

VILLAGE OF LUDLOW ELEC RIC LIGHT DEPARTMENT
COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES
Thursday October 26, 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
Accountant: Michael Gadway
Legal Attorney: Matthew Bloomer

OTHERS PRESENT:

Scott Baitz	Brittany Benoit	Brett Sanderson
Jay Jurkoic	Ryan Silvestri	Shannon Stark
Jean Strong	Ryan Wardell	

CALL TO ORDER.

Commissioner Baitz called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM.

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

Chairman Baitz asked to have executive session at the end of the meeting be added to the agenda to discuss personnel issues. It was unanimously voted in favor.

RATE PAYER ISSUES FROM PAST MEETING:

Payment approval process recommendations: After some discussion Commissioner Brandt made a motion to have LELD send via email an accounts payable list to all commissioner each Monday with open items to be paid. The motion was second by commissioner Dunnett and voted 3-0 in favor.

Annual Budget Jean Strong asked what the department's fiscal year? Department Manager Petraska responded we are on a calendar year. Jean then asked if the Department was working on the budget for next year now. Department manager Petraska said no. Jean Strong then asked when will the Department start work on that? Petraska said the department will be working on that closer to year end. And finalize it after we get our year end audit done. Jean Strong said and after you get the final budget you will take it to board for approval is that correct? Petraska said, yes that is correct.

COMMENTS FROM RATE PAYERS.

Jean Strong asked to have employee handbook and job descriptions on the next meeting agenda. Shannon Stark asked to hire a professional stenographer to take the monthly meeting minutes.

Ryan Silvestri asked if there were any written bylaws available.

Jay Jurkoic noted that the meeting of 1/25/22 a motion was made, seconded, and voted 3-0 in favor under other business. Jay believes that if the item that was voted on was not on the agenda for that meeting, the action taken would be void.

ACT ON MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 25TH, 2023 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

A motion was made by commissioner Brandt to accept the minutes as written, commissioner Dunnett second and voted 3-0 in favor.

FOREMAN'S REPORT: October 2023

St. Light Maint.

1

Meter Reading

is going good new hires are starting to catch up.

Substation Maint.	Monthly Checks / voltage reduction
Urd Locates	42 URD LOCATES
Line Mani.	
Services	Multiple service upgrades
Line Construction	103 project has started new poles are in the contactor will be starting guy anchors.
Line Trimming	contractor has started and all most finished everything that needs traffic control is done the contractor showed me two trees that are outside of his equipment capability's that will need addressing in the near future.
Safety Meeting	pole top rescue
Vehicle Maint.	On going.

New fire-retardant clothing is still trickling in and there's a hand full of stuff on back order.

The new fuel tanks are in and complete. The original installer went out of business a week before installing them, so we found a new company fph tank service.

Flood damaged homes list is getting smaller we should have 40 customers coming back online about Friday or beginning of next week.

DEPARTMENT MANAGERS REPORT 10/26/2023.

This month the office started out with a good bout of COVID. Everyone was affected and there were a few days the office was closed, however were all able to work at home and respond to emails, answer phone calls, and take care of customer needs.

This month the department was able to negotiate a settlement with VOSHA on penalties.

Proposed penalties were \$18,082 and we settled for \$8,032.

Magris Solar Project; Light Department had a meeting with project developer MHG Solar and VPPSA to start planning for the Solar Project. The meeting went well, and MHG agreed to get a preliminary letter of intent to the department.

This month was the kickoff meeting for AMI Project. Brian and I went to Swanton and met with the Aclara team and discussed the Project scope and overview. Tentatively Ludlow will be starting implementation in June 2024.

This month the union was voted in by the eligible employees with a vote 5-0 in favor.

Okemo Battery Storage Project: Light department had meeting with Delorean Power, VPPSA and Okemo team to discuss planning for the project going forward.

GIS recovery of project cost: At the last VPPSA board meeting in executive session I asked for adding an action item to next agenda to call for a vote of the board members on returning funds or a portion there of to Ludlow for what they had paid for the project.

Transco offering: This year Ludlow had been offered the opportunity to purchase 15,031 units of class A and 19,131 units of class B. for a total purchase price of \$341,620. The rate of return is 12.5% which will be \$10,676 per quarter for 2024. My recommendation to the Commissioners is to purchase the units as described.

The past few days the Light Department both office and outside have had lengthy discussions with Troy Caruso to try and come up with improvements for the Department. I feel the discussions have been good and there has been progress made. Troy Caruso then spoke about his ideas and the discussions he's had with the Department and Department personnel.

Reimbursement of funds paid for VPPSA GIS program.

Department manager addressed the GIS issue in his report.

Other Business

-Personnel Issue

Commissioner Baitz made a motion to enter executive session at 5:31PM (with the inclusion of the Department Manager and Brett Sanderson). Commissioner Brandt seconded, and it was voted unanimously in favor.

Commissioner Brandt made a motion to come out of executive session at 6:00 PM. Commissioner Dunnett seconded the motion, and it was voted unanimously in favor.

-Employee Wages

Commissioner Baitz made a motion to find that premature general public knowledge regarding the Department counsel's analysis of legal matters relating to employee wages would clearly place the Department at a substantial disadvantage because the discussion will include confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the Department. The motion was seconded by commissioner Brandt and voted unanimously in favor.

Commissioner Baitz made a motion to enter into executive session at 6:04 PM (with the inclusion of the Department Manager and Department counsel) to discuss the Department counsel's analysis of legal matters relating to employee wages, as allowed under Title 1, Section 313(a)(1)(F). The motion was seconded by commissioner Brandt and voted unanimously in favor.

Commissioner Brandt made a motion to come out of executive session at 6:09 PM. Commissioner Dunnett seconded the motion, and it was voted unanimously in favor.

Commissioner Brandt made a motion to increase all employee wages by 5% going back to January 1, 2023. This will be subject to union negotiation and approval. The motion was seconded by commissioner Baitz and voted unanimously in favor.

Commissioner Brandt made motion to create Lead Lineperson position and increase the position's rate of pay two dollars per hour in addition to the 5% previously added subject to union negotiation and approval. Commissioner Baitz seconded the motion and voted unanimously in favor.

ADJOURNMENT:

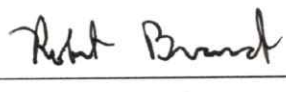
1. MOTION by Commissioner Brands and seconded by Commissioner Baitz to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:11p.m.

Respectfully submitted.

Thomas W. Petraska

LUDLOW ELECTRIC
October 26, 2023

Nicholas Baitz, Chairman 

Robert Brandt, Vice Chair 

George Dunnett, Clerk _____