

Town of New Haven Selectboard Meeting
7:00 pm
Tuesday, December 2, 2014
Town Offices

Present: Chair, Kathy Barrett, Vice Chair, Roger Boise, Carole Hall, Doug Tolles, Treasurer, Barb Torian and Clerk, Pam Kingman

Absent: Charlie Roy

Visitors: Al Karnatz, Rick Shappy, Ed Rybka, Kevin Commons, Kyra Wilson, Nancy Myrick, Ben Dover, Jim Walsh, Bob Hill and Brian Hill

AGENDA RESULTS:

VISITORS BUSINESS:

****Al Karnatz had not arrived yet, The Selectboard asked Rick Shappy to be first. ****

1. **Energy Committee Chair, Rick Shappy** – Here to discuss having the Town Offices and Town Hall use solar energy to help with the towns electric bills. We are close to needing a 150kW system to provide electricity for all Town and School buildings, or maybe even a smaller system would be easier to get permitting for. Rick explained the town could write it's stipulations on the project; the Energy Committee is willing to do some of the leg work to get the project started. Kathy Barrett asked Rick if he was here representing the Energy Committee or as an employee of SunCommon. Rick said he was representing the Energy Committee and if there is any conflict he would recuse himself from the project. The Energy Committee is interested in working on the project; they believe this would save the town money. Rick is looking for feedback from the Selectboard. Doug Tolles feels with the current climate in town, it may not be the best time to pursue it. Roger Boise wondered where the array would be. Rick said a resident could host the array on their property. Kathy Barrett said some of these projects have appropriate sites, but the concerns of the Selectboard members still remains over sighting, screening and setbacks. Kathy mentioned a year ago we discussed putting panels on the Town Hall roof. Rick had spoken with Paul Lekstutus about that project; it is something we could still do, but it would cost the town more money, and we need more room to get the pay back, so that is not being considered. Rick suggested the Energy Committee write up a proposal, and if it meets the Selectboards criteria, is the Board willing to move forward? Kathy Barrett said the Selectboard passed a motion to intervene on all solar projects that require a Certificate of Public Good (CPG) from the Public Service Board. She suggested putting the information on Front Porch Forum, and see what kind of feedback the Energy Committee gets about having a solar array help out with the towns electric bills, gather some feedback and we can go from

there. Doug Tolles reminded Rick as Chair of the Energy Committee he needs to comply with the open meeting law by having agendas and minutes posted around town and on the web. Kathy Barrett invited Rick to the Open Meeting Law workshop on Saturday, December 13, 2014 at 11:00 am in the Town Hall.

****Because of several visitors in the audience where here to discuss the proposed 2.2MW Solar array on Field Days Road; Kathy Barrett opened up the meeting for a brief discussion. ****

Doug Tolles - Asked the visitors for their opinion on how hard the town should work on intervening on these various solar arrays.

Rick Shappy – As an individual, he is not aware of every project. If the arrays are over 150kW's then they have to go through the permitting process. The companies installing the arrays may listen to the towns input and concerns, but are not are not required to. He added the people in the solar industry are aware of concerns.

Kathy Barrett – The cost of intervening could start at \$10,000 and climb to who knows what. The town could intervene, but to what extent.

Ed Rybka – How hard is it to fight? Do you send a letter to the Public Service Board?

Doug Tolles – You could request an evidentiary hearing. Which is what they did in Rutland Town; the PSB sent a hearing officer to the site, the process took an entire year, and they spent upwards of \$100k. The Town tried to control the screening and siting of the array. New Haven could try sending a letter to the PSB stating concerns about siting, screening and setbacks. The New Haven Planning Commission mailed letters to the PSB with reasonable success, they were granted additional screening and setbacks were adhered to.

Kathy Barrett – Our Town Attorney intervened on the Cross Pollination project, which at the time she did under her flat fee. But now she has acknowledged that it falls under complex litigation and would be an additional expense to the town. Attorney Hill worked closely with ACRPC, and we were granted additional screening and the array was moved away from the road. The array is also smaller than was originally proposed, and they array is stationary, whereas before they were going to install trackers, which are much larger.

Other items discussed were:

- How to help individual landowners who are directly affected by these arrays.
- Arrays exceeding Town Plan
- Many of these projects should have a detailed landscaping plan.
- How many more projects will come to New Haven

2. Conservation Commission member, Al Karnatz on the PLACE Program - (PLACE stands for Place-based Landscape Analysis & Community Engagement)

The New Haven Conservation Commission's mission has mostly consisted of education, and feels this would be a great benefit to the town. The program is sponsored through the University of Vermont and Shelburne Farms. A Graduate student chooses a topic that his/her professor has designed. "The PLACE program provides local residents with a forum for exploring and understanding the natural and cultural history of their own landscape." The town will get 2 -3 presentations on the topic throughout the time the student is working on it. Al has spoken with Beeman Principal, Kristine Evarts-Bouvier and she is excited about the program. Beeman may offer up to \$500 towards the program. The Conservation Commission was unsure of how much to ask the Selectboard for; they came up with \$300.

