

MINUTES

SELECTMEN'S/ASSESSORS' MEETING Tuesday, May 7, 2019 William Pullen Building Meeting Room 6:30 p.m.

Selectmen Present: Greg Grotton, Jim Justice, John Shepard, Lyle Cramer, and Sarah Drickey

Others Present: Jay Feyler, Jim Turner, Josh White, Paul Bruno, Cheryl Bruno, Bill Lombardi, Holly Lombardi, Lawrence Nash, John Gibbons, Chuck Piper, and Adam Fuller

1. **Call Selectmen's Meeting to order:** 6:30 p.m.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Open Public Hearing on the Canine Control Ordinance Changes:** 6:34 p.m.

Motion by: Jim Justice

2nd by: John Shepard

5-0

Discussion on the Canine Control Ordinance. Section 6A; Noise – Barking Dogs
Jay clarified this pertains to the provocation clause, that there is no viable excuse, no matter how a dog is provoked.

Lawrence Nash of Union hopes that this will help but is pessimistic.

John Gibbons of Union stated, as a dog owner, he is not sure how eliminating the clause will work, particularly the part about the continuous barking for 20 minutes being a cause of action. He feels it is worth a try to see if it does, even though he has his doubts.

4. **Close Public Hearing on the Canine Control Ordinance Changes:** 6:39 p.m.

Motion by: Jim Justice

2nd by: Lyle Cramer

5-0

Selectmen's/Assessors' Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, May 7, 2019

5. Public Comment:

Jim Turner was present on behalf of his wife. She would like to add flora with color around the gazebo in the center of town. They will personally cover the cost and would like to plant hydrangeas.

Discussion:

Greg stated there is a concern about planting hydrangeas, mainly regarding the height and the rot to the structure that certain plants can cause. Sarah added that she is concerned about critters that like to hide within those type of plants. It was decided that Jim's wife can add low plants with color; it is preferred that she run it by the Board first.

6. Approve Minutes of Tuesday, April 16, 2019:

Motion by: Jim Justice

2nd by: Sarah Drickey

5-0

7. Sign Treasurer's Warrant dated Tuesday, May 7, 2019:

Motion by: John Shepard

2nd by: Jim Justice

5-0

8. Presentation by Sundog Solar:

Chuck Piper was present from Sundog Solar to discuss his proposal. He is co-owner with son Danny; they have been in business for over nine years with approximately 24 employees, and they continue to grow. He explained that renewal energy is a new trend with much job growth and a more efficient alternative to fossil fuel. Solar legislation is changing, increasing the potential number of accounts that can be connected to a solar array (up to 200). Sundog Solar is proposing a PPA, Power Purchase Agreement with the town of Union. Visual slides were shown with a design of solar panels on Bump Hill Road, the old landfill in Union. Chuck explained that the PPA works by installing the system at no initial cost to the town. The system would be a 48 kw system which will produce 58,000 kw hours per year. The installation fees are paid by investors, Coastal Enterprises Inc. The town will benefit immediately from a guaranteed lower cost of electricity, 12.5 cents a kilowatt hour. Currently Union pays 15 cents per kilowatt hour. The solar panels have a long life, producing approximately \$236,000.00 in savings over the life of the solar panels. If Union agrees to the PPA, they will pay the lower electricity rate for the first six years. After six years, the town has the option of purchasing the system at fair market value, which is estimated to be \$62,000.00. The panels are currently guaranteed to produce 80% of their power for 25 years. Chuck stated that it would be a good time to take advantage of the installation, as the federal tax credit is currently 30%,

Selectmen's/Assessors' Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, May 7, 2019

expected to drop to 26% in January. He also stated as prices are increasing, his company has locked in a good rate with more panels being delivered in October.

Discussion: Jay stated that the landfill would need to be mowed; would that be the town's responsibility? Chuck stated that there is low-growing grass that can be planted for little or no maintenance to the town. Jay asked about insurance. Chuck stated the system is fully insured by the company. Jim asked how much of the town will benefit? Chuck stated just the municipal buildings will benefit. Jim Turner asked who would be responsible for maintenance. Chuck indicated that Solar Energy would be responsible for the first six years. After six years, the town can agree to a maintenance contract with a cost of approximately \$600-\$800 per year. Sarah asked about the cost of the solar panels. The panels cost \$225 a piece. The project would entail 130 solar panels. John asked about external panels on the public works building, and if that would be feasible. Chuck was under the impression that there was not enough room to mount them on the roof. He can revisit that idea and give the town a quote if feasible. John asked about the possibility of another administration in Augusta that promotes net metering, and how would we be affected? Chuck stated it would be difficult to say, but he does not see it going that way. Adam Fuller asked about the company's profit margin. Chuck indicated that it is formulated into the investors' cost. Josh White asked about the individual cost per building, per year. Jay and Chuck both stated they would need to go back to look at the numbers. A question was asked about installing the panels on the TTC building. Jay stated he would have to look at the current lease to give an accurate answer. Bill Lombardi asked if the electricity usage would cover all the town buildings if panels were to be put on the roofs. John stated he would look at the spec sheets and make the comparison. John Gibbons added that the proposals are all suggestive to 57 kw a year, and he imagines each proposal will adhere to that number. Jim asked if there will be a safety shut-off safety switch to protect the firemen in the event of a fire. Chuck reassured there is a shut-off switch, especially if the system is installed on the buildings which fall under the national standard electric code.

9. Sign Town Meeting Warrant:

Motion by: Lyle Cramer

2nd by: John Shepard

5-0

10. Discussion and vote to allow the Vose Library the use of the Common June 1:

Motion by: Jim Justice

2nd by: Sarah Drickey

Discussion: Lyle suggested that people do not drive on the lawn during the plant sale. Jay and John assured Lyle that they will remind them.

5-0

Selectmen's/Assessors' Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, May 7, 2019

11. Approval of Ballot Clerks for the ensuing year:

Motion by: Lyle Cramer

2nd by: Jim Justice

5-0

12. Town Manager's Report:

Jay stated that the public trucks are in phase two. Still waiting on the Forensic Engineer. Jay is meeting with Deb Marquis in the morning. It has been a long process; he is pushing to get it done. In the meantime, he stated that it is out of our hands until a decision is made.

LED streetlights are ready to go. A few last-minute details are pending, such as inventory. This will be a late fall project. Jim asked if lights can be added or removed at any time. Jay stated it is feasible.

13. Other Business:

#40 Budget Validation Warrant needs to be approved.

Motion by: John Shepard

2nd by: Sarah Drickey

5-0

14. Selectmen's Report:

John stated that a resident from Middle Road approached him about stones being taken from the stone walls around Miller Road Cemetery. Jay stated he is unaware of any other complaints.

Jim wanted to reiterate about the ditch on Clarry Hill Road; he feels it needs to be addressed.

Greg inquired about the time capsule, where it is, and when is it scheduled to be dug up.

John confirmed not until 2024 and that there is a marked location.

Greg read the official proclamation honoring the 50th anniversary of Municipal Clerk Week; May 5th – 11th 2019. Congratulations to Stacey Parra for her dedication to the Town of Union.

Selectmen's/Assessors' Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, May 7, 2019

15. Future Agenda Items:

16. Adjourn:

Motion by: Lyle Cramer

2nd by: Sarah Drickey

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Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Patrick
Secretary