He said that to put the bridge back would be an incredibly expensive project. He said that detours for trucks during construction would be 60 miles. Do we want to run a water line out Plumley - there are only 2 houses on Clark, but more on Plumley?

 - B. Affordable Housing on Rublee Lane Water Project
 - i. David Rose asked about this

- ii. Brendan McNamara said we did talk to them, but we have not heard back, the ball is in their court
- C. Budget
 - i. David Rose asked about getting a copy
 - ii. Brendan McNamara said he will be sending it out. It is pretty straightforward. We will have a brief, separate meeting to discuss it
- 10. Set Date for Next Meeting -
 - A. March 4, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.
 - B. David Rose said he will not be there
- 11. Possible Agenda Items for Next Meeting
 - A. David Rose said Town meeting
- 12. Sign Warrant Orders
 - A. Orders have been signed
- 13. Possible Executive Session – Personnel/Contracts/Legal Issues
 - A. None is needed
- 14. Adjourn
 - A. **MOTION by Jackie Cromwell and seconded by Ron Bixby to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.**
 - B. Meeting adjourned at 5:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisha Klaiber
Recording Secretary

David Rose, Chairman

Ron Bixby, Vice Chair

Jackie Cromwell, Clerk

Ludlow Village Water Department

Monthly Report for January, 2025

- The Village water treatment facility and water distribution system are working as they should.
- The springs produced 14.2 million gallons of water this January and the Town and Village used 7.1 million gallons.
- Our Altitude Valve and Godfrey Tank valve are both working properly.
- 47 and 49 Andover Street had frozen water lines on Thursday, the 23rd. We called Gurney Brothers and they came out with their thaw tube and thawed the service lines.
- We were concerned when a map of uranium deposits in Vermont was brought to our attention. (PLEASE SEE ATTACHED MAP). The map indicates that the entire Okemo Mountain is a uranium deposit and our watershed is just outside of that area. We took it upon ourselves to have the village water tested for uranium at the source and we are pleased to discover that the results came back at less than one part per billion, or "NON-DETECT".
- We continue flushing the blow-off on Deeplawn Court Extension every week.
- We continue to flush our back-up well weekly to make sure it's running as it should.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Gaudiana – Ludlow Water Dept