

PRELIMINARY MINUTES

**VILLAGE OF LUDLOW
WATER COMMISSION**

**Regular Meeting
Tuesday, May 3, 2016**

Board Present:

David Rose, Robert Gilmore

Staff Present:

Frank Heald, Chuck Craig

Call to Order:

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

Approve Minutes:

- a. MOTION by Robert Gilmore and seconded by David Rose to accept the minutes from April 5, 2016. All in favor and the motion passed.

Comments from Citizens:

- a. None present.

Continue Discussion on Water Turbidity Issues:

- a. Frank Heald said that Ron Bixby was unable to make tonight's meeting and that the board will continue to monitor the concerns.

Consider Water Rate Increase:

- a. Frank Heald said that periodically we need to look ahead to see what we are able to put into the water fund.
- b. David Rose said the water commission raised the rates last year by 15% just to cover it.
- c. Frank Heald said \$19,000 was put into depreciation so we broke even. He added there is currently \$250,000 in the water fund.
- d. David Rose asked if we are able to put any monies into the water fund.
- e. Frank Heald said in the past we were able to put \$50,000 into the fund annually, which funded the increased costs for the transmission line and water tanks for the last big project.
- f. Frank Heald reported that without the water rate increase FY2016 would have seen an \$11,000 shortfall. He said he anticipates putting \$50,000 into the water fund in the next 15 months.
- g. David Rose and Robert Gilmore agreed to keep the current rates and take another look in the fall.

Update on Water/Wastewater Planning Project:

- a. Frank Heald said he will be attending a Rural Water meeting tomorrow and will be talking with the engineer.
- b. David Rose asked if the fees were lump sum or how the project was structured.
- c. Frank Heald said the fees are included in the Rural Development Grant for the final engineering. Frank added that the High Street project is estimated at \$625,000.
- d. David Rose said the project may come in less.
- e. Frank Heald said there are several areas to consider that he will also be discussing with the Village Trustees later tonight. Those projects include High Street, a study on the Okemo Mountain Road, areas between two siphons along the Black River and a spot on Meadow Street. The said Otter Creek is also involved.
- f. Frank Heald reported that the firm of Aldrich & Elliot is doing a total review of the Wastewater Treatment Facility. He said some of the infrastructure is original so we need to look at the whole picture with the plant and other projects over the next several years.
- g. Chuck Craig added that if we aren't looking ahead, we will start falling behind.
- h. Frank Heald said we should be "shovel ready" again when funds become available. He said by July we can begin to talk about the \$50,000-\$60,000 needed for a \$5,000,000 project.
- i. Chuck Craig said if the plans are on the shelf, the funds will come easier.

Other Business:

- a. Frank Heald reported that during the fire on Andover Street they used 40,000 – 50,000 gallons of water and when the water tanks were checked, they did not see a dip.
- b. Chuck Craig said it only shortened the cycle of the altitude valve.

- c. David Rose asked when the consumer confidence reports will be posted to the website.
- d. Pam Cruickshank said sometime soon because the report is almost finished and ready for print.
- e. Chuck Craig said he would like to extend his thanks to the Municipal Office staff for their help and for assisting on the Source Protection Plan, He said we do this in-house with templates supplied by the state. The plan is then lodged with the state.
- f. Robert Gilmore asked if there was a low level of lead.
- g. Chuck Craig said it is well below the level.
- h. Robert Gilmore stated that we have a great water system.

Set Date for Next Meeting:

- a. Next meeting has been scheduled on Tuesday, May 3, 2016 at 5:00 pm.

Possible Executive Session Personnel/Contracts/Legal:

- a. None needed.

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 5:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Cruickshank
Recording Secretary

David Rose, Chairman

Robert Gilmore

Ronald Bixby