

**VILLAGE OF LUDLOW  
TRUSTEE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
LUDLOW COMMUNITY CENTER  
February 11, 2025 7:00 P.M.**

**Call to Order**

Mayor Steve Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Members of the Board Present: Brian Bina, John Curtis, Tom Fultz, Tharla Palumbo, Marsha Spear, and Clerk Dawn Good Adwell.  
Members Absent: K. Shedd.

Also in attendance: Police: Officers Joe Navarro and Denita Cadman; Water Dept: Rick Chenoweth; and two residents.

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

T. Fultz motioned to approve the Consent Agenda, second by M. Spear.

1. Minutes of the January 14, 2025, Regular Trustee Meetings
2. January 2025 Financial Reports
3. February 2025 Expense Reports

Roll Call Vote: Bina, Aye; Spear, Aye; Curtis, Aye; Fultz, Aye; Shedd, Absent; Palumbo, Aye.  
Motion carried.

**Public Address Regarding Pending Matters Before the Board**

Mayor Thomas introduced Diane Michaels from rural Ludlow Township. She is his appointment to the Treasurer position. Ms. Michaels told the board about herself; retired from a banking career, as well as public service. She served many years in Champaign County government, recently as a County Board Member, and prior to that as County Auditor.

There were no other comments from residents attending.

**Correspondence**

Champaign County Regional Planning Commission – annual loan statement for the Community Center building loan.

**Reports**

**1. Mayor:** Mayor Thomas reported that Tim Duffin helped Rick and John take down the Christmas streetlights. Also, the attorney was contacted about having a special meeting later this month to discuss issues with mobile home park ordinances.

**2. Police:** Chief Navarro reported a burglary attempt at a residential garage; and heard from the County Sheriff that there have been reports of scrap metal thefts in north end of the county.

**3. Street:** no report.

**4. Water:** R. Chenoweth reported a water main break on W. Ludlow St; the board reviewed the monthly water reports.

**5. Zoning:** Nothing to report

**6. Clerk Report:** Tally of the votes for the annual Christmas decorating contest: 1<sup>st</sup> - 421 S Orange St.; 2<sup>nd</sup>- 301 E Thomas S; 3<sup>rd</sup> – 137 N Poplar; 4<sup>th</sup> – 116 N Hickory St and 130 N Poplar St.

### **Discussion Items**

- 1. Watermain:** no update as far as work is done; SNC Construction should be back early March. Mayor Thomas reported that USDA Rural Development rejected the Village's application for grant funding for project cost overruns, due to the amount of funds in Village bank accounts; options are applying for an RD loan or a bank loan or pay from Village Water funds. Trustees discussed. Clerk Adwell advised paying the outstanding time and material invoices for work done outside of the scope of the project as soon as possible as they are 12-18 months past due.
- 2. Distressed Properties:** Trustees discussed the following properties: 240 S. Orange St. (property sold and money re-couped for mowing), 211 E Thomas St. (owner is paying court fines); and 228 E. Thomas St. (court hearing Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>; a demolition order vs reaching an agreement with the owners to remedy the fire damage and ordinance violations).
- 3. Online Water Billing Payment Integrations** – D. Adwell stated Carol Chenoweth, water clerk, does not recommend proceeding with updated billing applications at this time. Out of the 160+/- surveys sent to water customers, 42 were returned; only 16 of those were interested in online water billing options.
- 4. Public Works Planning** – Clerk Adwell stated a strategic or capital plan for streets and water was on the agenda due to Rural Development requiring the plan for the grant funding application. Since planning requires more time for study by the trustees and the new treasurer this item is tabled until a later date.
- 5. FY2026 Budget Planning** – Preliminary budget information was not available. Mayor Thomas said two or three trustees are needed for the finance committee to meet with the Treasurer before the next board meeting to work on the new budget. Trustee B. Bina will get estimates for street department expenses.

### **Action Items**

- 1. Consider and Approve the Mayoral Appointment for the Office of Village Treasurer** -Mayor Thomas appoints Diane Michaels as Village Treasurer. M. Spear motioned to approve the appointment; second by T. Palumbo.  
Voice Vote: Ayes: 5, Absent: 1 Motion carried.
- 2. Budget Finance Committee** – Trustees discussed who will serve; T. Fultz, T. Palumbo and M. Spear; finance meetings will be open meetings. M. Spear motioned to approve the finance committee; seconded by T. Palumbo.  
Voice Vote: Ayes: 5, Absent: 1 Motion carried.
- 3. Set Special Meeting Date** – M. Spear motioned to set the date of the Special Meeting as February 26, 2025, at 7 PM.; seconded by T. Fultz. The agenda for the special meeting will be posted at least 48 hours before the meeting date.  
Voice Vote: Ayes: 5, Absent: 1 Motion carried.

### **Adjourn**

T. Palumbo motioned to adjourn; second by B. Bina. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm. The next regular Trustees Meeting will be March 11, 2025 at 7 P.M.

*Dawn Good-Adwell, Clerk*