Roger Boise made a motion to put \$300.00 for the PLACE Program into the 2015 budget, seconded by Carole Hall. 4 yes / 0 no

TOWN OFFICE BUSINESS:

1. Carole Hall made a motion to appoint Susan Smiley to the Addison County Regional Planning Commission as an alternate, fulfilling Rod Case's term ending June 30, 2015. Motion seconded by Roger Boise. 4 yes / 0 no
2. Town Hall Applications:
 - 1) Doug Tolles recused himself from this application, as his daughter is in this Troop. Roger Boise made motion to approve the Girl Scouts to use the Town Hall Cafeteria throughout the School year on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of each month, from 4 – 5 pm. Fee waived. Motion seconded by Carole Hall. 3 yes / 0 no
 - 2) Carole Hall made a motion to approve New Haven Twilight Tails Equine 4H to use the Town Hall Cafeteria every second Wednesday of the month from 6:30 – 8pm. Fee waived. Motion seconded by Doug Tolles. 4 yes / 0 no
 - 3) Roger Boise made a motion to approve Karen & Todd Dugauy holding a birthday party for a 6 year old in the gym and use of the cafeteria for cake on December 14, 2014 from 9am – 1 pm. Deposit \$50. 00 and rental fee of \$175 have been received. Motion seconded by Doug Tolles. 4 yes / 0 no
 - 4) Carole Hall made a motion to approve Stacey Sherman holding Zumba classes in the Town Hall gym every Thursday night from 5:45 – 7:15pm. Deposit \$50.00 received, and rental fee of \$25 per class. Motion seconded by Roger Boise. 4 yes / 0 no

TREASURER'S REPORT:

1. Doug Tolles made a motion to approve payroll for the week ending 11/22/14, in the amount of \$3,227.40, seconded by Roger Boise. 4 yes / 0 no
2. Doug Tolles made a motion to approve payroll for the week ending 11/29/14, in the amount of \$3,779.98, seconded by Carole Hall. 3 yes / 1 abstention (Boise)
3. Roger Boise made a motion to approve the pay orders for the week ending 11/24/14, in the amount of \$119,430.05, seconded by Kathy Barrett. 4 yes / 0 no
4. Carole Hall made a motion to approve the pay orders for the week ending 12/2/14, in the amount of \$5,665.20, seconded by Roger Boise. 4 yes / 0 no
5. Wage sheet – Treasurer, Barb Torian will plug the numbers in and this will be discussed at the budget meeting on Wednesday, December 10, 2014.
6. Treasurer, Barb Torian asked the Selectboard to please be available to sign pay orders and pay roll during the week. She also distributed preliminary budget sheets for the budget meeting on Wednesday, December 10, 2014.
7. Doug Tolles made a motion to approve Events Coordinator, Suzy Roorda's request for \$300 for Winterfest, seconded by Roger Boise. 4 yes / 0 no
8. Roger Boise made a motion to authorize Kathy Barrett to sign the Engagement Letter with Telling & Associates once it has been corrected. Motion seconded by Carole Hall. 4 yes / 0 no

Roger Boise made a motion to sign the Proposal hiring Telling & Associates to perform the outside audit for 2014, 2015 & 2016. Motion seconded by Kathy Barrett. 4 yes / 0 no

ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:**1. Road Update:**

The Crew plowed last Wednesday. They kept their plows up off the dirt roads because they were still soft. They also installed a culvert on the southern end of South St.

- **Equipment Update:** The Volvo loader needs a new check valve in the fuel line.
- Roger Boise made a motion to purchase a shipping container to be used as a storage building at the Town Garage in the amount of \$3,250, delivered. Motion seconded by Kathy Barrett. 4 yes / 0 no

Roger Boise made a motion to authorize Kathy Barrett to sign the building permit for said shipping container (storage building) to be place by the Town Garage. Motion seconded by Doug Tolles. 4 yes / 0 no

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Carole Hall made a motion to approve the amended Beeman Lease Agreement, seconded by Doug Tolles. 4 yes / 0 no

REGULAR BUSINESS:

- 1. Roger Boise made a motion to approve the minutes from November 18, 2014 seconded by Doug Tolles. 4 yes / 0 no

OTHER BUSINESS:

Doug Tolles made a motion that premature general public knowledge of the town's possible litigation for solar projects that require a Certificate of Public Good, may put this Selectboard at a substantial disadvantage. Motion seconded by Carole Hall. 4 yes / 0 no

Carole Hall made a motion to enter into executive session at 8:50 pm to discuss the town's possible litigation on Solar projects that require a Certificate of Public Good, under the provisions of Title 1, Section 313(a)(1)(A) of the Vermont Statutes. Motion seconded by Doug Tolles. 4 yes / 0 no

Carole Hall made a motion to come out of executive session at 9:17pm, seconded by Roger Boise. 4 yes / 0 no No action taken

MISC. CORRESPONDENCE:

- 1. VLCT Board sets DY16 Dues
- 2. Madden Correspondence

** The next scheduled meeting is on Wednesday, December 19, 2014 at 5:00 pm – this is a budget meeting.**

Adjourn: 9:18 pm

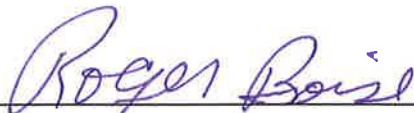
Respectfully submitted:

Pam Kingman

Approved:



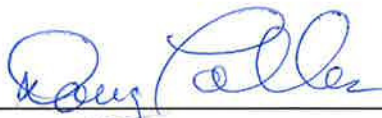
 Chair, Kathy Barrett



 Vice Chair, Roger Boise



 Carole Hall



 Doug Tolles

