

VILLAGE OF LUDLOW ELECIC LIGHT DEPARTMENT
 COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES
 Thursday July 27th, 2023,
 4:30 P.M. BUSINESS OFFICE, 9 POND STREET

Present Commissioners: Chairman; Nicholas Baitz, Vice Chair; Robert Brandt, Clerk, George Dunnett
 Foreman: Brian Benoit
 Department Manager: Thomas Petraska

OTHERS PRESENT:

Colleen Barton	Nick Gilberti	Carroll Sanderson
Shannon Barton Stark	Jay Jurkoic	Tom Sheldon
Deana Blanchard	Brendan McNamara	Ryan Silvestri
Gary Blanchard	John Neal	Steve Starinok
Troy Caruso	Shannon Paul	Jean Strong
Kenneth Casey Crompton	Doug Peabody	George Thomson
April Dunich	Brett Sanderson	

Commissioner Baitz called the meeting to order at 4:32 PM.

Comments from Ratepayers: There were 20 people who attended the meeting. A few made comments. The most comments that were heard were about the Light Department not being competitive in wages and they expressed the concern of losing good help. There were concerns that the department did not have job descriptions for all positions. There were concerns on the process that VPPSA used in selecting the AMI vendor.

Consideration of any additions, deletions, changes to the agenda: There were no changes to the agenda.

Act on Minutes of June 27th, 2023, meeting and Special Meeting of July 6th, 2023. Commissioner Brandt made a motion to approve as written. The motion was second by Commissioner Baitz and voted in favor 3-0 to approve.

FOREMAN'S REPORT:

Foreman's report was given by Brian Benoit. He updated the Commissioners which included, but not limited to:

JULY 2023

St. Light Maint.	0
Meter Reading	Under way meter reading is going slow this month.
Substation Maint.	Monthly Checks
Urd Locates	24 URD LOCATES
Line Maint.	
Services	Multiple service upgrades
Service cover ups	Multiple service covers
Line Construction	0
Line Trimming	0
Safety Meeting	Mater safety
Banner	Disaster Relief
Vehicle Maint.	

Storm damage is ongoing, we are finding more metering issues moving forward. Working on them, this has been a great team effort between the office staff and the outside. GMP is moving along with the line to Southface Village.

We are working on a new fire retardant clothing plan.

DEPARTMENT MANAGER'S REPORT:

Tom Petraska Department Manager updated the Commissioners which included, but not limited to:

Manager's Report July 27, 2023

The monthly meeting was changed to 4th Thursday of the month by a request from Chairman Baitz. This was done to enable the Light Department to have time to prepare prior month and year to date financial statements. And to complete the closing of the prior months books we need the power purchasing invoice to be in hand. The power invoice is created by our power purchasing agent VPPSA. The invoice from VPPSA for June power purchases was received yesterday afternoon. We were able to prepare draft financial statements yesterday and present them to the board for review.

Some key points on the departments year to date financial statement will follow:

Total revenue for this year to date as of 6/30/23 is \$240k less than last year at this time.

This is due mainly to Okemo not making snow in March as they did in 2022.

As a result of this the department is showing a 114k greater loss at this time over last year.

With that being said The Light Department needs a great ski season in November and December to recover before year end.

Update on our rate case with the PUC:

On July 14th we responded to the second round of questions from the Public Service Board.

The next step in the process is for the Public Service Department to provide pre filed testimony to PUC by 8/4/2023. After the filing the testimony will be public knowledge and LELD can submit questions.

Update on AMI: VPPSA is expected to have the Aclara contract signed before the Board meeting next week. At that point VPPSA will be asking for initial meter quantities to place an order and scheduling workshops to design the meters. Meanwhile VPPSA will be working to finalize the DPS grant and gain PUC approval.

Update on Magris Solar Project:

MHG solar is the company developing the solar array. I reached out to them for an update on the project. Thomas Hand reached out to me yesterday and filled me in on where the project is: They have completed some of the environmental studies and no major issues have been uncovered. The lease is the major hold up. And waiting on the Magris legal team. They have two layers of lawyers and it's been a very slow process. But the project is moving forward.

Update on electrification of Okemo's compressors to make snow:

Okemo has decided to move forward with this project. The Department with our electrical engineer and Okemo has been having ongoing meetings to get this project off the ground. Okemo is in the process of purchasing three 1500 horsepower electric compressors and the Light Department is in the process of purchasing the transformers for the project. The proposed completion date is the 24-25 ski season.

Update on GIS:

VPPSA has been trying to develop the GIS system for all members. The project started back in 2020.

