

VILLAGE OF LUDLOW ELECRC LIGHT DEPARTMENT
COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES
Monday September 25, 2023,
4:30 P.M. BUSINESS OFFICE, 9 POND STREET

PRESENT COMMISSIONERS:

Chairman; Nicholas Baitz, Vice Chair; Robert Brandt, Clerk, George Dunnett

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT:

Foreman: Brian Benoit

Department Manager: Thomas Petraska

OTHERS PRESENT:

Brittany Benoit

Jay Jurkoic

Steve Kondraki

Brendan McNamara

Cara Philbin

Alicia Reed

Brett Sanderson

Carroll Sanderson

Ryan Silvestri

Stephen Stariknok

Shannon Stark

Jean Strong

Marc Szyluk

Ryan Wardell

Rebekah Fontaine OVTV

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Baitz called the meeting to order at 4:33 PM.

CONSIDERATION OF ANY CHANGES, ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA:

None

COMMENTS FROM RATEPAYERS: There were 15 people who attended the meeting. Comments were heard regarding not having an updated personnel handbook. There were concerns that the payment orders were not being approved by the commissioners. There were concerns that the request to VPPSA to seek reimburse costs for the GIS program needed to be revisited with VPPSA board of directors by the department manager at the next VPPSA board meeting. There were also requests to see the annual budget that was approved. The rate payers wanted to warn at the next meeting the consideration of adopting a new structure making the Department Manager position reporting to the Board of Commissioners and the Foreman position reporting to the Board of Commissioners and not to the Department Manager as it is now. As a follow up the rate payers wanted to see all these items on the agenda for the next meeting.

ACT ON MINUTES OF AUGUST 23RD 2023 SPECIAL MEETING:

MOTION by Commissioner Brandt and seconded by Commissioner Dunnett to approve minutes of the August 23rd.2023 Special Meeting as written. Motion passed unanimously.

ACT ON MINUTES OF AUGUST 24TH 2023 MEETING:

MOTION by Commissioner Dunnett and seconded by Commissioner Brandt to approve minutes of the August 24th Monthly Meeting as written. Motion passed unanimously.

FOREMAN'S REPORT: September 2023:

September 2023

St. Light Maint.

Proctorsville led up grade

Meter Reading

has started today

Substation Maint.

Monthly Checks

Urd Locates

41 URD LOCATES

Line Maint.

Services

Multiple service upgrades

Service cover ups	3 services
Line Construction	103 project is waiting for the quote hopefully this week
Line Trimming	will be starting up in the next few weeks depending on traffic control availability
Safety Meeting	chainsaw safety
Banner	0
Vehicle Maint.	On going

New fire-retardant clothing started to show up the rest of it should be here soon.

The new fuel tanks came in today and should be two weeks for the rest of the stuff to show up.

Board Comments on Foreman's Report

Department Managers Report 9/25/23.

The Light Department continues to work with customers who are still trying to get their businesses and homes back online from the flood.

Update on Okemo Snowmaking Project:

The Light Department has been working with Okemo to get the electric compressor project in place for ski season 2024. It was announced earlier this month that with all the flood damage that occurred this summer Okemo was putting the compressor project off until ski season 25-26.

Update on Magris Solar Project:

The lease for the solar project has been signed and the project is moving forward.

GIS update:

The Light Department has signed the software package for the GIS program and is waiting for final documents signed by NISC and then we can move to the implementation phase.

Last week the Department had a meeting with VELCO. They told us in 2024 they would be running fiber in Ludlow for the Department use. The line would be a utility only designated line. It will enable VELCO to report Ludlow's load to ISO NE as required by the PUC. The line could also be used by the Department to connect to the NISC cloud server. This would be a much faster connection than we have now and provide a very high level of security at a very favorable monthly fee.

The department hired a new employee this month. He is a graduate of the Southeast Lineman Training Center at Trenton Georgia. His GPA is 95 And he will be living in Mount Holly. His name is Gabe Miller, and the Department welcomes him to the team.

Comments on the Mangers Report:

1. Jay Jurkoic said where did you come across him?
2. Tom Petraska said Indeed.
3. Jay Jurkoic said what is Indeed?
3. Tom Petraska said it's like Monster is a hiring agency.
4. Shannon Stark said so were moving forward with the mapping.
5. Tom Petraska said yes.
6. Shannon Stark said what is our monthly cost now.
7. Tom Petraska said we don't pay anything now we got out of the VPPSA program. This is going

to be a twenty-three thousand up front fee and a monthly charge of a little over six hundred dollars month for software support.

Steve Stariknok said that's a bargain.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Nick Baitz said IBEW Petition seeking to become the exclusive bargaining representative of certain employees of the Department.

Commissioner Brandt made a motion to find that premature general public knowledge of the Department Counsel's analysis of a legal issue would clearly place the Department at a substantial disadvantage because the Department will receive confidential attorney-client communications made for the purposes of providing professional legal services to the Department." Commissioner Brandt moved such motion. Commissioner Dunnett seconded. **The Commissioners voted 3-0 to approve the motion.**

Commissioner Brandt made motion to move into executive session with the inclusion of the Department Manager, Department Counsel and Foreman. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dunnett and **voted 3-0 to approve the motion.**

The Commissioners entered executive session at 5:53 P.M.

Commissioner Brandt made motion to exit executive session on 5:19 P.M. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Dunnett and **voted 3-0 in favor.**

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by Nick Baitz and seconded by Robert Brandt to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.

1. Meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Thomas Petraska

Nicholas Baitz, Chairman



Robert Brandt, Vice Chair



George Dunnett, Clerk

