



**Board of Selectmen
Minutes
Wednesday, March 30, 2011, 9:00am
Town Hall Meeting Room**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00AM by Chair, Peter Warren in the Town Hall Meeting Room. Selectmen Peter Warren, Marie Sobalvarro, Ron Ricci, and Tim Clark were all in attendance as well as the Town Administrator Tim Bragan and Executive Assistant Julie Doucet.

SOLARIZE MASS APPLICATION

Energy Advisory Committee member Eric Broadbent was present to describe the program. He first apologized for the short notice on this request but they just received notification from the Department of Energy Resources (DOER). He explained the program initiative is to increase renewable energy generation by encouraging community-wide PV installations. The DOER intends to choose one community from each region to participate. The communities selected will receive assistance to market the installation of solar photovoltaic panels on residential and small commercial buildings. If Harvard is chosen a point of contact person must be designated. Broadbent invited resident Worth Robbins to come forward as he has expressed interest in assisting with the program. Broadbent explained if chosen the town will be required to develop a marketing strategy which the contact person will be tasked with coordinating. Peter Warren asked if there was any financial obligation by the town. Broadbent said no. Worth Robbins said he actually went through the process of investigating installation of a solar PV system at his home but did not move forward with it. He is interested in renewable energy and is eager to help the town. Marie Sobalvarro thanked Robbins for coming forward but wanted to clarify his position on this. She does not want the perception to be this is an endorsement from the Harvard Press. Robbins said he does not intend to brand this as a Harvard Press project. Broadbent said the committee is grateful to have a resident come forward as it would be difficult for the current members to take this on right now. Ron Ricci expressed his gratitude to Robbins and suggested any outreach be done through the town website. On a Clark/Ricci motion, the board voted unanimously to authorize Tim Bragan to endorse the Solarize Mass Application.

SELECTMEN REPORTS

Peter Warren said he received an email from Administrative Assistant for JBOS Liz Garner regarding a breakfast meeting. The members decided to discuss further at the next JBOS meeting before making any commitments.

FINAL REVIEW OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

Article 15 – Hildreth boiler and windows

Energy Advisory Committee member Eric Broadbent said yesterday notification from MSBA that they approved our design firm came through. The next step would be to have a meeting with the design firm, Owner Project Manager and the town. He explained in the meantime the Energy Advisory Committee has revisited the windows at Hildreth

Elementary and have determined they can not justify a large enough energy savings for them to qualify for Green Community funding. He indicated the boiler remains a good energy saving project. He said the committee suggests the windows be removed from the warrant article. Clark asked if Article 26 (Town Hall Energy Study - \$8,300) is still necessary to cover the difference if Article 15 is amended. Bragan and Broadbent thought it would make sense to keep Article 26 as a safeguard. Broadbent said he will continue to work with the DOER on this. Johnson said we should keep with the strategy originally decided upon and if the \$8,300 is not needed it can go back to the original funding source.

Article 1 – Annual Reports

The Devens Economic Analysis Team will make a report.

Article 3 – Fiscal Year 2010 Certified Free Cash

Sobalvarro asked Bragan to confirm the Finance Committee will move free cash to the Capital Stabilization & Investment fund and he did.

Articles 11-16 – School Department articles

On a Clark/Sobalvarro motion, the board voted unanimously to take no position on school articles 11-16.

Marie Sobalvarro recommended the board vote on their final position regarding articles 17 and 18 the morning of the ATM considering the ongoing discussions related to the articles. The board members agreed.

Article 21 – Water Department – Install fence at water tank

Ron Ricci said he was not in favor of this article. Tim Clark wondered is this is an enforcement order or a recommendation. Bragan said the request came from the DPW Director and the Water Commission as they were told by DEP it must be done. Peter Warren asked to see the document sent by DEP and asked what the ramifications or if there is an appeal period. Marie Sobalvarro asked where this fell on the legal scoring with the Capital Committee.

Article 24 – Reconstruct and repair Littleton Road

Tim Clark asked how they will anticipate future repairs. Peter Warren and Marie Sobalvarro said is included in the DPW's five year capital plan. Warren said funds to repair will be split between the capital stabilization & Investment fund and Chapter 90.

Article 26 – Town Hall Energy Study

Tim Clark asked if all projects could be listed. Bragan confirmed the wording of the motion will be slightly different at ATM.

Article 27 – West Nile Virus and EEE Prevention

Marie Sobalvarro was curious to know how many stagnant water locations there are in town. Bragan said he was unsure but assumes the Board of Health will have the answer. Tim Clark said he is not in favor of this article. He is concerned about the effect this may have on Bare Hill Pond and its tributaries. Bill Johnson said the Bare Hill Pond

Watershed Management Committee has not discussed and hence has not taken a position on the article.

On a Ricci/Johnson motion, the board voted to support Article 27.

(Ricci – Aye, Johnson – Aye, Clark – Nay, Sobalvarro – Nay, Warren – Aye)

Article 28 – Conservation Fund Funding

Bragan said this article will be withdrawn by the Conservation Commission.

Article 29 – Update to Master Plan

Bragan said the Planning Board Chair Kara Minar will be attending the Finance Committee meeting on Wednesday. Bragan understands if approved the funding will come from stabilization. The board will revisit on Saturday morning.

Article 30- Home Rule Legislation – Join the Devens Economic Target Area

Johnson said the Devens Economic Analysis Team will supply a handout. Sobalvarro suggested they have a short presentation. Johnson will follow up with the team and forward the handout to the BOS members.

Article 31 – Home Rule Legislation – Adopt One – Day Liquor License

Sobalvarro said she will provide a handout on this. On a Ricci/Sobalvarro motion, the board voted unanimously to support Article 31.

Article 32 – Home Rule Legislation – Property Tax Relief for Senior Citizens

Warren said this may be passed over this year. He said discussions are ongoing and they need to learn more about the details. He will have a statement prepared which he will distribute to the BOS members.

Article 33 – Home Rule Legislation – Water Commissioners Elected to Appointed

Ricci said technically we have no commissioners due to resignations and the last member not running for re-election. Clark wondered what the appointment term will be. Bragan suggested it be a staggered term. Johnson said personally he would like to see the term be yearly for now until we have a better idea how this will progress. Bragan commented on how the BOS would take over in the absence of an official commission. Clark said he thinks the community will feel more comfortable with a more concrete plan. Johnson does not want to over specify. On a Ricci/Johnson motion, the board voted unanimously to support Article 33.

Article 34 – Dissolve Harvard Housing Authority

Sobalvarro questioned how this would impact properties such as Great Elms and wondered if we could access another housing authority if needed. Tim Clark said there is no local agency for this. Ron Ricci said he would follow up with Victor Normand on this and provide more information on Saturday morning.

Article 35 – Change Composition of Community Preservation Committee

The board decided to vote on this Saturday morning based on the resolution of the board's position on Article 34.

Articles 36-40 – Community Preservation Committee

On a Clark/Sobalvarro motion, the board voted unanimously to not take a position on CPC Articles 36-40.

Articles 41-42 – Planning Board

On a Clark/Sobalvarro motion, the board voted unanimously to take no position on Planning Board Articles 41-42.

Article 43 – Revolving Funds

Warren asked why the Harvard Ambulance Service is \$100,000. Bragan said it is a safe guard. On a Clark/Sobalvarro motion, the board voted unanimously to support Article 43.

Article 45 – Acceptance of Highway funds

On a Johnson/Sobalvarro motion, the board voted unanimously to support Article 45.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30am.

Documents referenced:

SOLARIZE MASS APPLICATION – letter dated 3.30.2011 and application