

I. CALL TO ORDER at 6:00 pm in the basement meeting room at the Fremont Town Hall. Present were Selectmen Gene Cordes and Leon Holmes Sr; Town Administrator Heidi Carlson; Matt Shortsleeve of Mercury Solar/RGS Energy; Energy Committee representative Cheryl Rowell and resident Jeff Rowell. Brett Hunter arrived at 7:10 pm.

Shortsleeve said that Mercury Solar has just merged with Real Goods Solar (RGS). Shortsleeve came to the meeting tonight to make an informative presentation to the Town regarding options for Solar PV for NH municipalities. Solar is an incentive based program, and there are not too many (or high dollar value) incentives in NH, as it varies by State. He explained that his company has done a lot of municipal and school work.

RGS Energy was founded 1978 and has just merged with Mercury Solar systems. RGS has done 19,000 installations, has experience with towns and schools. RGS has been doing large solar farms and power purchase agreements; and Mercury is in commercial and residential areas, so in merging they will cover more market area.

He explained that NH incentives are not as strong as other states, some governors are trying to increase home grown energy, and there is a spur of investing in solar, wind, and biomass, with cooperatives on regional transmission gas lines. Massachusetts has 80,000 people working in renewable energies.

He said there is a renewable portfolio standard – where a percentage of our electricity has to come from renewable sources. NH Solar incentives include a Commercial & Industrial Solar Grant Program (very competitive); a Commercial & Industrial Solar Rebate Program (\$0.80/watt, capped at \$50,000 per project with maximum system size 100 kW); and Renewable Energy Certificates (REC, which have values and markets in NH). Most programs are rate-payer funded.

Solar financing involves Federal tax incentives, some State level incentives, and other municipal and school/non-profits PPA (Power Purchase Agreement). In this situation a third party owns the solar system, sells electricity to the end customer and the PPA rate offsets the marginal delivered cost of power from the PSNH bill.

In NH, there are some local property tax options and Towns can choose to exempt solar from property tax assessments. Fremont has elected to exempt solar improvements.

There was discussion about renewable energy certificates, and the possibilities of such a proposal for Fremont. Shortsleeve had a schematic of what it might look like if solar panels were placed on the roof of Ellis School and the type of energy generation it might include. The initial outlay in cost is substantial, which is where the private party investors would come in.

The basis is to cut in a greater portion of zero emission fuels. There was also some discussion about net metering, and the maximum size of that type of system is 1 megawatt (AC). Virtual net metering was recently approved and allows allocation of credits to a meter elsewhere (grid areas).

John Linville came in to the meeting at 6:45 pm.

There was discussion in general terms about what options may be available and what potential sizing of the system might include. Shortsleeve left information packets for Selectmen and the Rowells, as well as his contact information.

Brett Hunter arrived at 7:10 pm. There was discussion about the process the Town or School District might undertake for such a project, including an RFP process. Tonight's session was simply to learn about the prospects involved and what potential options might be.

Shortsleeve was thanked for his time and left the meeting at 7:15 pm.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The School District Deliberative Session will be held at 7:00 pm on Tuesday February 4, 2014 at Ellis School. The snow date is Friday February 7, 2014.

The Town's Deliberative Session will be held at 7:00 pm on Wednesday February 5, 2014 at Ellis School. The snow date is Thursday February 6, 2014.

III. LIAISON REPORTS

Holmes Sr reviewed the cases heard by the Zoning Board of Adjustment at their meeting of January 28th. This included PSNH transmission upgrades that effect wetlands, and Gunstock LLC for a new commercial building on parcel 02-070.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the Board's meeting on 23 January 2014 were reviewed. Motion was made by Cordes to approve the minutes of 23 January 2014. Hunter seconded and the vote was approved 2-0-1 with Cordes abstaining.

V. SCHEDULED AGENDA ITEMS

6:45 pm Public Input - none

7:00 pm Department Heads – Chief Butler was in to the meeting for the public hearing, and while waiting, he updated the Board on the fire at Fremont Pizzeria this morning. He said that the Health and Building Inspector had been involved and that Service Master was in there cleaning now, all of the areas in the restaurant. Board Up of North Hampton has secured the front half of the building and built a wall to separate the damaged area from rest of the restaurant to work in there.

At 7:30 pm Selectmen opened the Fire Truck Lease/Purchase Public Hearing. The notice was distributed to all and read aloud by Chairman Hunter:

TOWN OF FREMONT PUBLIC HEARING

The Board of Selectmen and the Fire Rescue Department will hold a bond hearing in accord with NH RSA 33:8-a to discuss issuance of a lease/purchase agreement for the proposed fire truck. The hearing will be held as part of a regular Selectmen's Meeting on Thursday January 30, 2014 at 7:30 pm in the basement meeting room at the Fremont Town Hall.

