

**Village of Ludlow Electric Light Department**

**Meeting Minutes- Special Meeting**

**Board of Commissioners**

**Date 2/12/2026**

**1:00 pm Ludlow Town Hall, Howard Barton Jr Conference Room**

**Members Present:**

Shannon Stark, Chair

Logan Nicholl, Vice Chair

Jean Strong

**Staff Present:**

Chris Recchia

Brett Sanderson

Lisa Griswold

Michael Gadway

**Others Present:**

Willem Bargfrede

Alice Nitka

Kathy Grant

Dan Pengue

Tom Osborne

Desiree Giroux

**AGENDA**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

- A. Shannon Stark called meeting to order at 1:04 pm.
- B. Chris Recchia gave introduction to customers attending meeting about the process of rate redesign. All changes to rate tariffs need to be revenue neutral, fairly distribute power costs, and avoid unexpected consequences. The desired outcome is to be fair, recover all utility operating costs, make sure classes are fair and represent the usage for each class.

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

- A. None

**III. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- A. Dan Pengue stated that he came to listen to the process. He purchased an electric car 1 and ½ years ago and was placed on the demand rate. He then spoke to Chris Recchia and learned about demand and educated himself. Also stated that with the new AMI meter installed that he can see when he is pulling the most power.
- B. Kathy Grant stated that she is also on RES03, the demand rate, she has solar panels and an electric car. She runs everything off hours but cannot get below 9 kw. Kathy Grant also stated that she is willing to not use a lot of power during peaks times if the power was cheaper.
- C. Alice Nitka asked if off-hour rates are still in place.
- D. Brett Sanderson stated that off-hour rates were only done for electric hot water heaters and are mostly phased out now. There are a handful of people that still have those rates. However, with AMI meters off-hour rates could be applied.
- E. Alice Nitka also asked how the chart works on the bills. She showed her bill to Chris Recchia, and he explained how to read the bar charts, as she has 3 accounts, and the charts are different kw's based on the power each account uses.

- F. Dan Pengue asked the board if the power grid is who decides when the demand rate takes effect, or if it is within the utility to control. Chris Recchia explained that it is within the board and the utility to say and is set by our tariffs. One of the things they are considering a change to is the kwh and kw limits that puts customers on demand. Brett Sanderson added that with changing meters out to AMI meters we are going to see many more customers reach the kw and kwh that triggers the demand rate. With the older meters that some customers have they were running slower over time. Many customers are, or will be, seeing higher usage, because it is now showing actual usage.
- G. Tom Osborne asked if the board has an idea of where they want to go with the rate re-design? Chris Recchia stated that this is the first meeting, and first time that he will hear from each board member on the direction that they want to go.
- H. Kathy Grant asked for the time frame for the rate re-design. Chris Recchia stated that it typically takes a year for the PUC to approve, and rate tariffs to be put in place. However, the DPS is willing to work with the department to help us get them implemented quicker. Recchia also explained that the PUC, Public Utility Commission, is like the court in the process of approve the new rate design. The Department of Public Service, DPS, is like the prosecutor, and the department is the defendant if you look at the process as a court of law. Having the usage data from AMI meters will help in showing when and where the most usage is throughout the day. AMI meters should be fully installed by May of 2026, with a few exceptions.
- I. Lisa Griswold read a letter from a customer named Jonathan Liu stating that Liu would like to see the demand rate eliminated. He has previously spoken to the board about how the demand rate affects his power bill.

#### **IV. DISCUSSION OF RATE DESIGN AND TARIFFS**

- A. Chris Recchia asked the Board how they wanted to move forward. He stated that Jean Strong asked if using AI would be helpful. Chris Recchia said that he did ask AI for a summary of Rate Design. AI suggested first looking at the revenue needed for the department. Looking at fairness and efficiency, as well as cost of service per customer. Once that is figured out, see if it meets the goals of the Board.
- B. Logan Nicoll stated that his thought is to get rid of the demand rate and split the charges between customers. He also stated that his interpretation of the demand rate is that the company is punishing people for using power, and that needs to change. We want to encourage the use of power over fossil fuels. The other board members agreed.
- C. Logan Nicoll also shared that there is a need to implement a weekend rate, night rate, and “stuff like that”. Chris Recchia said that they should consider time of use rates, as well as weekend rates.

- D. Jean Strong stated that she thinks the board are all on the same page, but there is an art to doing this.
- E. Chris Recchia stated that there also needs to be a policy decision on low-income customers, and how much to help them. He states that the department has kept the monthly customer charge low to continue to help low-income households. Jean Strong added that she thinks once they start drilling down into the rate, things will become clearer on how we can help. She also asked how the department would determine who would qualify as low-income. Logan Nicoll stated that having the customer charge lower than it needs to be does help, asking the employees what costs should go into figuring out what should go into the customer charge.
- F. Chris Recchia Stated that he believes that he has a decent idea of where the board wants to go. He said that he believes that they can break this out fairly and quickly. Jean Strong asked if there is a model from other utilities that we can use to design our rates. Chris Recchia stated that there are 5 other utilities that also have demand rates, and he will look for useful comparisons.
- G. Chris Recchia said that now that there is an idea of the direction to go that the department will work with the numbers and have some figures to show the board the next time they meet on February 26th.
- H. Shannon Stark stated that the board will decide on the date for the next special meeting during the monthly board meeting on Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup>. Once the meeting date is set, the notice will be posted.

**V. OTHER BUSINESS**

- A. None

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

- A. MOTION by Logan Nicoll, seconded by Jean Strong to adjourn the meeting.  
Motion passed unanimously.
- B. Shannon Stark adjourned the meeting at 3:15 pm.

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