

**Village of Ludlow Electric Light Department**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Board of Commissioners**

**Date 5/28/2026**

**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

Michael Gadway

**Others Present:**

Robin Barnett

Patrick Cody

**AGENDA**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

A. Shannon Stark called meeting to order at 4:44 pm. Meeting was delayed due to technical difficulties with recording equipment.

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

A. None

**III. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

A. None

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES- April 23, 2026 Meeting**

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

**V. PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF AUDIT WITH ROBIN BARNETT, KITTLE, BRANAGAN, AND SARGENT**

A. Chris Recchia introduced Robin Barnett from Kittle, Branagan, and Sargent to the board.

B. Robin gave the highlights of the audit. Barnett reported an unmodified opinion on the financial statements. The audit revealed operating revenue of \$9,396,000 and operating expenses of \$11,471,226, resulting in an operating loss of \$2,074,868 in 2025 versus \$1.815 million loss in 2024, with purchase power costs representing 71.2% of operating expenses. The audit revealed few adjustments and no material weaknesses in internal controls. Robin Barnett clarified that while the audit covers financial health for one year from the financial statements, longer-term financial planning remains a management function. Barnett explained the audit process which takes up to 3 days of field work and ongoing collaboration with management to prepare financial statements. She noted that while the utility's cash has decreased and operating income shows a loss, the biggest concern is the significant increase in purchase power costs, which is affecting utilities across the state.

C. Michael Gadway added that the 7.2% rate increase will go into effect on June 1<sup>st</sup>, which will help with the increase of power cost.

**VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- A. Discussion with the auditors.
- B. MOTION by Jean Strong, seconded by Logan Nicoll to enter Executive Session for discussion with the auditors of which advanced knowledge of the public would place the department at a substantial disadvantage.
- C. Shannon Stark stated that the board would be joined in Executive Session by Robin Barnett of Kittle, Branagan and Sargent.
- D. Board entered Executive Session at 5:11 pm.
- E. Board Exited Executive Session at 5:23 pm.

**VII. ANY ACTION FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- A. None

**VIII. DEPARTMENT MANAGER'S REPORT**

- A. Chris Recchia stated that the 7.2% rate increase has been submitted, and that the new rates go into effect on June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- B. He also stated that sales are lower than expected for the year, and power costs are higher resulting in a \$230,000 deficit in the budget so far for the year.
- C. Recchia shared that he has received a signed agreement from Okemo for the new compressors. He stated there is also a signed land lease agreement between Okemo and Lightshift regarding their battery project.
- D. Recchia stated that he has been working on an annual report for 2025. There has not been one in the last few years, and now that the audit is complete, he would like to release one.
- E. The department has been working with VPPSA supporting the public outreach for public utilities.
- F. Recchia also stated that the department disconnected 2 customers last month for non-payment. They also placed a lien on one of the properties because it is in tax foreclosure.
- G. Recchia stated that Michael Gadway, Brett Sanderson, and himself have a meeting scheduled with TDS to discuss how to decrease the number of phone lines that the department has to an amount that makes sense.
- H. He also shared that he has applied for the grant for the vegetative management equipment. This grant will pay \$70,000 towards the equipment that is needed. It will not be decided until June. The price goes up on the equipment on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Depending on the timing of the decision, the department may need to get financing from a different source to secure the pricing.
  - a. Logan Nicoll asked about talking to the town and contracting some work using the equipment to help make up some of the cost to the department. Recchia said that he would talk to town manager.
- I. Recchia stated that he has been working with the town manager and someone from Green Mountain Power on the EV chargers that are going in at the office. He stated that the department will purchase everything, then invoice the town, as they

are the receiver of the grant. They decided this would be the easiest way to move forward.

a. Jean Strong asked to see the signed contract once it is received.

J. Recchia shared a PowerPoint presentation of pictures of Commonwealth Sub-Station showing a need to have it cleaned out to make it a usable space for the department. The building is structurally sound but needs to be cleaned and organized. There is also a lot of outdated equipment there that needs to be gone through.

**IX. OUTSIDE OPERATIONS MANAGER REPORT**

A. Chris Recchia stated that Brett Sanderson was unable to make it to the meeting, but he was going to talk about the Commonwealth Sub-Station building. He also sent his report to the board.

**X. OTHER BUSINESS**

A. None

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

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

B. Shannon Stark adjourned the meeting at 6:05 pm.

Minutes submitted by Lisa Griswold

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Shannon Stark, Chair

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Logan Nicoll, Secretary

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Jean Strong, Vice Chair