

**Village of Ludlow Electric Light Department**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Board of Commissioners**

**Date 1/22/2026**

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

**Members Present:**

Shannon Stark, Chair

Logan Nicoll, Vice Chair

Jean Strong

**Staff Present:**

Chris Recchia

Lisa Griswold

**Others Present:**

Willem Bargfrede

**AGENDA**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

A. Shannon Stark called meeting to order at 4:34 pm.

**II. CONSIDERATION OF ANY CHANGES, ADDITIONS, OR REMOVALS TO THE AGENDA**

A. None

**III. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

A. None

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. MOTION by Jean Strong, seconded by Logan Nicoll to approve minutes as presented for meeting on December 18, 2025. Motion passed unanimously.

**V. DEPARTMENT MANAGER'S REPORT- Chris Recchia**

- A. Chris Recchia stated that the 2025 Financial Audit has started. There are questionnaires that are to be filled out by the manager, the governance that is filled out by the Chair typically, and the employees. Jean Strong asked if she could see the questionnaires before they get sent out. Logan Nicoll agreed.
- B. Update- Stone House Solar. With ISO New England having to manage all power across New England, and with solar and wind generation now having a larger impact on the power supply, we need to complete an i.3.9 application to ISO New England on how much power is going to be generated. This was unexpected by the project developer and means construction is likely to be delayed. They are hoping to still have this done in 2026, but it may need to be built in 2027. We are teaming up with GMP to conduct this study on all pending solar projects in the pipeline.
- C. Okemo received funding from Efficiency Vermont to replace all snowmaking nozzles, which will make it so they may be able to go forward with 2 compressors instead of 3. This could decrease the amount of power they use. We may need to revisit the agreement with Okemo that we agreed to.
- D. The department received official approval from the PUC of the 2025 Rate Case that went in effect in July of 2025.
- E. Budget version 12 was approved last month, with a 14.3% rate increase for 2026. VPPSA discovered that they had made some errors and there were some changes to some service rates that reduced the power cost estimate for 2026. We are now only expecting a 9.8% increase. This makes it so there will only need to be a 9.4% rate increase to have a balanced budget, so there is budget version 13 to approve in agenda item 8.
- F. Line of credit is approved. Chris Recchia stated that he has the forms for you to sign. The bank requires all members of the board to sign.

- G. NOMAD battery project that was talked about in December is not an option for this year. Interconnection costs were too high and complicated. The department is going to evaluate if it would be beneficial for future use.
- H. Town has received a grant for EV Chargers; the Electric Department is going to host these chargers. Jean Strong asked how many chargers there would be. Chris Recchia stated that there would be one pedestal with two chargers.
- I. The replacement of 6 regulators at Howard Barton Jr sub-station requires a permits from the PUC. We are starting the application process now for construction summer of 2026.
- J. Press release that was released in December was picked up in the Vermont Journal and the Rutland Herold.
- K. The Affordable Energy Program consisting of a solar project in Orleans is for low-income households, to be run by VPPSA for households that qualify. We are being asked to participate and enter into a power sales agreement for a portion of the solar power. Price is \$.11006 per KW for 25 years. Jean Strong asked how the department would contact customers that qualify. Chris Recchia stated that the staff had talked about it and suggested a bill insert and short application that we would send VPPSA. Jean Strong suggested putting up flyers. Jean Strong also offered to help get the word out about the program to make sure that everyone knows about it. Chris Recchia stated that he would like to have a motion to enter into the project. Jean Strong asked how much the average rate payer would save from this. Jean Strong asked to get specifics before it goes to the rate payer. Chris Recchia agreed. Logan Nicoll stated that it seems like a good idea. Chris Recchia asked if he could get a motion to enter into the power sales agreement, and he would get the details about the affordability program.
- L. MOTION by Logan Nicoll, seconded by Jean Strong FOR Chris Recchia to enter into the power sales agreement with VPPSA. Motion passed unanimously.

**VI. OUTSIDE OPERATIONS MANAGER’S REPORT-** Brett Sanderson

- A. Sahnnon Stark noted that Brett Sanderson was unable to make the meeting, but that he sent in his Outside Operations Manager’s Report earlier in the week. Chris Recchia stated the main thing is that AMI installation is going smoothly. Around 1500 meters are currently installed. Only two customers have opted out. Chris Recchia also stated that the demand rate design needs to be addressed as part of the Board’s Rate Design work.

**VII. CLARIFCATION ABOUT AND ACTION ON AUTHORIZING “THE CHAIR” TO BE A SIGNATORY ON BANK ACCOUNTS AND THE LINE OF CREDIT**

- A. Jean Strong wanted to clarify that when authorizing a member to do something on behalf of the Board, it should be the member’s title, not name, that is approved.
- B. MOTION by Jean Strong, seconded by Logan Nicoll for the Chair to sign for bank accounts and the Line of Credit. Motion passed unanimously.

**VIII. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON REVISED 2026 OPERATED BUDGET-V.13**

- A. Chris Recchia stated that there is only one change to the budget v.13 from v.12. Version 13 changes the proposed rate increase from 12.4% to 9.4% caused by the decrease in cost of power expected for 2026 by VPPSA.
- B. MOTION by Jean Strong, seconded by Logan Nicoll to approve the revised 2026 Operating Budget Version 13.

**IX. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON NON-REVOLVING LINE OF CREDIT, SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS** Chris Recchia stated that the line

of Credit has been approved, and that he and Michael Gadway are the only authorized people to initiate money being moved from the line of credit to the Operating Account. Recchia stated that he had sent an email to Michael Gadway outlining the written procedure for transferring funds in and out of the Line of credit only with Department Manager's authorization.

B. MOTION by Logan Nicoll, seconded by Jean Strong to enable use of the line of credit consistent with procedure outlined by the Department Manager.

C. The Commissioners signed the Line of Credit Documents.

#### **IX. BEGINNING DISCUSSION OF RATE DESIGN AND TARIFFS**

A. Chris Recchia stated that he had talked to Brett Sanderson about doing a presentation before this process starts explaining the tariff term with information that the board will need to move forward with redesigning the rates and tariffs. Recchia also stated that they thought that it would be best to do this over the course of Special Meetings instead of trying to get it done in monthly meetings. The board agreed. Special Meeting is set for 2/12/2026 at 1:00 pm.

#### **X. EXECUTIVE SESSION IF NEEDED**

A. Board decided that no Executive Session was needed.

#### **XI. ANY ACTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A. None

#### **XII. OTHER BUSINESS**

A. None

#### **XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

A. MOTION by Logan Nicoll, seconded Jean Strong to adjourn meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Meeting adjourned at 5:49pm.

Submitted by Lisa Griswold

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Shannon Stark, Chair

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Jean Strong

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Logan Nicoll, Vice Chair