

**Eliot Select Board
Workshop
July 20, 2017 at 5:30 pm
MINUTES**

Present: Rebecca Davis, Jack Murphy, Richard Donhauser, Brad Hughes, Bob Pomerleau, Dana Lee, Ed Henningsen, Christine Bennett, Al Libby, Denny Lentz, Jim Tessier.

1. Open Workshop: The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm.
2. Roll Call: All Selectmen present.
3. Public Comment: None.
4. Solar Array Discussion / Q and A: The Chair had prepared a matrix to assist in answering questions about the specifics of the costs involved and the returns expected (see attached). Ed had received the matrix earlier in the day and had prepared response (attached). Ed recapped the deal and the underlying assumptions, which were portrayed as being conservative estimates. The group went through the 11 steps of the matrix.

Total estimated savings \$219,419. 1 to 1 credits for 15 years then who knows, would be \$187,000 with interest to bond and buy out system at presumed fair market value and 5% interest rate. If the Town does nothing, it is anticipated we will spend \$537,000 in electrical costs over 25 years. We will pay 12.5% below CMPs standard offer down to 10.5 cents (floor). Discussed likelihood of CMP's rate going below that rate – determined to be pretty unlikely, but possible. It was confirmed that if we overproduce energy that we cannot use, we would pay for that generation, but the committee sized the system to be just below or at average usage (211,000 Kwh). We will have 8 meters hooked to garage solar and 10 meters that will be fed from the new solar array. Richard suggested reserving funds as we go to avoid having to ask for a bond after 6 years. Discussed the prior vote that attempted that and failed. Discussed that if the fair market value comes in higher than \$135,000 is Barrington "donating" the remaining value as a tax write off? Discussed inverters - \$8,000 over the life of the system would be worst case; maintenance (mowing) estimated at \$800 / year. There was concern about who and how the system would be monitored. Discussed that even if we outsourced / contracted the service, it would only be maybe 1-2 hours per month. Can be monitored entirely through internet / web application provided by Barrington Power.

5. Next Steps: Dana said the lawyers were reviewing and revising the Power Purchase Agreement and the Select Board should have it in Friday, Ed and Dana had a phone conference with attorney to determine where we need greater protections, better language. Went very well.

Jim Tessier provided a quick update on the Ecomaine contracts being created. The Town's Public Works Director is negotiating for a term and best per ton rates. The information would help guide him.

6. Adjourn: At 6:42, Brad made a motion to adjourn. This was seconded by Bob and was so voted 5 – 0.

8-10-2017 Approved

Richard Dohauser, Secretary