

MEETING OF THE BARRINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN**February 24, 2014 – 6:30 PM****Elementary School Annex Barrington, NH**

Present were Chairman Clark, Selectman Malloy, Selectman Gaudiello, Selectman Hatch, and Town Administrator Scruton. Absent: Selectman Bussiere

Call to order and Salute of the American Flag**Appointments:**

Two companies responded to the **Solar Request for Qualifications (RFQ)**. They both made presentations and answered questions.

James Hasselbeck and Dan Clapp presented for **Revision Energy**. The firm has nineteen full time employees in their Exeter New Hampshire office. The company's focus is renewal energy. They have done successful power purchase agreements that are up and running in New Hampshire. The company has 10 years of experience. The company can tailor a plan to meet large or small portions of a town's energy. They want to know Towns goals to meet the Town's needs rather than come in with a packaged solution. Revision could fund the system in a contract of at least 6 full years due to IRS rules, at a rate a percentage lower than current rate or work with a third party to do it. At end Town could purchase at a reduced rate usually 25-35% of system. They expect 35-40 year lifespan. If selected, the company will look at current town properties and buildings. They would identify best sites and make recommendations. While there are some savings the first 7 years, after that there is a potential for more significant savings. The company will stand behind their products. There is additional detail in the various documents they have provided the Town. They could tailor the project to the Town's needs. They are working with Durham, NH. Durham is looking at a phase II. Revision Energy is limited in their tax appetite for projects. They were doing residential installations in Durham that were inspected by the building inspector, which is how they got connected with Durham. In one year they were able to complete the project. Durham is saving the money that they are saving and putting it aside for the purchase of the system. A third party will appraise the value at the end of 6 years. The ice rink and library are the larger installations. Revision postponed work with the schools because they will be doing major roof work in the near future. In NH there are advantages to keeping under 100 kW per meter. The big benefit to the Power Purchase Agreement is purchase after 6 years of the facility at well below the construction cost to get the electricity at a low cost. The 30% Federal Tax Credit is the reason for the 6 years as well as depreciation.

Barrington Power LLC was represented by Chris Dundorf and Jack Bingham. Seacoast Energy started in 2007 in retail and continues as a small firm with partners. In 2013 it did 4 system 18kW-48 kW with Barrington Power LLC as a financing entity. They partner with Ayer Electric, Acuity Power (engineering), Jay Lawrie and Jeff Newsky Electrical Contracting. Projects it did include Rochester Truck, White Mountain Pool & Spa, Northland Forest Products, and Buckley Gould Real Estate. One of the subcontractors, Ayer, did several projects that were not Barrington Power LLC projects which Jack described. Jack and Chris emphasized the savings include both the production and the transmission charges. The project can be configured several ways. Chris described how the hardware would work. The inverter is warranted for 15 years, solar panels warranted so that at 25 years it would still produce 80% of power. There could be extended maintenance agreement on the inverter. There is a meter charge of \$29 a month. Demand charge is a more complex issue and may still be charged.

John Wallace of the **Conservation Commission** reported on expenses on the final transaction of the Lahey property that is now part of the Tamposi property. The memo between the Board of Selectmen and Conservation Commission calls for quarterly reporting, but in general he has only come when there is something significant to report. This expenditure is in keeping with the projection last year. He is still waiting for a final grant that had been expected to contribute. He reviewed a proposed addition to Tamposi owned by Ms. Renna. He mentioned a slight glitch in the Calef purchase. Much of the funding is in place. \$200,000 LCHIP, \$100,000 DES, \$50,000 (at the 3/3/2014 meeting the number was corrected to \$20,000 and this note added before approval of the minutes) Moose Plate and in the order of \$500,000 wetlands preserve. There was discussion of a hammerhead turn at the end of the road.

Public Comment: Paul Mostellar asked Peter Cook on whether the Town had considered Freon reclamation. Peter indicated the town used to do it, but no longer does. The town found it worked better to ship the whole units as they came in and move them quickly. Peter also reported that the new compactor is working well and did what thought so the town has cut down to one compacted container a day instead of several.

