

**Village of Ludlow Electric Light Department
Regular Board of Commissioners Meeting Notice**

Date 9/5/24

4:30 Ludlow Town Hall, Howard Barton Jr. Conference Room

Agenda

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Consideration of any Changes, Additions, or Removal to the Agenda**
- 3. Comments from Ratepayers**
- 4. Executive Session (Appointment of Interim Department Director)**
- 5. Other Business**
- 6. Adjournment**

Village of Ludlow Electric Light Department
Regular Board of Commissioners Meeting Notice
Date 9/5/24
4:30pm Ludlow Town Hall, Howard Barton Jr. Conference Room

PRESENT COMMISSIONERS:

Chairperson: Shannon Barton Stark

Vice Chair: Jean Strong

Clerk: Logan Nicoll

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT:

Legal Attorneys: Sarah Butxon (via video), Ronald Shems

OTHERS PRESENT:

David Rose

Chris Recchia

Ron Cassman

Brendan McNamara

1 **Call to Order**

2 Chairperson Shannon Barton Stark called the meeting to order at 4:30 P.M.

3

4

5 **Consideration of any Changes, Addition, or Removal to the Agenda**

6 Logan Nicoll said I think we need an additional executive session for a contract matter.

- 7 **1. MOTION by Logan Nicoll and seconded by Jean Strong for an additional executive session for a**
8 **contract matter. Motion passed unanimously.**

9

10 **Comments from Ratepayers**

11 Shannon Barton Stark stated we will now accept comments from ratepayers. Are there any ratepayers
12 here.

13

14 David Rose stated I have a couple of questions. Are there any plans to work on your tariffs.

15

16 Shannon Barton Stark stated yes.

17

18 David Rose stated there are, good. Because we're trying to encourage heat pumps and electric cars and
19 things, but the rub is what your current tariff is if you use more than 2000kw for just two months, you
20 get kicked up, so that's something that's...

21

22 Shannon Barton Stark stated to an on-demand and something we discussed in the last meeting, actually.

23

24 Logan Nicoll stated we did, yes. We discussed the timeline is a little tricky because you're not allowed to
25 consider a tariff change and a rate increase, and so they had tried to pursue a rate increase within the
26 past 6 months, which was partially successful. We didn't get the full rate increase that they were looking
27 for and so the administrative office was really hoping to do a further rate increase really to bring things
28 in line with where they need to be, but we can't really do a tariff change if we're going to do that, and so
29 there was some discussion about, you know, how we attack both those.

30

31 David Rose said right, because I think that tariff is back from the 70s and 80s when you tried to get folks
32 off of electric heat. And the other question is, I've heard on the street that, a couple of questions for you.
33 Are there security cameras at the maintenance shop; have they been turned off and if so, why would
34 they be turned off. I heard that at the coffee shop.

35

36 Logan Nicoll stated I mean, I think there was, we don't have a policy, I think is one of the bigger pictures
37 for me. The security cameras predated me; they were installed before I had been on this board. I think it
38 was an issue to me that I had heard from out employees that they were not really clear on what the

39 cameras were used for and why they got put in and they felt like they did not like the security cameras;
40 they felt like they were being watched, and so from my position, I wanted the cameras removed or
41 turned off because we didn't have a very clear outlined policy on what they were for, when they were
42 used, how they could be viewed, under what circumstances people were able to watch them or review
43 them and so I wanted them removed until we could outline a clear policy over who was able to look at
44 them, who was able to review them and who was able to look at the footage.

45
46 David Rose asked wouldn't that be a security concern though. Someone breaks in now; I mean you got
47 nothing there. I mean, I think cameras are everywhere. They're in this building, they're all over.
48 Wherever you go, you're on camera, I don't know why people would be...are they in the building so they
49 were like in an area where the guys were.

50
51 Shannon Barton Stark stated no, they were outside of the building and what we're working on now,
52 which is in the process of working on, something I'm doing. Having the security of the person who is in
53 charge of the shop having access to the cameras, which was not happening. So, the superintendent of
54 the shop should have access to the cameras. He did not. It was only the office manager who had access,
55 so therefore right now, what we're trying to do is get the access transferred to the superintendent, who
56 is the boss of the shop.

57
58 David Rose stated I would think that you'd have both of them look at them.

59
60 Shannon Barton Stark stated they could both have access, but at this point, it was just one person with
61 access, so therefore it was shut down for a very short time while we transfer the security codes. And I
62 agree with you, we should have cameras.

63
64 Shannon Barton Stark stated it's better to work under camera anyway.

65
66 David Rose said in this day in age, you walk into the Shaw's you're on, you know.

67
68 Shannon Barton Stark stated you should, it keeps people honest and I'm all for cameras, that was not the
69 situation on why they were shut down.

70
71 Logan Nicoll said I think for me, it's more important just that there's clear policies. I think that just having
72 a system in place, making sure that we know who was looking at them and why, and that they're not... I
73 mean in theory, they could be open to the public at request, but just that not everybody can see them at
74 all times or that there's some sort of system in place surrounding them.

