

## Town of New Haven Selectboard Meeting

7:00 pm

Tuesday, February 2, 2016

Town Offices

Present: Chair, Kathy Barrett, Vice Chair, Carole Hall, Steve Dupoise, (Via Skype), Doug Tolles, Jim Walsh, Treasurer, Barb Torian and Clerk, Pam Kingman

Visitors: Road Foreman, Jeff Terry, Suzanne Sawyer, Theresa Sawyer, Dean Gilmore, Mark Livingston, Peter Bolduc, Dan Monger, Bridget Kipp, Maura Lester, Sam Lester, Roger Boise, Erin Baslow, Billy Baslow, John Roleau, Rod Viens, Lincoln Lande, Polly Darnell, Cathy Walsh, Alex MacLean and Laurel Junkins

**Adjustments to the Agenda** - \*\* Doug Tolles asked for the executive session piece to be moved to after Visitors Business. During executive session he would like to discuss Solar on the Russell farm at the insistence of town council; as well as a settlement offer for a proposed solar array. Carole Hall also added several letters that need to be discussed during the executive session and then signed off on, concerning Anbaric.\*\*

Doug Tolles made a motion to adjourn tonight's meeting at 9:00 pm, Jim Walsh seconded, and then amended the motion to adjourn at 9:30pm. Motion seconded by Doug Tolles. Vote taken by roll call 4 yes / 1 no (Barrett) Kathy is concerned if the meeting is adjourned too early, the Board won't get to all the agenda items.

### AGENDA RESULTS:

#### ROAD FOREMAN'S REPORT:

- 1. Road Update:** Road Foreman, Jeff Terry said he has been busy getting information on paving. The crew has been working on the saw awl getting it ready to clear and chip brush along Campground Road.
- 2. Equipment Update:** Nothing wrong with any equipment at this time.
- 3. Internet at the Town Garage:** Jeff explained he has been having issues getting an internet connection at the garage. The wifi comes from the far side of the Fire Dept., so by the time it gets to his office the signal is very weak. Silloway (computer support for Town) has suggested a new router or a new hook up through the phone line. Jim Walsh mentioned if you get a new hook up, then we need to pay for DSL, and that could get expensive. Doug Tolles suggested running an ethernet cable along the floor from the Fire Dept. as a trial, and then if it works, he can go ahead and drill holes to hide the cable. Barb Torian said the town office has long cables they could try.

4. **Cost Estimate sheets for paving:** Road Foreman, Jeff Terry went out on all the town roads with Pike Industries to get paving estimates. He said we are not bound to the quotes. Jeff does not like “piece meal” the roads, he would like to pave the whole road, but it is ultimately up to the Selectboard. Highway Office staff, Katie Reilley put together paving cost comparisons for 2016 for Hallock Road, Quaker Village Road and Campground Road. Kathy Barrett said the comparisons show a significant cost increase. She also expressed her concern that Jeff has met with Pike’s, as this is a bidding process, and she feels Jeff has now muddied up the bid process. Jeff said that Pikes has no information on what the town is doing. He said he has a good working relationship with Mike Mullen at Pikes. Former Road Commissioner Roger Boise said the Foreman shouldn’t be in bed with Pikes. Jeff could go to any paving company and get the same free estimates. He discussed the bid process, and said the Selectboard should be aware when awarding paving bids; they should go by the total cost, not by the unit cost. Discussed the bid process, and making the process fair for all who bid. Jeff said he has been doing research for the Selectboard, he is pushing to put thicker pavement on the roads, we may get less done, but they will be thicker and hold up longer.
5. **Certificate of Highway Miles:** Doug Tolles made a motion to accept the 2016 Certificate of Highway Miles, seconded by Jim Walsh. Vote taken by roll call 5 yes / 0 no
6. **Pike Agreement:** Jim Walsh will be meeting with two employees from Pikes on Friday, hoping to have something in writing. Jim will forward what he has so far to the Board and Town Attorney Cindy Hill.
7. Road Foreman, Jeff Terry has been working on getting quotes on road striping. The quote he received from L & D Safety Marketing Corp. to do both yellow and white lines is \$38,651.06. He has not been able to get ahold of Scott’s Striping yet.

