

## Town of New Haven Selectboard Meeting

7:00 pm

Tuesday, October 21, 2014

Town Offices

Present: Chair, Kathy Barrett, Vice Chair, Roger Boise, Carole Hall, Charlie Roy, Doug Tolles, Treasurer, Barb Torian and Clerk, Pam Kingman  
Carole Hall arrived at 8:30 pm

Visitors: Peter Rothschild, Nick Hamel, Dean Gilmore, Nancy Myrick, Paige Myrick, Susan Schaefer and Ed Rybka

Charlie Roy made a motion to affirm all votes taken at the October 7, 2014 Selectboard meeting, seconded by Roger Boise. 4 yes / 0 no

### AGENDA RESULTS:

#### VISITORS BUSINESS:

- 1. Peter Rothschild** is interested in the vacant Planning Commission position. He turned in the volunteer application on September 30<sup>th</sup>; it was scanned and emailed to the Selectboard and Planning Commission. Peter has lived in New Haven for 13 years, he learned about some of the proposed solar arrays when he came in to pay his taxes. He has received some communications from PC member, Jim Walsh. Peter would like to do something positive for his town. He recently met with Jim Douglas, and then Chris Bray to discuss the solar issues for New Haven. He is willing to work and put in the hours for the town. Doug Tolles asked if he has read the Town Plan. Peter said he had, and feels it should be more specific. Doug Tolles made a motion to appoint Peter Rothschild to the Planning Commission, term ending 2017. Motion seconded by Roger Boise. 4 yes / 0 no
- 2. Nick Hamel from New Haven First Response Along with Fireman Dean Gilmore** – New Haven First Response is up and running. They currently receive \$1,500 from the town; if the town could go up to \$2,000 it would be greatly appreciated. They have spent some of their money on upgrading equipment and supplies. They currently have 8 members, 5 of which are certified, and they are NIMS Certified as well. All current members live in New Haven. Kathy Barrett told him they would need a comprehensive report for the Auditors Assistant's to submit for the town report. They have insurance coverage under the Fire Dept. Claire Dykstra is the President, Nick Hamel is Vice President. They have been meeting once a month. They have a good working relationship with the Fire Dept. and are there to support each other.

**\*\*The Agenda was amended to accommodate members of the audience who were here to discuss Solar Arrays\*\***

**3. Solar Generating Facilities** - Doug Tolles attended the Planning Commission meeting last week. He learned there are now 14 proposed solar arrays for New Haven. The general sense of the audience at the PC meeting was most of them are against the larger arrays. The Planning Commission is holding a special meeting on Monday, Oct. 27 to decide what course of action they want to take on these proposed arrays. Ed Rybkas sent a letter to Encore Redevelopment requesting screening to lessen the impact from his home on the array proposed on the Ed Gervais property. They visited Ed Rybka and are willing to screen the arrays. All present question if these arrays will grow to larger ones on the same parcels in the future. There are also concerns about property values on neighboring properties; will it decrease or increase our values? Doug Tolles said he would like to see the Selectboard become interveners on any solar array that is larger than the 300kW suggested in our Town Plan. He asked the Selectboard what their feelings were on the larger arrays. All agreed they would rather see the larger array on Sawyer Rd than on Route 7. They would like more of a say in the process of all of them, large and small. Doug said if the Selectboard were to object strongly enough to the location and what screening should be used; he thinks the Board should step up with the Planning Commission and become a united front. Doug added that under federal law, all structures should be completed by 2015. Kathy Barrett added that Mr. Viens from GroSolar stated that even though the credits may run out, there will probably still be investors. Kathy said she would like to see them follow the town's setbacks and plant the necessary screening. She would also like to get a form letter from Addison County Regional Planning to help with language when contacting the Public Service Board.