75
76 Shannon Barton Stark stated there's also laws with municipalities that I've been looking into about being
77 under camera and that it really being a municipality, that you can't be just looking at the cameras all day
78 long; there has to be a reason. Because you're working for a town, there is a law about that, so therefore
79 some of that plays into it as well. It has to be almost recorded; I believe. Do you know anything about
80 that. Sarah and I spoke a little bit about that.

81
82 Ron Shems stated it can't just be entertainment.

83
84 Shannon Barton Stark stated right. In which it was being abused.

85
86 David Rose said it was being abused as entertainment. Does the town and village have a policy on that.

87
88 Brendan McNamara stated we do not, but as a municipality, generally speaking, we're a public entity so
89 if somebody walks in here with a camera, they can film it. So, you really, as a public entity, have no
90 expectation of privacy.

91
92 Shannon Barton Stark asked anything else.

93
94 David Rose stated no, that's all I've got.

95
96 Shannon Barton Stark asked for any other comments from ratepayers.

97

98 **Executive Session (Appointment of Interim Department Director)**

99 Shannon Barton Stark stated I will now take a motion to move into executive session for two matters.

100

101 **MOTION by Jean Strong and seconded by Logan Nicoll to move into executive session for two**
102 **matters. Motion passed unanimously.**

103

104 Ron Shems said you should state why.

105

106 Logan Nicoll stated we need to say what the second session is for.

107

108 Shannon Barton Stark asked may I have a motion to entertain executive session for the purpose of
109 discussion of the appointment of an employee.

110

111 **MOTION by Logan Nicoll and seconded by Jean Strong to entertain executive session for the**
112 **purpose of discussion of the appointment of an employee. Motion passed unanimously.**

113

114 Shannon Barton Stark stated motion carries thank you. Joining us will be legal counsel and Chris Recchia.
115 Next, may I have a motion to find that premature public knowledge of contract matter would place this
116 body at a substantial disadvantage.

117

118

119 **MOTION by Logan Nicoll and seconded by Jean Strong to find that premature public**
120 **knowledge of contract matter would place this body at a substantial disadvantage. Motion**
121 **passed unanimously.**

122

123 Shannon Barton Stark the motion carries; thank you. Now may I have a motion to enter executive
124 session for the purpose of discussing a contract.

125

126

127 **MOTION by Jean Strong and seconded by Logan Nicoll to enter executive session for the**
128 **purpose of discussing a contract. Motion passed unanimously.**

129

130 Shannon Barton Stark stated the motion carries; thank you. Joining us will be legal counsel. Action May
131 be taken after this session. Thank you everyone, when we are finished with our executive session, we
132 will call you back in.

133

134 **1. The board entered into Executive Session at 4:38 p.m.**

135 **2. The board exited Executive Session at 6:01 p.m.**

136

137 Shannon Barton Stark stated it is now 6:01 pm and we're back in open session. We will be taking action
138 on the first executive session matter.

139

140 **MOTION by Logan Nicoll and seconded by Jean Strong to extend a job offer to Chris Recchia,**
141 **with terms to be negotiated with the chair and legal counsel of a salary consistent with the**
142 **current salary for the department manager at 24 hours per week, plus benefits and mileage.**

143

144 Sarah Buxton stated wait, I'm sorry. Can you amend that. If you would just say the title and say that it's
145 for the position of interim department manager.

146

147 Logan Nicoll stated I will amend my motion to say interim department manager.

148

149 **MOTION by Logan Nicoll and seconded by Jean Strong to extend a job offer to Chris Recchia,**
150 **with terms to be negotiated with the chair and legal counsel of a salary consistent with the**
151 **current salary for the interim department manager at 24 hours per week, plus benefits and**
152 **mileage. Motion passed unanimously.**

153

154 Shannon Barton Stark stated the motion carries, thank you.

155

156 Logan Nicoll stated on the second executive session, I will make a motion that we allow the chair and
157 legal counsel to negotiate terms and authorize them to sign a contract regarding the safety audit. This
158 motion shall supersede all previous motions on this issue.

159

160 **MOTION by Logan Nicoll and seconded by Jean Strong to allow the chair and legal counsel to**
161 **negotiate terms and authorize them to sign a contract regarding the safety audit. This motion**
162 **shall supersede all previous motions on this issue. Motion passed unanimously.**

163

164 Shannon Barton Stark stated the motion carries; thank you. Moving on to other business.

165

166 **Other Business**

167 Shannon Barton Stark I just want to make a note that there are scheduling challenges with the previously
168 scheduled board of commissioners retreat on September 27. We will cancel and reschedule at a later
169 date.

170

171 **ADJOURNMENT:**

172 Shannon Barton Stark stated may I have a motion to adjourn.

173

174 **1. MOTION by Jean Strong and seconded by Logan Nicoll to adjourn. Motion passed**
175 **unanimously.**

176 **2. Meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.**

177

178

179 Respectfully submitted,

180

181 Tina M. Jarvis

182 Recording Secretary

183

184

185 Shannon Barton Stark, Chairperson _____

186

187

188 Jean Strong, Vice Chair _____

189

190

191 Logan Nicoll, Clerk _____

192