

**TOWN OF FAIR HAVEN, VERMONT
SELECTBOARD
WATER AND SEWER COMMISSIONERS
LIQUOR COMMISSIONERS-CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS
Special Select Board Meeting
October 20, 2015**

Members Present: Robert Richards, Dick Frazier, Jeff Sheldon, Rod Holzworth II.

Members Absent: Sean Galvin

Others Present: Town Manager Herb Durfee, Minute Taker Claire Stanley. Thirty-one citizens were in attendance. (Sign-in sheet attached.)

Call to Order: Chairman Bob Richards called the meeting to order at 700 p.m. and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Richards introduced Michael Stannard, Energy Committee chairman who presented an overview of the hydro electricity generating turbine project proposed at the "upper" dam on the Castleton River. He noted that this project would not impact individual home electric bills; the turbine would produce electricity to the power grid, credited to the Town; savings would be to the Town lowering tax rates. Mr. Stannard expounded on the recently completed feasibility study, noting the dam was built in the 1700's; provided power for over 150 years; is mostly intact and sound; was privately permitted in 1989. The study cost estimate is \$1.5 million over 20 years (bond) after which significant profit would be realized. More modest profit would be realized during the time of bond re-payment. There is a five year permitting process. The Town does not own the adjacent property and no one knows who owns the dam. The generation capacity is 696,458 kW, about the same as the Town uses. There were questions re: freezing. The plan includes maintenance costs. The engineer that prepared the feasibility study was unable to attend this meeting.

Mr. Bova presented a summary of the solar array project proposed at the Air Park that would generate 889,000 kW net metered to the Town, and provide significant revenue the first year in taxes and property rental. The project would be built at no cost to the Town. Mr. Bova noted they need access to three phase lines; the life span of solar panels is warranted for 25 years, most have a longer life span; language for decommissioning the array needs to be in the agreement. Mr. Bova explained the process of net-metering and noted that there is incentive time constraint for solar projects. Hardware needs to be ordered to assure delivery.

Mr. Stannard reported that the Energy Committee supports both projects, but not at the Air Park. Mr. Richards stated that other sites have been suggested for the solar project. It is unknown at this time if (the transfer station covered landfill site) is feasible. Some are opposed to any projects at the Air Park; want to keep it for leisure use (dog walking, etc.).

Town of Fair Haven, VT, Special Select Board Meeting Minutes, 10/20/15

There was lengthy discussion including: benefits of solar for the short term; the State has “fast tracked” the solar permitting process; snow melts from solar panels in sunshine; best use of the Air Park property includes future possibility of airport again; the Air Park was a staging area during the Hurricane Irene event; possible future Town garage; the solar structure would be at the south end of the Air Park and would not interfere with recreation activities; the Town spends approximately \$160,000/year for electricity; thousands are saved resulting from changing to LED street lights; the Energy Committee supports siting the solar array on valueless property to increase that site value; at the end of 20/30 years, solar has no value; the hydro project life is endless; there would be more electricity at a lower price, more tax revenue to the Town and more jobs from the biomass plant; there are risks involved; the Town budget would be lowered by the amount of the municipal electricity costs.

Mr. Frazier moved the Board to **adjourn** at 8:40 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Holzworth and passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Claire Stanley



Richard Frazier, Board Clerk

SELECTBOARD SIGN-IN 10/20/15

NAME:

Judy Sheldon
Roy POKLON
John Lelek
GREG HOWAN
EMMY CUTTS
Cm Howard
Donald Boede
Keggs Mitt
PETER GALLIGAN
Robert Wilcox
Shawn Brewster
RAY BARKER
Michelle Desouchie
Brooke Griffin
Kic Gr = Kevin Griffin
Phil Stannard Sr.
Don Gosselin
Glen Roberts
RON CRAWLEY
Carol Crawley
Jesse Stowell
~~Fred Bova~~ BOVA
Betty Barnow
THOMAS PUMPS
Christopher Stanton
Richard Fealbach
Ivan Smith
~~Chris Stanton~~
Bill Confield
Phil Stannard
(Rutland County R/C Flyers)
Greg Park