Doug Tolles made a motion to request intervention with the Public Service Board on each Solar Generating Facility application in New Haven in conjunction with Regional Planning and the New Haven Planning Commission. Motion seconded by Charlie Roy. 4 yes / 0 no

Doug Tolles made a motion to oppose the construction of the proposed solar array by Green Peak Solar on Field Days Road, seconded by Roger Boise. 4 yes / 0 no

Doug Tolles made a motion to oppose the construction of the proposed solar array by GroSolar on Route 7, seconded by Charlie Roy. 4 yes / 0 no

**TOWN OFFICE BUSINESS:**

1. Health Insurance Benefits were discussed. Roger Boise made a motion to approve the Town portion of \$9,500 for a single person / \$16,000 for a 2 person plan and \$21,000 for a family. Motion seconded by Doug Tolles. 5 yes / 0 no

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

1. Roger Boise made a motion to approve payroll for the week ending 10/11/14, in the amount of \$4,794.75, seconded by Charlie Roy. 5 yes / 0 no
2. Doug Tolles made a motion to approve payroll for the week ending 10/18/14, in the amount of \$6,751.89, seconded by Roger Boise. 5 yes / 0 no
3. Carole Hall made a motion to approve the pay orders for the week ending 10/21/14, in the amount of \$11,128.87, seconded by Roger Boise. 5 yes / 0 no
4. Charlie Roy made a motion to approve the September Financial Statements for the General and Road Fund budgets, seconded by Roger Boise. 5 yes / 0 no  
Barb Torian has already posted a summary of the financial statements on the website as this is the end of a quarter.

**ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:**

1. **Road Update:** D & F Paving has completed both Hunt Rd and Quaker Village Rd. Roger has called Pike Industries about the 2 paving projects in town, they keep putting him off. Their deadline for both South St. and East St. was September 30<sup>th</sup>. He will approach them again and remind them that the weather is turning colder.
2. **Equipment Update:** The Mac truck took about a week to get repaired, the injector was bad, and the exhaust had to be burned off. Roger asked them to look into it being covered under warranty under pollution control.
3. Charlie Roy made a motion to approve the two road access permits for the Four Hills Farm, one on Plank Road, the other on Sawyer Rd. Motion seconded by Kathy Barrett. 4 yes / 1 abstention (Hall)

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Setting the Warning / Agenda – The agenda items were changed by Kathy Barrett, she feels they should be for discussion items only, with appropriate action taken if needed. From now on Agenda items will be delivered to Pam Kingman, Selectboard clerk by Tuesday at noon the week prior to each meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Mt. Abe Bond Vote on Nov. 4, 2014 – Doug handed out a spread sheet he put together. Our Governor is proposing a 7 cent increase in school taxes for 2015, without the Mt. Abe bond effect and without the CLA, the 7 cents becomes

become 12 cent increase, due to the per pupil spending rate being greater than the state baseline amount. Since the bond project will not receive any state aid, the annual cost may increase the per pupil spending, which could put us into a "penalty" situation, whereby we would be assessed an additional amount in the calculation of the education tax by the state.

Doug Tolles made a motion that the Selectboard of New Haven, VT recommends a "no" vote November 4, 2014 on the \$32,625,000 (plus interest) Mt. Abe School Bond issue. Motion failed for lack of a second.

- 2. Dept. of Agriculture Hearing Re: Four Hills Farm Permits – Doug Tolles attended this hearing. 4 Hills are proposing 2 barn additions and 2 satellite manure pits, with 5 more (pits) in the works. One of these "pits" was used by 4 Hills prior to receiving their permits. Because they are considered a "Large Farm" operation, they are subject to screening and setbacks, and must follow the rules for Large Farm Operations.

**REGULAR BUSINESS:**

- 1. Charlie Roy made a motion to approve the minutes from October 2 & 7, 2014, seconded by Roger Boise. 5 yes / 0 no

**MISC. CORRESPONDENCE:**

- 1. Otter Creek Engineering Re: Phoenix Feeds
- 2. Rutland's Decommissioning Plan & Fund for Solar Arrays
- 3. Madden Correspondence – Solar Arrays


Adjourn: 9:33 pm

Respectfully submitted:

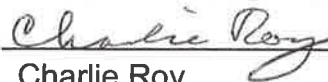
Pam Kingman

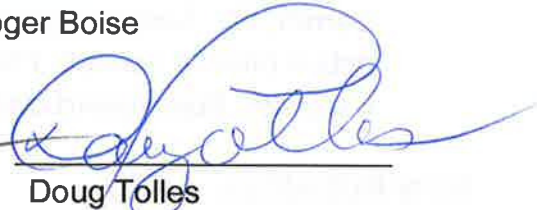
Approved:

  
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 Chair, Kathy Barrett

  
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 Vice Chair, Roger Boise

  
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 Carole Hall

  
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 Charlie Roy

  
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 Doug Tolles