

Barrington Selectmen's Minutes
Monday, May 11, 2015

The Selectmen's meeting for Monday, May 11, 2015 started at 6:30 p.m. Present were Selectman Bussiere, Selectman Gaudiello, Selectman Hatch, Selectman O'Brien, Chairman Clark, Administrator Scruton and Clerk McNeil

Chairman Clark welcomed everyone and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Clark opened the public hearing on a proposal to allow a solar company to place their equipment on town property in a long term lease &/or easement at 6:35 p.m. Administrator Scruton gave a brief introduction and history. The town went out to bid for a power purchase agreement. Two companies responded. Barrington Power was the only company that the town can hire without going back before town meeting. Tonight's hearing is for the long term lease and or easement on town property and tying up a specified area. Panels would be placed at the public safety complex and behind the transfer station at the public works facility. Doug Bogan spoke as an advocate of promotable renewal energy and supports the program. Chris Betjemann noted that he has a solar array installed by Barrington Power. The equipment is producing a lot of energy and he recently received a check from Eversource. Rick Walker spoke as a taxpayer and had a number of concerns with a decision that could last 20 years. The school has done a three year study and will be reducing energy costs without using solar power. The profit will be made by the seller not the town's taxpayers. As a Fire Chief he looks at the best interest of the property at the public safety building. Any expansion would need to be done where the solar panels would be located. He is an advocate for putting the panels on the roof and not ground mounted. Marie Harris spoke about the land for the public safety building and noted at the time it was built it was known that there might have to have a satellite facility as the town grew. Chief Walker noted that they could expand as he had recently spoken with DES. Chris Dundorf of Barrington Power met with Chief Walker regarding the possible expansion of the police side of the building where the solar panels would be located. He stated the panels could be rearranged to give more space for expansion on the back corner of the property. The panels could go on the roof but at a cost to redo the roof. Kevin O'Brien asked about the costs that the taxpayers would have to bear. Jack Bingham stated that there is a 30% federal tax credit and state rebates. A private company can fund the project and get the tax credit reducing the price to the customer. The town pays a portion of the electric bill to Barrington Power. The town could save approximately \$5,000 a year along with reducing pollution and the carbon footprint. Chris Dunforf and Jack Bingham showed a power point describing the system and the proposed locations. Jackie Cilley asked about a buyout at the end of the agreement. The agreement is for a

minimum of six years to as much as 20 years. Lynda Brushette asked about changing solar technology can the town make changes with upgrades – yes. One of the risks to installing solar is if PSNH lowers their kilowatts then the town would lose money. At the end of 20 years the ownership title transfers to the town – no money is exchanged. It was asked if there is any provision if Barrington Power goes out of business. The bank will take it over and find a buyer. Administrator Scruton explained why we are only dealing with one company and it has to do with a non-appropriation clause. Kelly Cullen spoke as a taxpayer and a professor at UNH of Natural Resources and the Environment. She said electric power is very volatile in the area of pricing and solar would be more stable. Chairman Clark stated that there will be two more public hearings – one on May 21st at 6:30 p.m. and one on June 1st at 6:30 p.m. The hearing closed at 7:23 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments

REVIEW OF MINUTES – May 4, 2015 – Selectman Bussiere moved to accept the minutes of May 4, 2015, seconded by Selectman Hatch. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

STAFF REPORT

Administrator Scruton

1. Selectman Gaudiello moved to delegate authority to the Code Enforcement Office to enforce Planning Board regulations or conditions of approval including issuance and follow through of cease and desist orders, seconded by Selectman Bussiere. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.
2. Administrator Scruton spoke of the R & D Contract for paving and estimated the added cost of the amount we will pay for paving this year over extending last year's contract with a tie-in to the oil price and a now-required performance bond would have been \$2,700.
3. Peter Cook stated that he could live with the change in the location of the solar panels behind the highway garage. Selectman O'Brien feels that would be restricting highway space in the future. Currently some of the town material is on space used by the BYA. Some of the trees will be cut behind the highway garage for more space. Selectman Gaudiello asked about the CIP and that would give the Board ideas on growth with the different departments. It would be a realistic assessment not a wish list.

Clerk McNeil

Clerk McNeil requested signatures of the following:

- Land Use Change Tax Warrant in the amount of \$11,890.

- First Half 2015 Property Tax Warrant in the amount of \$10,728,873.
- Intent to Cut for Stephen Jeffery
- Abatements #29 & #30
- Vendor Manifest dated 5/7/2015
- Payroll Manifest dated 5/3/2015
- Clerk McNeil noted a request she received asking for a refund of interest charged on a land use change tax bill. The tax office stated that there were no taxes owed. However; the bill hadn't been issued. Selectman Bussiere felt that that someone in the real estate business should have been aware of the parcel in current use and a tax due when there was a change in use. Selectman Gaudiello moved to deny the request, seconded by Selectman Bussiere. It was unanimously voted in the affirmative.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT

Selectman Gaudiello stated that she attended a Conservation Commission meeting. They supported the Barrington Power solar project. The Conservation Commission voted to contribute \$15,000 for the parking area at the A. Harlan Calef Reserve. Norway Plains will be surveying Town Farm Road where the Reserve is located. She also stated that new watershed maps are being developed.

Chairman Clark attended the recent Planning Board meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.