Board reviewed the **minutes of February 10, 2014**. There were two amendments: u-tube was changed to YouTube and seemingly changed to seamlessly. **Chairman Clark moved and Selectman Hatch seconded to accept as edited. Approved 3-0-1 with Selectman Gaudiello abstaining.**

Town Administrator John Scruton report:

Records Management Committee: RSA 33-A requires the town to have a committee composed of the selectmen (or their designee) the Town Clerk, Tax Collector, an assessor and the Treasurer. He believes the last meeting was in 2007, when it was needed for a grant

application for records retention. Carol Reilly represented the Board and Suzanne was on in the assessor slot. The Town Administrator suggested the Board of Selectmen appoint John Scruton as their designee and indicate that Suzanne fill the role of an assessor for record retention purposes. **Selectmen Gaudiello moved and Selectmen Hatch seconded to make those appointments. Passed 4-0.**

Solar, the Town Administrator's analysis: The two firms responded in significantly different directions in their approach to this while he considered that both complied with the RFQ. Revision Energy would be the strongest on RFQ points 1-4, although the sub-contractors for Barrington Power show more experience and expertise than the principals. Barrington Power LLC supplied the most detail about #5, cost projections. This presents the Board with a problem. If the town selected Barrington Power to start negotiations with Barrington Power on some of their details for a specific proposed solution, he would not feel comfortable about adopting it at this time without something to compare it to. He suggested the way around that could be to develop some kind of comparison by checking with the references to see what was offered to other communities was comparable. In contrast to Barrington Power LLC, Revision Energy will develop a solution, if selected, tailored to the community at no cost to the Town. Once that were done the Town could have better numbers on options. The Durham Town Administrator indicated he loves their experience with Revision Energy. Some would question whether that is fair to Barrington Power, although it was their decision to give the amount of detail they did for the RFQ.

Two things make this a profitable deal for any of the solar companies involved in this kind of project. There are Federal and state credits up front and a sizable continuing reimbursement by the state for every Megawatt (Mw) created. There is discussion the latter ongoing credit could double in size. We obviously would want that increase to benefit the town, although in the Barrington Power proposal all that benefit goes to the company. A solar company that discussed the project and collected a lot of data, but did not bid, provided an example of a project which it did that was smaller than the one proposed for Barrington. It was a \$600,000 project for 90KW in which the current Mw renewable credit would return \$418,500 over 10 years. That number is actually greater than the federal tax credits and rebate for which a municipality could not qualify. Taken together it showed the project completely paying for itself in about 7 years. Discussion with a PSNH expert would indicate the installed cost should be less than \$3/kw. If the installed cost is high it makes the buyout and payback period greater.

There are several issues the town has to consider. First is whether the Town wants to be locked into a long contract with a constant escalator for power. Second, should the Town share in the renewal Mw credit, especially if the state increases the renewable Mw credit. Third, if the town

were interested in proceeding, how does the town make sure it knows the one project proposed is in fact a good deal for the Town? Fourth, the town should consider whether the town would be better served by pursuing an energy audit and making improvements to reduce our energy consumption or other alternative energy strategy.

The Town Administrator asked how the Town wishes to proceed. He noted four options:

1. Reject both proposals, take a step back and invite proposals for a complete review of our energy usage, not just solar.
2. Delay a decision until the Town has done more research on references and developing information on what makes a good deal.
3. Award the RFQ to Revision Energy and have it at no cost develop a plan which the Board could then accept or reject.
4. Award the RFQ to Barrington Power and use their proposal as a starting point and negotiate with them on many of the contract details.

The consensus of the Board was #2 get more information and hear more on energy audit.

Property and Liability Insurance: The Town Administrator indicated he has put out a request for proposal for coverage of the Town's Property and Liability Insurance needs. The deadline is April 7, which is still enough time for the Board to make a decision in time to change July 1.

Selectmen signed Abatement 7 (20-0004), 8 (251-0036), & 9 (118-0004), intent to excavate Map 222-12, 236-3, Hoyle Tanner Study for Tolend Road, intent to cut Map 207 lots 10,32 & 31, Land Use Change Warrant Map 246-17-0001, and tax repayment agreement 17-0049-000R.

Public Comment: Paul Mostellar indicated that ground based Solar Panels were better than roof. He also preferred those that tracked the sun's movement.

Selectmen Reports

Selectman Gaudiello went to Visioning Committee and found it interesting. She volunteered to help. The group has enthusiasm and soon will be doing a mailing.

Selectman Hatch went to the candidate's night forum instead of the ZBA.

Selectman Malloy had nothing to report

Chairman Clark reported that he received a request for the town to look at catch basin from Dave Pillsbury because he says it impacts his leach field.

NONPUBLIC for personnel evaluation RSA 91-A3:ii(a)

Selectman Hatch moved, Selectman Malloy seconded to enter nonpublic session under RSA 91-A:3ii(a), personnel. Roll call vote: Selectman Gaudiello-aye, Selectman Hatch-aye, Chairman Clark-aye, Selectman Malloy-aye. Passed 4-0 at 7:40 PM.

Board discussed Town Administrator's evaluation.

Selectman Hatch moved, Selectman Malloy seconded to exit nonpublic session. Unanimous

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by John Scruton, Town Administrator