

Select Board Members Present:

Joseph Michaud-Chairman
Nathalie L. Dias-Vice Chairwoman
William J. Trimble

Lara H. Stone
Michael P. Watson

The Chairman opened the Public Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

The Chairman polled the Board for a roll call vote to convene into Executive Session Pursuant to M.G.L. Ch. 39 Sec 23B: Selectman Trimble, yes; Selectwoman Stone, yes; Selectman Watson, yes; Vice-Chairwoman Dias, yes; Chairman Michaud, yes.

The Chairman reconvened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. on December 14, 2009 in room 304.

Board members signed the **warrant(s)** for the following bills from various departments in the amounts of:

\$ -1034.97	PR23V1	\$ -639.14	PR23V2	\$ 895,225.51	PR23
\$ 809,667.35	PD1012	\$ 25,312.89	P1024	\$ 134,827.24	S1024
\$ 74,806.88	T1024				

7:00/ Public Hearing on the Application of the Alternative Energy Committee requesting a Special Permit for Two Wind turbines on Chase Road.

Chairman Michaud opened the Public Hearing.

Ron DiPippo, Chairman of the Alternative Energy, read into the record.

Ladies and gentlemen of the Select Board, the Alternative Energy Committee seeks your approval for a Special Permit for a wind turbine project consisting of two 1,650 kilowatt wind turbines to be mounted on 100-meter (328-foot) towers on Department of Public Works (DPW) land off 687 Chase Road in South Dartmouth.

You, the members of the Select Board in your role as the Special Permit Granting Authority, hold the power to grant or deny this application. We believe it is in the best interests of the Town of Dartmouth to approve this permit and move ahead with the construction of the project on as rapid a schedule as is feasible.

The turnkey capital cost of the project is estimated to be \$9.2 million, with an annual operating and maintenance cost of \$100,000. The turbines are expected to provide all the electricity required to operate the DPW water treatment and filtration plants, or about 58% of all the electricity currently being used by all the public buildings in the Town.

You are all familiar with the feasibility study that Atlantic Design Engineers (ADE) of Sandwich carried out, pursuant to the authorization granted by Town Meeting last June. Their reports have been available for all to read on the Town web page, in our libraries and in Town Hall. The Interconnection Study and Application to NSTAR authorized at the October Town Meeting is under way by Glynn Electric of Plymouth.

Impacts on the environment and on nearby residences, including wetlands, heritage species, aviation, shadow-flicker, noise and visual impact, have all been assessed and addressed.

ADE performed an economic analysis in their Prefeasibility Report that showed positive returns to the town. Dr. Peter Friedman later conducted his own financial assessment for the Finance Committee, and concluded that the project is economically viable even under brutally conservative assumptions. After those studies were completed, the economic conditions have in fact improved owing to the passage and implementation of the Net Metering provision of the Green Communities act as of December 1, 2009. Furthermore, the IRS awarded the town \$2 million in very-low interest Clean Renewable Energy Bonds (CREBs), thereby reducing the amount of financing that will need to be done through General Obligation Bonds. My own recent sensitivity studies, done with a modified version of Dr. Friedman's spreadsheet, show that the project is economically viable over a wide range of assumed conditions.

The average expected financial benefit (i.e., 50% certainty) in the first year of operation is \$888,000 and the cumulative benefit over the 20-year project life is \$32 million. Using a higher level of probability, namely 90%, the project would return a net benefit of \$611,000 in the first year and a total of \$25 million over the life of the project.

Shadow-flicker has the potential to affect about 94 residences in total, 75 of these being for less than nine hours per year out of roughly 4,380 daylight hours. Eighteen residences might receive between 10-19 hours per year, and only one residence might see slightly over 20 hours per year. These calculated values are conservative (i.e., on the high side) because the analysis does not account for screening of houses by trees, shrubs or other structures. A German court of law decided that an exposure of 30 hours per year was excessive, and no residence will be close to that limit. Furthermore, if any resident can verifiably demonstrate that a serious health condition exists for someone at their residence and that the condition is exacerbated by shadow-flicker from one of the wind turbines, that turbine will be shut down for the duration of the shadow-flicker at that residence if the effect cannot be otherwise mitigated.

The noise generated and propagated by the two turbines is well below the allowable limit established by the Town Bylaw No. 34 in accordance with the Commonwealth standard of 10 dBA above ambient noise levels. The highest calculated increase in sound on one part of the western boundary of the DPW property is 2.5 dBA. Since all residences are located farther away, the increase in noise levels at all residences will be less than this. Given the sensitivity of 1-3 dBA of the human ear to detect changes in sound levels, it is unlikely that the increase in noise caused by the turbines will be detectable by residents in their homes.

