

## **MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING MARCH 29, 2016**

Chairman Hevy called the meeting to order in the Selectmen's office at 3:30 PM with Mrs. Walter and Mr. Smith also present. Present from Power Management were Sabin Rossi and Michael Hedges.

Mr. Hedges distributed an updated summary regarding the solar proposals received on February 25<sup>th</sup>. (Attachment #1) Mr. Hedges noted that there were ten companies that requested the RFP, and three of them responded with a proposal. Amoresco did not follow instructions, and submitted a proposal for a ground-mounted array at the landfill, even though that site had been removed from the RFP. The Amoresco proposal was discarded.

The other two proposals received were from Melink Solar and from Kearsarge Energy. The summary sheet breaks down the differences between the two proposals. While the Kearsarge proposal appears to offer more in revenue over a 20 year period, Mr. Hedges and Mr. Rossi seem to feel that their proposal is overly aggressive in system size, which may make it difficult to offload the power. In addition, the project schedule seems unrealistic since it states that the entire project will be completed by the end of 2016.

The proposal from Melink offers a very competitive lease payment at \$30,000.00 per MW, and the largest annual valuation payment. In addition Melink has a very good track record as far as projects in Massachusetts.

Mr. Rossi reported that state programs SREC1 and SREC2 are filled, and the North Brookfield project will most likely fall into SREC3, the specifics of which have not been released by the state.

Mr. Hedges stated that the difference in financial incentives between SREC1 and SREC2 was 25%, and he expects the same kind of numbers with SREC3. This is a very big part of the payments to the investors. He pledged to make sure that North Brookfield gets the best rate possible. The faster the Town makes a decision the better. He went on to say that if the Selectmen don't feel comfortable at any time they could stop the process.

Mr. Rossi stated that there are a lot of positives to the Melink proposal. They have a realistic project schedule and it will be easier to offload the net metering credits. Mr. Hedges said that his recommendation would be Melink as well.

Mr. Hevy asked if the Melink proposal included canopies at the school, and Mr. Hedges noted that it did not; canopies cost 30% more to construct.

Mr. Hevy noted that there has been a communications tower approved for the Water Plant on Bell Road. Mr. Hedges stated that the tower may cause some shading on the solar panels proposed for that site. It is something they will need to look at.

Mr. Rossi reviewed the next steps that need to be taken, that the Selectmen need to select a contractor and send an award letter. After that the land lease agreements will be executed, the final design and permitting will be done, and then the construction of the solar arrays will begin.

Mr. Rossi stated that he would like to come to the next Selectmen's meeting go review all of this. The Selectmen agreed that it would be a good idea to educate the public on this process. The Selectmen can ask Melink to come to a later meeting to explain this to residents.

Mr. Smith asked that John Couture be kept up to date on all of this. Mrs. Walter said that she would speak with him.

Mr. Ross, Mr. Hedges, and Mrs. Walter left the meeting at 4:35 PM.

Mr. Smith and Mr. Hevy discussed the current status of the FY17 budget process. Mr. Smith noted that there is approximately \$220,000.00 available to fund anything beyond level funded budgets. It was agreed that there needs to be a list of priorities from which to make decisions.

There being no further business, Mr. Smith moved, and Mr. Hevy seconded, a motion to adjourn at 5:30 PM. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Scott Burton  
Administrative Assistant