

Village of Ludlow Electric Light Department

Meeting Minutes

Board of Commissioners

Date 4/23/2026

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

Members Present:

Shannon Stark

Jean Strong

Logan Nicoll

Staff Present:

Chris Recchia

Lisa Griswold

Others Present:

Cathy Grant

Willem Bargfrede

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Shannon Stark called meeting to order at 4:31 pm.

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

A. None

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. None

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES- March 26, 2026 Meeting

A. MOTION by Jean Strong, seconded by Logan Nicoll to approve minutes for March 26, 2026 as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

V. DEPARTMENT MANAGER'S REPORT

- A. Chris Recchia stated that he received the draft audit to review. Working with auditors to make some changes for accuracy. Recchia said that he would like to invite the auditors to be at the May meeting. He also said that Best Practice is for the board to go into Executive Session with just the Auditors to discuss anything that they feel is necessary, as well as for the board to ask questions. Shannon Stark stated that she will not be able to attend that meeting. Recchia offered to postpone the auditors, Stark stated she did not think that was necessary but would let him know. She might be able to Zoom into the meeting.
- B. Recchia shared that he still doesn't have the signed agreement back from Vail regarding the Compressor Project. He stated that he spoke to Eb Kinney and that the agreement is in Colorado and should be signed and returned to him within a week.
- C. Chris Recchia is still discussing with Okemo whether it is necessary to raise the electricity capacity another 1.2 MW in order to ensure that we have enough electricity available for the electric compressors. That will most likely happen mid-summer.
- D. The 2026 Rate Case was filed on April 15, 2026. The total increase was 7.2%, which is lower than the board approved.

- E. Chris Recchia did get confirmation that Lightshift did get a final lease agreement from Vail for the battery project. They are confident that is going forward. Recchia stated that a similar project might work good for Magris, which would help mitigate peaks for the department. He said that he had a meeting with Magris Friday morning and was going to bring this up to them.
- F. With regards to the rate re-design for the Demand Rate Tariffs for residential and commercial demand rates, Recchia stated that he has a meeting with DPS to discuss latest options. He stated that he will be involving VPPSA to apply for the rate change because the DPS now wants us to do a traditional rate design case application instead of the innovative rate that was previously discussed.
 - a. Shannon Stark asked if this change was due to the AMI meters.
 - b. Chris Recchia said that the reason for them previously wanting us to do the innovative rate was because they didn't think we had enough data from the AMI meters. They now realize that there is enough data which is why the change to the traditional rate design case. There are currently 3500 AMI meters installed.
 - c. DPS is also suggesting going right to "time of use" rates.
- G. Regarding replacement of the regulators at the Howard Barton Jr. Substation, Recchia stated that he had been working with the department lawyers and the Public Service Department to make a final decision about what, if any, permits are needed because the substation was built before the 248 Public Good Process. They have come up with the final decision the no permits are needed as it is considered "general maintenance".
 - a. Jean Strong asked if this decision was in writing.
 - b. Chris Recchia said that he has it in writing from the department lawyers.
 - c. Logan Nicoll asked if there is any benefit to undertaking the CPG process?
 - d. Chris Recchia stated that ideally we would want to get the certificate for all of the substations.
- H. Chris Recchia stated that he signed into the Flatland Solar project for the 20% that the board approved.
- I. Recchia shared that the ACRE program has been put on the website and went out as a bill insert this month. There have been 3 applicants for the program so far.

VI. OUTSIDE OPERATIONS MANAGER REPORT

- A. Chris Recchia stated that he shared a couple things that he knew Brett Sanderson wanted to give updates on since he was unable to be at the meeting. Going forward with replacing regulators at the substations.
- B. There have been a few issues with getting data from the AMI meters, not data loss just data delay, which is being fixed.
- C. Dunkin Donuts has upgraded their service from 200 to 400-amp service. A new transformer will need to be put in for this. They did not realize they needed a service upgrade for this, and the transformers need to be ordered and on a 4–6-week delivery time.