Since the turbines are tall, they will be visible from various vantage points in the vicinity. They will be visible from the waters off the SouthCoast and may become landmarks for sailors.

Particular attention has been given to the matter of wetlands near the turbines. During the final siting process, a detailed assessment of wetlands was conducted by our Environmental Affairs Coordinator with the assistance of DPW personnel and a wetlands expert for the Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program. All proposed work will conform to the Dartmouth Wetland Bylaw and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection standards. Prior to the start of work, the project will require an Order of Conditions from the Dartmouth Conservation Commission for the north turbine only.

Owing to their height, the turbines need clearance from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and from the Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission (MAC). The FAA approved the south turbine and the MAC approved both turbines in their original locations. However, the locations were altered to avoid wetlands that were discovered after the filings. ADE has therefore re-filed applications with both agencies. Thus, we request that any approval of this application be made contingent upon FAA and MAC approvals.

If the FAA requires us to use shorter towers, the sensitivity studies show that, even if the towers are restricted to a height of 88 meters, the project is still highly worthwhile for the town. The average expected first-year and life-cycle benefits would be \$766,000 and \$29 million, respectively, compared to the \$888,000 and \$32 million for 100-meter towers.

On behalf of the Alternative Energy Committee, I am happy to present this application for a Special Permit for a wind turbine project that promises extraordinary, predictable economic benefits, while delivering clean, renewable, sustainable electricity for the town for many years to come.

Several town residents spoke on the advantages and disadvantages of constructing two wind turbines at the wastewater treatment plant off Chase Road.

Ron DiPippo, presented the Board with a Power Point Presentation.

Simon Thomas and Richard Tabaczynski, Atlantic Design, were present and answered any questions.

The Chairman closed the Public Hearing.

The Chairman stated the hearing will be continued until Monday December 21, 2009 at which time the Select Board will make a decision.

New Business:

Board to vote on Special Town Meeting for January 26, 2010.

The Executive Administrator mentioned the Special Town Meeting will be rescheduled from January 12, 2010 to January 26, 2010.

After a motion was made by Selectwoman Lara Stone and seconded by Vice-Chairperson Nathalie Dias, it was voted unanimously to vote on a Special Town Meeting for January 26, 2010.

Renewal of the Surety Bond for Town Collector.

After a motion was made by Selectman Michael Watson and seconded by Vice-Chairperson Nathalie Dias, it was voted unanimously to renew the Surety Bond for the Town Collector for \$500,000.

Letter of resignation from the Town Agent, Constable, James L. Alphonse.

The Chairman read the letter of resignation from the Town Agent, Constable.

The Executive Administrator stated that he will have a recommended action on this matter in two weeks.

Sundry License Renewals subject to approval from the Fire Chief, Building Department and Police Chief.

Common Victualler
Cold Stone Creamery
Rose & Vicki's
Subway=506 State Rd.

Subway-Dartmouth Town Center
Ayur-Shri
AMC Theatres-Dartmouth Mall

Weekday Entertainment-Amusement Devices
AMC Theatres-Dartmouth Mall

Motor Agent

Class I
Jem Motorsports
Windmill Cycles

Class II
Jem Motorsports
Route 6 Auto & Marine
Dartmouth Collision Center
Bliss Corner Auto Sales
Joe's Used Cycles
Brum's Ultimate Repair

Class III

Hixville Auto Parts Sales
Joe's Used Cycle
Brum's Ultimate Repair

After a motion was made by Selectman Michael Watson and seconded by Vice-Chairperson Nathalie Dias, it was voted unanimously to approve the Sundry License Renewals subject to approval from the Fire Chief, Building Department and Police Chief.

Grants Administrator Position.

The Executive Administrator noted that this position should have read the Director of Development.

After a motion was made by Selectman William Trimble and seconded by Selectwoman Lara Stone, it was voted unanimously to post and advertise for the position of Director of Development.

Old Business:

NStar tree cutting on Horseneck Road.

The Executive Administrator mentioned that this issue will be discussed in Executive Session sometime in the beginning of January.

Minutes:

Minutes of November 23, 2009.

After a motion was made by Selectman Michael Watson and seconded by Selectman William Trimble, it was voted unanimously to approve the minutes of November 23, 2009.

Announcements:

Dartmouth Community Blood Drive.

Michael Watson stated he received a phone call from a town resident and would like to recognize Wendy Henderson, Director of Board of Health, for an outstanding job in the H1N1 Clinics.

With no further business to be discussed the Chairperson declared the regular meeting adjourned.

Attest:

David G. Cressman, Executive Administrator

Transcribed by: Linda Torres

