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BY: Wenay Rawski, Town Clerk

EEC Meeting Minutes January 14, 2015

Present: Charlie Case, Ed Henningsen, Ben Brickett, Jack Murphy, Monique Lillis (via Skype)

Guest: Grant Hirst (BOS Liaison), Dana Lee (Town Manager), Christine Bennett

Call to Order 4:35 PM,

A. November meeting minutes approved

B. Status of Boiler Replacement at Town Garage and Police Station Generator Heater – Dana reported that the Board of Selectmen voted to fund both the new boiler and the "on demand" hot water heater for the Town Garage from a separate account – not the Energy Capital account.

The Police Station Generator was discussed again because the heater that keeps the engine oil warm (allowing rapid startup) uses a lot of electricity and we have been trying to find a more efficient way to provide backup power to the Police Station. Ben researched the possibility of doing cold starts on the current generator and found that the unit we have could fail under a cold start/rapid load condition. We determined that the current unit only provides backup power for part of the Station. Another problem is that the unit takes a lot of space in the garage adjacent to the Station. Cummins currently has the service contract. Dana will work with Ben and the Police Chief to investigate other possibilities such as replacing the unit with a 20 KW air cooled unit that is mounted outside (similar installation as the Public Works Garage).

C. Status of Current Energy Reduction Projects for the Town Garage – Dana and Ed listed the remaining Public Works Garage projects to be funded from the Energy Capital account:

| | |
|---|---|
| a. Install insulated cover on pull down stairs, raise access platform in attic, add handrail | $3,300 |
| b. Air sealing and insulation in attic | $8,940 |
| c. Provide portable exhaust fan with flexible duct for welding and vehicle exhaust | $7.700 |
| Total | $19,940 |

Dana will check to see if the remaining funds in the Energy Capital account will cover this work. Public Works plans to reallocate their budget to fund any small shortfall. The BIOS company bid much of this work competitively last summer and has agreed not to change their bid. Dana will give Public Works the go ahead.

D. December 15th Review of Solar Phase 2 Bids and Next Steps – Ben, Dana and Charlie met to compare the three bids we received for our proposed large solar installation on the town landfill. We developed a set of questions for each and plan to meet with all three bidders individually on February 17th. We have already received some responses from the bidders.

E. December 17th Solar Phase 2 Presentation to MSAD35 and South Berwick Collaboration Group –

Attendees:
Eliot: Dana Lee, Grant Hirst, Rebecca Davis, Charlie Case

South Berwick: Perry Elsworth, a member of the Town Council
MSAD35: Mary Nash, Randy Stewart, several members of the School Committee

The group seemed receptive to solar. We learned that the schools looked into a large roof mounted solar array but there was some sort of legal issue so they stopped. South Berwick used their SEI funds to install a 37,000 watt system on the Library roof. Charlie explained what the EEC mission is and how we work with the town to reduce energy use and cost. The current situation of energy prices was discussed along with the reasons for the rise in electricity prices and the reduction in heating oil prices.

We explained how we can generate solar power at the landfill and credit other accounts as long as the Town of Eliot as a vested interest in the other sites so a large solar array on the town landfill site can support enough solar (660,000 watts) to power both Eliot municipal buildings and about 30% of the schools. It was suggested that S. Berwick could also install a large system and power school buildings too since they have a vested interest in the schools as well. S. Berwick said they have a large unused field owned by the town water dept that could potentially be used.

We showed that the potential long term savings is very large. – and that we are evaluating three bids now that will determine specifics. We explained that the investment and savings numbers are based on scaling up the garage solar financials. We also said once we own the system we can sell renewable energy credits on the open market – and those credits are selling now in Massachusetts for 8 cents a kwh. This means we could actually make money on the system.

The schools asked how we could ensure that they get the solar credits they would be entitled to. We explained that this is done through the way we set up the credit system with CMP.

We also discussed the possibility of the EEC working with the schools to achieve substantial energy reductions and showed what our experience has been in Eliot. The superintendent (Mary Nash) asked us to meet with her, Randy Stewart and the facilities manager.

F. Town Requested Report on EEC Comprehensive Plan Implementation – Charlie reviewed the package he sent to Dana. He commented that the EEC job to implement the Comprehensive Plan has been made easy by the well written section on Energy Policies and Strategies that was written by the original members of the EEC. Several comments were received from EEC members which will be added to our package. Charlie commented to Dana that his compliance matrix did not include two sections – Energy and Finance.

G. Inventory – It was agreed that the EEC will need to access the treasurer's records to accurately complete the 2014/2015 energy inventory. Monique will be in Eliot on break in early March and will coordinate this effort. Dana will notify Rebecca.

Adjourned 6:00 PM

Approved Mar 11, 2015
C. A. Case