- D. The other thing that is going on is a new pole right across the street to upgrade the Mill, so Brett Sanderson is coordinating with everyone involved for both projects.
- E. Jean Strong asked if Recchia had an update about the Plug-in Solar bill.
 - a. Chris Recchia stated that the bill is getting a lot of support at the state level. It does look like it will pass, but they do recognize that there is a safety concern and will probably be asking the DPS to investigate how to certify them before they go in.
 - b. Shannon Stark asked if they will provide training to the department.
 - c. Recchia said that he doesn't think so, or that it is necessary. What is necessary for the utility to know where there is back-flow going into the system and that the utilities have the ability to shut the connections off if necessary.
- F. Jean Strong asked about an update on the EV Chargers going in at the office.
 - a. Chris Recchia stated that he is getting to that later in the agenda, but it does look like it is going forward. More on it in item 8 of the agenda.
- G. Logan Nicoll asked if Chris Recchia was going to meet with a forester on the Ash tree located at the office.
 - a. Chris Recchia stated that he did meet with the arborist, and the tree does not have the Emerald ash borer. The current damage is from ants, and they gave Recchia a proposal to help protect the tree proactively from EAB . He is working on meeting with someone from the town to ask if they can help pay for the treatment. It is \$900 over two years for injections.
 - b. Shannon Stark asked if it is a record for the state.
 - c. Recchia shared that from the information he can find it is the biggest white ash in the state, although he has not heard back from the state as of yet.
- H. Logan asked how many AMI meters are going to be installed at the finish of the installation.
 - a. Chris Recchia stated that customers vs. meters. Customers are around 3750, meters are 3807.
 - b. Nicoll asked how many meters are not going to be able to give us the extra data to support the new rate design.
 - c. Recchia stated that he does not know the exact number, but it will probably be less than 20 meters that will not be AMI.
- I. Shannon Stark asked when Okemo plans to have the new compressors installed.
 - a. Recchia said that they plan to have the electric compressor installed by the end of the third quarter of this year.
- J. Chris Recchia stated that the financials for this year is down from the budget. Next month he will have something for the board to see how the financials are doing vs. the budget so they know throughout the year.

VII. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES (PILOT) TO VILLAGE

- A. Chris Recchia stated that it is the time of year that the department normally pays the payment in lieu of taxes in the amount of \$26,104.70. This is the same amount that has been paid for several years.
- B. MOTION by Jean Strong, seconded by Logan Nicoll to approve the Payment in Lieu of Taxes to the Village in the amount of \$26,104.70. Motion passed unanimously.
- C. Shannon Stark asked Lisa Griswold if she looked into the town vs. village tax. Griswold stated that she did, and that all village residents pay both village and town tax.

VIII. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON THE EV CHARGES AT 9 POND STREET (PREVIOUSLY TABLED)

- A. Chris Recchia stated that the EV chargers that have been proposed and previously pending with the town are now moving forward. There will be one post with 2 chargers installed at the office, 9 Pond Street as part of a municipal grant. The town manager has now had a chance to go through the proposal. The total project is around \$21,000. The grant will pay \$17,500, and the town as agreed to pay the match required by the grant, as well as the extended warranty. The electric department will pay for the network that enables us to have multiple rates, as well as do all of the labor. Recchia explained that this project was started for town employees to have a place to charge their vehicles while at work. Recchia would like to have a municipal employee rate, and a regular rate. This will help the department recover the cost associated with putting the chargers in.
 - a. Shannon Stark asked about zoning to make sure that there are still enough parking spaces for the business.
 - b. Chris Recchia stated that the parking spaces need to be re-painted, and the handicap spot will need to be moved.
 - c. Shannon Stark asked Recchia to check with the zoning office to make sure.
 - d. Jean Strong asked what happens at the end of the grant, who takes the responsibility to maintain the chargers.
 - e. Recchia stated that Ludlow Electric will own the equipment. The town has agreed to pay \$400 per year for the life of the equipment.
- B. MOTION by Logan Nicoll, seconded by Jean Strong to move forward with the EV charging stations at 9 Pond Street. Motion passed unanimously.

IX. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON A CAPITALIZATION POLICY

- A. Chris Recchia stated that the department does not have a formal Capitalization Policy, there is an informal policy and standards that we follow, but there really should be a formal policy.
- B. MOTION by Logan Nicoll, seconded by Jean Strong to adopt the Capitalization Policy as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

X. CONTINUE DISCUSSION OF RATE DESIGN AND TARIFFS- DPS UPDATE

- A. Chris Recchia stated that this was covered during the Department Manager Report. There is no further update.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. MOTION by Jean Strong, seconded by Logan Nicoll to enter Executive Session for Personnel matters of which advanced knowledge of the public would place the department at a substantial disadvantage. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. Shannon Stark stated the board will be joined in Executive Session with Chris Recchia and Lisa Griswold.
- C. Board entered Executive Session at 5:24 pm.
- D. MOTION by Jean Strong, seconded by Logan Nicoll to exit Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously.
- E. Board exited Executive Session at 6:01 pm.

XII. ANY ACTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. None

XIII. OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Chris Recchia stated that there is a training that he would like to propose the board to be a part of with the office staff that is being offered by APPA. This training is Tuesday, May 19th and either Wednesday, May 20th or Thursday, May 21st. Recchia stated that he will verify the dates and let the board know. The training is Electricity 101 and thought that it would be helpful for both the board and the office staff to attend.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

- A. MOTION by Jean Strong, seconded by Logan Nicoll to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.
- B. Shannon Stark adjourned the meeting at 6:07 pm.

Minutes submitted by Lisa Griswold



Shannon Stark, Chair



Logan Nicoll, Secretary



Jean Strong, Vice Chair