The purchase price is \$461,775; with a down payment to be made from the existing Capital Reserve Fund, in the amount of \$175,000. This will result in the balance of \$286,775 being paid in a five year lease arrangement.

There is no tax impact of this purchase in 2014. The proposed new truck would replace two aging fire trucks. The public is encouraged to attend the hearing and learn more about this purchase in advance of the Deliberative Session on February 5, 2014, and Town Voting on March 11, 2014.

The notice was advertised in the Union Leader 17 January 2014, in the January and February 2014 Town Newsletters (February was mailed to all Fremont households); and posted in Town buildings and in the Fremont Post Office on 20 December 2013.

Present were Fire Department members Richard Butler and John Linville. An informational sheet was also circulated and reviewed, indicating some details about current state of repairs including:

The Fremont Fire Rescue Department has proposed a new truck on the 2014 Town Meeting Warrant. The request is recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee.

The total cost of the new truck is \$461,775. It is a KME custom built 3,000 gallon pumper/tanker and will replace two aging trucks (Engine 3 and Tank 5) currently owned by the Town. Repairs on the aging trucks have cost approximately \$8,000 in the past three years. Tank 5 was taken out of service in the fall of 2013 due to the amount of money needed to keep it safe and operational. Additional work will be needed (\$10,000 estimated plus the cost of a new tank, to replace springs and the exhaust system among other repairs) to Engine 3 to keep it operational. The new truck will bring Fremont closer to NFPA compliance as well.

The Selectmen are proposing to make a \$175,000 down payment from the existing Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund. This payment would be made in 2014 and will not cause any increase in the tax rate, because it is funded from the Capital Reserve Fund.

The balance of the cost (\$286,775) would be funded with a five year lease/purchase arrangement. We currently have three estimates for the financing of the lease, with interest rates ranging from 1.78 to 2.50% and varying terms. The average estimated payment (using all three quotes) would be approximately \$62,000 in each of the five years of the lease.

The chart below shows the anticipated costs over time, estimating the payments and the impact to the tax rate.

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Estimated Cost	\$175,000	\$62,000	\$62,000	\$62,000	\$62,000	\$62,000
Estimated Tax Rate Impact	\$0	\$0.17	\$0.17	\$0.16	\$0.16	\$0.15
Annual Household Cost (tax dollars) on a \$200,000 home	\$0	\$34.00	\$34.00	\$32.00	\$32.00	\$30.00

There was discussion about how to get the word to voters about the current situation and the need for a replacement truck. There were no additional questions or comments.

Motion was made by Cordes to close the Public Hearing at 7:40 pm. Hunter seconded and the vote was unanimously approved 3-0.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. The Selectmen's Town Report was reviewed and completed with some additional revisions.
2. In preparation for Deliberative Session, Selectmen discussed the presentations for Wednesday night and who would address each question.
3. With regard to voting on March 11, 2014, Selectmen discussed a way to provide additional information to voters without interfering with voting. It was decided that Board members would be available for some part of the day, and anyone with questions will hopefully address them with the Selectmen's Office in advance of voting, or by telephone that day if needed.
4. The auction for Town Properties with St Jean Auctioneers has been moved to April 26, 2014 due to St Jean having already booked in another location on the original date chosen by the Town.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Selectmen reviewed the payroll manifest \$17,521.09 and accounts payable manifest \$546,855.94 for the current week dated 31 January 2014. Motion was made by Cordes and seconded by Holmes Sr to approve the manifests. The vote was unanimously approved 3-0.
2. Selectmen reviewed bills and invoices for payment.
3. Selectmen reviewed the folder of incoming correspondence.
4. A Current Use Application for parcel 03-057 was reviewed. Hunter moved to approve the application which had already been reviewed and brought forward by the Assessors. Cordes seconded and the vote was unanimously approved 3-0.
5. Selectmen reviewed a Land Use Change Tax for parcel 03-015.001.089 on Hall Road. Hunter moved to approve the warrant. Cordes seconded and the vote was unanimously approved 3-0.

There was discussion about the need for police cruisers, and the makeup of the 2014 budget. Selectmen asked about the two newest police officers, who had both been in to do paperwork this week. Lt Arcieri began working on Monday. Both officers were being qualified at the range this morning when the fire came in, and were assisting at that scene as needed.

VIII. NON-PUBLIC SESSION NH RSA 91-A - none

The next regular Board meeting will be a work session, to be held on Thursday February 6, 2014 at 6:00 pm.

IX. ADJOURNMENT – Motion was made by Holmes Sr to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm. Hunter seconded and the vote was unanimously approved 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Carlson, Town Administrator