

## MINUTES

### VILLAGE OF LUDLOW WATER COMMISSION

**Regular Meeting**  
**Tuesday, June 3, 2014**  
**5:00 pm**

**Board Present:**

David Rose, Robert Gilmore

**Staff Present:**

Frank Heald, Loran Greenslet

**Others Present:**

Scott Matthews & Carl Crawford from Otter Creek Engineering  
Patrick Prendergast (via telephone)

**Call to Order:**

David Rose called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

**Approve Minutes:**

- a. MOTION by Robert Gilmore and seconded by David Rose to approve the minutes from May 6, 2014. All in favor and the motion passed.

**Comments from Citizens:**

- a. None present.

**Continue Discussion Regarding Andover Street Water Issues:**

- a. David Rose said they received a request from Patrick Prendergast of 42 Andover Street to address the Water Commission.
- b. Frank Heald said Mr. Prendergast asked for an opportunity to speak at the meeting but was unable to be present. Frank said Mr. Prendergast had sent a correspondence with questions and asked if the Water Commission would give him the opportunity to address the board.
- c. At 5:10 pm Patrick Prendergast joined the meeting via telephone.
- d. Frank Heald greeted Mr. Prendergast and told him that present at the meeting were Water Commissioners David Rose, Robert Gilmore, Chief Water Operator Loran Greenslet, Otter Creek Engineers Scott Matthews and Carl Crawford and Pam Cruickshank, who is recording the minutes of meeting.
- e. Patrick Prendergast asked if a copy of his email was distributed and if the Commission was aware of what he wanted to articulate.
- f. David Rose and Robert Gilmore both said yes.
- g. Patrick Prendergast asked if there were a total of seven houses on the eastern side of Andover Street were affected.
- h. Frank Heald said only five houses on the eastern side and none on the western side.

- i. Patrick Prendergast questioned the probability of five houses freezing on one side and none on the other side and asked if there was a reason this occurred.
- j. Frank Heald said we feel it was one of the coldest winters we have experienced in a period of time and this was an anomaly.
- k. Patrick Prendergast asked if the board had consulted with a 3<sup>rd</sup> party expert.
- l. Frank Heald said they have not.
- m. Patrick Prendergast whose decision it was to not take any further action.
- n. Frank Heald said it was the Water Commission.
- o. Patrick Prendergast asked why nothing had been done to investigate if it needed to be buried deeper.
- p. Frank Heald said he does not speak for the Water Commission but at this point they need to spend more time to continue the discussion.
- q. David Rose said that in looking at the issue the pipe has been in the ground for four years, so they are still evaluating it.
- r. Patrick Prendergast said it was fair if they were still evaluating, but wondered if anything was fundamentally wrong and questioned if it was a coincidence that just one side of the street was affected.
- s. Frank Heald said they feel it was an anomaly based on this past winter, but they have not closed the door on anything.
- t. Patrick Prendergast said they have answered his questions and asked about metering water in the future.
- u. Patrick Prendergast thanked the Water Commission.
- v. The phone call with Mr. Prendergast ended at 5:18 pm.
- w. David Rose said we experienced one of the coldest winters we have had in many years.
- x. Robert Gilmore asked if he was part of the forgiveness of the cost.
- y. Frank Heald said they did reimburse him for the cost of the thawing and he has installed a bypass, as many other residences in the Village have done.
- z. Scott Matthews said this is really a wait and see because Mr. Prendergast now has a bypass installed on his system. He said if the Village goes to metering they can put the bypass on the other side of the line so there will be no cost to let the water flow.
- aa. Robert Gilmore said he was in favor to wait and keep an eye on it.
- bb. Frank Heald said the downside is the time factor for errors and omissions if design and/or construction was faulty.
- cc. Loran Greenslet said a line tracer could be used to measure the depth fairly well, but you would need to know exactly where the water line and storm drain is located.
- dd. Scott Matthews said it is the contractor's responsibility to put in the lines as designed and to do it as per the plan. He said resident engineers are on the project checking to see it is done.
- ee. Robert Gilmore asked if Otter Creek was present when the pipe was laid.
- ff. Scott Matthews said yes and engineer was there and he was also present at the job. Scott said he kept notes on the project as they went along and gave an example that at one location on August 17<sup>th</sup> Otter Creek made Markowski re-lay pipe to 5' 6".
- gg. Carl Crawford said Otter Creek has a long standing relationship with the Village of Ludlow and wants to keep it that way. He said if we did anything wrong we will stand behind it, but said he does not feel we have done anything wrong and won't fall on his sword for a maybe.
- hh. Robert Gilmore asked if it would be prudent to defer for another year.

- ii. Frank Heald said they have several paths they can follow including putting a tracer on the lines to see if anything is wildly out of line or wait for a winter or two and keep in mind that if meters are installed they can be placed on the other side of the drip.
- jj. David Rose and Robert Gilmore said they were comfortable with this position.
- kk. Robert Gilmore said to give the tracer a try.
- ll. Frank Heald said his suspicion is that Mother Nature is very fickle.
- mm. Carl Crawford suggested contacting Vermont Rural Water as they may do it at no cost.
- nn. Frank Heald said they will send a letter to Mr. Prendergast and discuss it further at their next meeting.
- oo. Loran Greenslet said he would let Scott Matthews and Carl Crawford know what they have worked out.
- pp. Frank Heald thanked Scott Matthews and Carl Crawford for attending the meeting.
- qq. David Rose asked if there were any other issues with water freezing in the Village this winter.
- rr. Loran Greenslet said one house on High Street, one on Main Street and one on Terrace Avenue. He said many of the residences have already installed bypasses. Loran said that #70 has been frozen before.

**Other Business:**

- a. None.

**Set Date for Next Meeting:**

- a. Next meeting has been scheduled on Tuesday, July 1, 2014 at 5:00 pm.

**Adjourn:**

- a. MOTION to adjourn by Robert Gilmore and seconded by David Rose. All in favor and the motion passed.
- b. Meeting was adjourned at 5:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Cruickshank  
Recording Secretary

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David Rose, Chairman

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Robert Gilmore

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Ronald Bixby