#### **VISITORS BUSINESS:**

1. **Rod Viens and Lincoln Lande from Gro Solar** pitched a 5MW array on the Sawyer property just off of Sawyer Road. They originally pulled the project because of negative feedback from the town. Rod said he has been approached by several people who live in New Haven asking them to approach the Selectboard again. Gro Solar feels this is an excellent site as it has natural screening on 3 sides, and if the town feels there needs to be additional screening, they are more than happy to comply. Doug Tolles asked what Gro Solar will do for the Town; Rod Viens said there really isn’t much they can do beyond the tax revenue. The original project was formally withdrawn. Jim Walsh asked if there will be enough room on the lines after the Four Hills Farm

upgrades their methane digester. Lincoln Lande said Green Mountain Power would tell them whether or not they can hook into the line or not. Rod Viens said there have been significant upgrades to the lines in that area, and 3 phase lines already exist. Doug Tolles asked if they recognized our Town Plan limits the size of arrays to 300kW. Rod said he reads the Town Plan as more of a suggestion. Doug said he disagrees. Kathy Barrett asked if the energy credits will be sold out of State. Rod said he cannot confirm where the credits will go. Discussed when they would do their landscape / screening before or after the CPG is issued. Rod said they would do a post screening walk to define areas that need additional screening; this could be done within the CPG or after. Doug Tolles asked if they were open to hosting a solar park on this site. Rod said yes. The Selectboard thanked them for coming, they will discuss the matter.

2. **Anbaric discussion:** Steve Dupoise said Vermont Green Line d/b/a Anbaric has sent the town \$75,000 that has been set up in an escrow account managed by Conley & Foote in Middlebury. This money will be used by the town to hire experts on sound, aesthetics, electrical engineering, land values, lighting and anything else that comes up. Carole Hall added Attorney Richard Suadek has found consultants work with the town. Polly Darnell asked when the sound study is done, if it they could issue a range of outcomes from each house site around the neighborhood, and not just the abutters. Similar to what VELCO did with their sound studies. This can then be posted on the website once it is completed. Polly Darnell also said the recent article in the Addison Independent quotes Alex MacLean (KSE Partners) saying they will only be working with abutters. Alex MacLean responded saying they have not hired a 3<sup>rd</sup> party to work with abutters. John Roleau asked if the Town has to consult with Anbaric on who the town hires. Carole Hall said no, the Town can hire who they want. Separate reports from all experts will be filed separately, but they may talk amongst themselves. Discuss the public should be able to have access to all the reports. Bridget Kipp asked if all the information would be available at the public meeting hosted by Anbaric at the Congregational Church on February 11, 2016. The Selectboard wanted the public to know, this meeting is **not** hosted by the Selectboard. Carole and Steve just found out about this meeting last Friday. Jim Walsh asked for copies of the ISO New England report; Carole Hall has spoken to our attorney, and they are not available yet. Jim then asked Alex MacLean for the RFP response, Alex said she will have to check to see if it is available. Discuss how frustrated the abutters are, and how they feel they are not being heard. Alex MacLean said even those people who are not abutters can contact her. Erin Baslow's property will overlook this proposed converter station. She and her husband are very concerned about the project. They are raising two small children, and had hoped to live in this house forever, now they are not so sure.

She said they have met with Anbaric, and they are frustrated that all Anbaric kept saying was they, "are not required to reach out to abutters or neighbors". Bridget Kipp feels this converter station will never fit the landscape in New Haven. Roger Boise thinks the building is ok; he asked if it will go to a town vote, or will the Selectboard decide. Kathy Barrett said it is premature; we need to have an agreement with Anbaric before we can consider a vote. Dan Monger asked what happens if the Selectboard says no, but the PSB says yes. Alex MacLean said if the town says no, then the project won't go through. Discuss having to have all the information prior to going to a town vote, there would need to be a special town meeting the night before to inform voters. Jim Walsh is frustrated about Anbaric "stumbling" over the abutters, when Anbaric stands to make millions of dollars on this project, not to mention they have offered the Fire Dept. a brand new 3 million dollar fire station. John Roleau said the towns' people need to give Carole Hall and Steve Dupoise time to negotiate; nothing is set in stone yet. Steve Dupoise and Carole Hall said they are negotiating for the town. They encouraged people to be proactive for themselves. If Anbaric hasn't contacted them, then they should contact Anbaric.