VPPSA has struggled with many aspects of the project. Recently and most importantly the key developer has left the company. The project appears to be 50% completed. LELD has paid VPPSA more than 75k to date on this project. The monthly fee going forward is \$2700 per month.

Our Billing and Financial software NISC (National Information Solutions Cooperative, Inc.) that we currently use has its own GIS platform. This GIS platform is totally integrated with the billing and work order system. The cost of the NISC GIS platform is a onetime fee \$30K and \$725 per month which is for license fee, training, and software support.

My recommendation is LELD opt out of VPPSA GIS project and adopt NISC GIS program going forward.

I would like to express my gratitude to all the Light Department staff for the hard work they have done through this time of flood destruction and disaster.

Commissioner Brandt made a motion to opt out of VPPSA GIS project and adopt NISC GIS program.

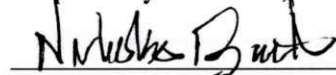
Commissioner Baitz seconded the motion, and it was voted 3-0 in favor.

At 6:15PM the motion was made by Commissioner Baitz to enter Executive Session to discuss emergency issues regarding flooding. Commissioner Brandt seconded the motion, and it was voted unanimously in favor 3-0 to enter Executive Session. At 6:18 it was voted 3-0 to exit executive session.

Adjournment

Commissioner Brandt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:19 PM Second by Commissioner Baitz. Voted 3-0 in favor.

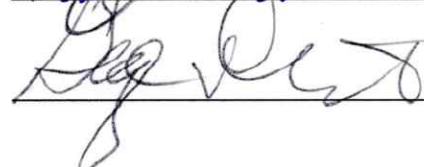
Respectfully submitted,



Nicholas Baitz, Chairman



Robert Brandt, Vice Chair



George Dunnett, Clerk

Village of Ludlow Electric Light Dept.

Board of Commissioners

Special Meeting

Thursday, July 6, 2023 at 4:30 pm

Business Office – 9 Pond St.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bob Brandt
Nick Baitz

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

George Dunnett

STAFF PRESENT:

Calvin Roby
Brett Sanderson

OTHERS PRESENT:

Sharon Barton
Marcia Moore
Tom Sheldon
Jean Strong

Glenn Heitsmith
Judy Rabtoy
Steve Starkinok
Mark Szyluk

Brendan McNamara
Carroll Sanderson
Dave Steeves
Ryan Wardell

1. CALL TO ORDER

- a. Nick Baitz called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a. **MOTION by Nick Baitz to go into executive session to preserve attorney-client privilege and seconded by Bob Brandt. Motion passed unanimously.**
- b. **MOTION by Bob Brandt and seconded by Nick Baitz to come out of executive session at 5:10 pm. Motion passed unanimously.**

3. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

- a. Jean Strong asked where are the minutes posted for the Electric Light meetings. Bob Brandt said that he believed on the website, but that he would check on that.
- b. Glenn Heitsmith said that Ludlow Electric has been great and that the longest he had ever been without power was for 45 minutes.
- c. Shannon Barton asked what does the Charter say about Chain of Command? Bob Brandt said that the Charter states one person, and the policy manual states shared inside and outside.
- d. Brett Sanderson said he was written up 2 months late on policy infractions so he could be fired. Bob Brandt said that was not the case. Bob Brandt said that written notices should have been done more timely, but that it had to be done as OSHA would follow up because of the lineman incident. Bob Brandt also stated that Brett should have written up Dawson for his violation but Brett did not and had refused to do so, which was a supervisor's job.
- e. Calvin Roby stated that Brett didn't write up the lineman's violation in order to protect the linemen.
- f. Tom Sheldon stated that we need to keep up with safety
- g. Steve Starkinok said that we should try to keep things stable.
- h. Marcia Moore said that Brett was being harassed at work. Bob Brandt said that was not the intent and he didn't feel that he had been.
- i. Jean Strong suggested that someone is hired to take the minutes and Bob Brandt agreed that was a good idea.
- j. Steve Starkinok said that he doesn't understand how someone without electrical experience could give orders to outside workers.
- k. Bob Brandt said the outside operations was the outside and need to work together with the inside operations as the Commissioners need one person to contact in Administration. Bob Brandt said that Administration was not trying to run the outside operations.

4. ADJOURN

- a. **MOTION to adjourn by Bob Brandt and seconded by Nick Baitz. Motion passed unanimously.**
- b. Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Brandt
Acting Recording Secretary

N. Baitz

Nicholas Baitz, Chairman

Bob Brandt

Bob Brandt

George Dunnett

George Dunnett