

Minutes
West Rutland Selectboard Meeting
Monday, November 8th, 2021
6:00 pm

Present: John Harvey, Chet Brown, Nick Notte and Dick Daley

Others Present: Mary Ann Goulette, Mike Moser, Pam & Karl Sokol, Tom Burditt, John White Paul & Melanie Grabowski, Susan Stacey and Sean Barrows. **Remote:** Jake Clark, Lisa Wright, Christy Wright, Sally James and Zoe

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by John with the pledge of allegiance.

Agenda Approval: Motion by Chet seconded by Nick to approve the agenda as written. Motion approved unanimously.

Minutes Approval: Motion made by Chet seconded by Nick to approve the minutes of the meeting of October 11, 2021. Motion approved.

Public Concerns: None

Discussion Items:

- a) **Boardman Hill Solar LLC. proposal** – The Town received a 45 day notice for a proposed 3.1 MW solar array to be located off Boardman Hill Road. Jake Clark, from Encore Renewable Energy was invited to the meeting to share the details of the project. Encore is a Vermont based company located in Burlington. They have 12 employees and have completed 50-60 solar projects in Vermont. Mr. Clark clarified the project is actually 2.2 MW on 12-15 acres of the Grabowski property. They have secured a standard offer contract from the State of Vermont. They will site the project as far back from the road as possible. There will be an access road, maintenance building and fence around the perimeter. They plan some level of vegetation to provide screening. They are still completing some of the preliminary work and hope to file their Certificate of Public Good in 30-60 days but it could be longer. Mr. Clark answered additional questions: The contract is for 25 years with no option to purchase or lease additional acreage. There is a decommissioning plan as it is required by the Public Service Board. The existing power lines will need to be upgraded to allow for the connection. They will look at the possibility of connecting underground. Encore is willing to work with neighbors to provide screening of the project. The project is on ag soil. Encore typically excavates and stockpiles any disturbed soil and will spread it after. There will be a small concrete path and access road where the soils will be disturbed. It was questioned why was there so many renewable projects proposed in Rutland County. Is the land cheaper? The Town will ask for party status on the project.
- b) **Town Manager Report** –
 - a. **Dewey Avenue Project Update** - Mary Ann gave an update on the Dewey Avenue road stabilization project. The project is taking longer but should be

finished in two weeks. We uncovered more unsuitable road material than initially thought resulting in an extra \$15,000 cost. We are still within budget.

- b. **Grandpa's Knob Project Update** - Sam Carlson provided an email with a monthly project update to all the towns. Mary Ann will post it on the town's website. The Town of Hubbardton Selectboard sent a letter asking our support to oppose the Grandpa's Knob wind proposal citing preservation of the Hubbardton Battlefield. Ms. Sokol also questioned if we had the exact location of the proposed turbine and if it would interfere with the hanggliders. Mary Ann said that Sam Carlson did send the location after the last meeting:

The center of the proposed turbine pad is at:

Longitude W073° 06' 32.00"

Latitude N043° 39' 37.00"

this is also

Vermont State Plane Coordinate (in U.S. Survey Feet)

North 423,476.2276'

East 1,479,285.9394'

Action Items

- c. **Salt Purchase** – The price of \$80.31 per ton is negotiated by the State. We normally purchase 1,000 tons of the treated clearlane deicer with delivery in June. Motion made by Chet seconded by Dick to purchase 1,000 tons of salt at the price of \$80.31. Motion approved.
- d. **Grants in Aid Equipment Purchase** – The VT Department of Environmental Conservation is offering a grant for an equipment purchase to support (MRGP) Municipal Roads General Permit implementation. We want to apply for a leaf blower. The grant will cover 80% of the cost or \$5,600 of the equipment cost. Motion made by Chet seconded by Dick. Motion approved.
- e. **REMC Appointment** – New legislature that requires the creation of a Regional Emergency Management Committee (REMC) to coordinate and support all emergency planning and preparedness. The Local Emergency Management Director is one voting member. They are looking for a second appointment. Michael Skaza, our fire chief, has agreed to serve for the Town of West Rutland. Motion made by Chet seconded by Nick to appoint Michael Skaza, fire chief, as a member of the REMC. Motion approved.
- f. **ESRA Trail Grant letter of support** – We were approved to apply for Phase 3 of the marsh trail with the Audubon Society. We expect to ask for \$40,000 and will split the 10% match with the Audubon Society. Motion made by Dick seconded by Nick to send a letter of support for the ESRA Grant. Motion approved.

Board Member Concerns:

Dick – some manholes on Pleasant Street that need a riser near Nick's house and Johnson's. Also, the hedge row on Durgy Hill needs trimming, it's difficult to see oncoming traffic. Also, waiting for the 25 mph speed limit signs to be installed.

Executive Session: None

Adjournment: Nick made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 pm and Chet seconded. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Goulette