Carole Hall made a motion to find that premature general public knowledge of the town's negotiation with Anbaric, settlement offer from solar on South St., and the Russell Farm would clearly put the Selectboard at a substantial disadvantage, because the Selectboard risks disclosing its negotiation strategy if it discusses the proposed settlement terms in public. Motion seconded by Doug Tolles. Vote taken by roll call 4 yes / 1 no (Barrett)

Doug Tolles made a motion to move into executive session at 8:31 pm to discuss the town's negotiation with Anbaric, settlement offer from solar on South St. and the Russell Farm, under the provisions of Title 1, Section 313(a)(1)(A) of the Vermont Statutes. Motion seconded by Carole Hall. Vote taken by roll call 5 yes / 0 no

Doug Tolles made a motion to come out of executive session at 9:15 pm, seconded by Carole Hall. Vote taken by roll call 5 yes / 0 no

Doug Tolles made a motion to reject the settlement offer from Suncommon, solar project SCA 22 South Street, seconded by Jim Walsh. Vote taken by roll call 5 yes / 0 no

Kathy Barrett made a motion to authorize the Selectboard Chair to sign the letter from Legal Counselors and Advocates to Richard Saudek, which outlines payment from Vermont Green Line (Anbaric), to the Town of New Haven. Motion seconded by Steve Dupoise. Vote taken by roll call 5 yes / 0 no

Kathy Barrett made a motion to authorize the Selectboard Chair to sign the Escrow Agreement, dated January 28, 2016 with Vermont Green Line Devco, LLC (Anbaric), seconded by Carole Hall. Vote taken by roll call 5 yes / 0 no

Doug Tolles made a motion to authorize the Selectboard Chair to sign the agreement between the Town of New Haven and Robert Amelang for Engineering consultation for the Vermont Green Line project (Anbaric). Motion seconded by Carole Hall. Vote taken by roll call 5 yes / 0 no

Doug Tolles made a motion to authorize the Selectboard Chair to sign the agreement between the Town of New Haven and Michael Lawrence for Landscape and Aesthetics consultation for the Vermont Green Line project (Anbaric). Motion seconded by Jim Walsh. Vote taken by roll call 5 yes / 0 no

Steve Dupoise made a motion to authorize Selectboard Chair to sign the agreement between the Town of New Haven and Herbert Singleton for Acoustics consultation for the Vermont Green Line project (Anbaric). Motion seconded by Carole Hall. Vote taken by roll call 4 yes / 1 no (Walsh)

#### **TOWN OFFICE BUSINESS:**

1. **Town Hall Application(s)** – Jim Walsh made a motion to approve Cindy Kayhart, the Dairy 4H leader to hold meetings in the gym from 9 –noon on Saturdays from now until the end of the year; fee waived. Motion seconded by Doug Tolles. Vote taken by roll call 5 yes / 0 no

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

1. Doug Tolles made a motion to approve payroll for the week ending 1/23/16, in the amount of \$3,563.40, seconded by Jim Walsh. Vote taken by roll call, 5 yes / 0 no
2. Doug Tolles made a motion to approve payroll for the week ending 1/30/16, in the amount of \$4,490.43, seconded by Steve Dupoise. Vote taken by roll call 5 yes / 0 no

- 3. Doug Tolles made a motion to approve the pay orders for the week ending 1/25/16, in the amount of \$10,570.73, seconded by Jim Walsh. Vote taken by roll call 5 yes / 0 no
- 4. Carole Hall made a motion to approve the pay orders for the week ending 2/1/16, in the amount of \$33,929.22, seconded by 33,929.22. Vote taken by roll call 5 yes / 0 no
- 5. General and Road Fund budgets for January – defer until the next meeting

**REGULAR BUSINESS:**

- 1. Doug Tolles made a motion to approve the minutes from 1/19/16, seconded by Jim Walsh. Vote taken by roll call 5 yes / 0 no
- 2. March Meeting Schedule: Town Meeting Voting is on Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, which would be the first Tuesday of the month the Selectboard would meet. Their organizational meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 8, 2016 at 7:00 pm.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- 1. Letter to the Agency of Transportation – Vergennes bypass – Defer to next meeting

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1. Fondo bike race – June 2016 – defer to next meeting

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

**MISC. CORRESPONDENCE:**

The next scheduled meeting is on February 16, 2016.

Adjourn: 9:30 pm

Respectfully submitted:

Pam Kingman

Approved:




Chair, Kathy Barrett



Vice Chair, Carole Hall

Steve Dupoise



Jim Walsh



Doug Tolles