

**Meeting of the Waterbury Select Board
September 29, 2014
Main Street Fire Station**

Present: C. Nordle, Chair; K. Miller, C. Viens, and D. Schneider, Select Board; W. Shepeluk, Municipal Manager; A. Imhoff, ORCA Media; M. Orso, Waterbury Record; and C. Lawrence, Town Clerk.

Public: See attached list.

The meeting of the Select Board was called to order at 7:00pm.

APPROVE AGENDA

K. Miller made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by C. Viens and passed unanimously.

CONSIDER AMENDMENT TO GREEN LANTER CONTRACT RELATING TO ALLOCATION OF SOLAR CREDITS

W. Shepeluk gave a brief overview of the Village's contract with Green Lantern Capital and reviewed the lease and power purchase terms, stating that the Trustees negotiated with Green Lantern for quite some time before the lease was signed in August of 2014. It was a proposed 500 kilowatt array, and an estimated 683,565 kilowatts were expected to be produced. L. Shullenberger explained that the project has changed since last summer in terms of the wattage of the panels.

C. Nordle explained that the Select Board contracted with Green Lantern for 69,000 kilowatt hours in May 5, 2014. On September 2, 2014, the Board considered amending the agreement to accept a reduced amount of 18,000 kilowatt hours. W. Shepeluk explained that there is no risk to the Town to accept the excess capacity. Green Lantern is paid 90% of the credit, and the remaining 10% helps to reduce the Town's electric bill. This equates to approximately \$400 per year in savings to the Town. C. Nordle stated that the purpose of the meeting is to either ratify or rescind the prior approval of the amendment to the contract.

C. Viens asked if the array would be smaller if the Town and School did not receive credits from the project. L. Shullenberger stated that the physical dimension would remain roughly the same, but the wattage of the panels would change. C. Viens suggested using higher wattage panels to make the display smaller. L. Shullenberger responded that the project was designed a specific way, and explained how the project was designed and the relationship with the various parties involved.

P. H. Flanders asked to present a history of the location and project and was given permission to do so. He stated that all adjoining property owners were invited in June of 2013 to a public meeting to have their concerns heard, and many of these concerns were addressed. The project was endorsed by Waterbury LEAP, and no public funds have been spent on the project. The Village will gain about \$20,000 per year. The Trustees have been good stewards of the land and have carefully concluded to move forward with this project.

D. Sweet stated that the assessed value on his home has decreased by about \$20,000 based on the estimated impact of the array.

P. Kulis asked the Board's permission to present the issues as the concerned citizens see them. C. Nordle stated that he understands the issues, and the project will move forward regardless of the Town's allocation of the output.

K. Miller stated that a decision needs to be made this evening on the contract amendment, and that she hopes the Trustees have worked with community members to mitigate negative impacts of the project.

P. Kulis distributed copies of a presentation entitled 'Sweet Road Solar Facility' dated March 29, 2014 (attached). He gave the presentation and summarized that the Village project required no Town input; Town involvement was innocent and well intentioned; there is little or no benefit to the Town; there is significant Town opposition to the Village project; and that the Board should reject the Green Lantern amendment to accept less power and send the contract back to the Village for further open discussion.

Public comments followed. M. Lamson stated that \$400 is not worth the loss in property values.

S. Odefey stated that he is disappointed with the distortion in the School Board's involvement in project; that agendas were posted and special meetings were advertised.

L. Flint commented on the financial piece and believes the Town will lose money since the loss in property value causes a loss in tax revenue. W. Shepeluk responded that seven residents have a \$20,000 reduction in value but that the project is taxable and will generate a net increase in tax dollars.

L. Thomsen stated that most people at meeting are pro solar and would like the project someplace else. He asked how the project would proceed without the Town's involvement. L. Shullenberger responded that the project moving forward is not dependent on the Town's involvement.

R. Ellis stated she has a lot of opportunity at Legislature to hear about climate control and energy sources. Modeling about energy generation is being done and includes a lot of solar. She expressed the hope to have supporters of solar energy come together to figure out future needs of solar energy and sites.

D. McDougall believes the project was discussed appropriately; however it is hard for people with direct interest to relate. There is a need to take substantial steps to become more energy efficient and energy independent.

G. Andersen stated he lives in a community that values renewable energy. He feels the scale of the project has changed, and asked what is safe for community.

E. Coffey stated that people should get out to meetings and express opinions. He asked that the meeting recessed and that there be another informational meeting.

C. Nordle reiterated that the Board needs to either ratify the September 2nd decision to approve the contract amendment or disavow the approval. C. Viens asked about executive session. C. Nordle responded that there are limited circumstances under which Board can enter into executive session.

D. Schneider made a motion to rescind the vote taken on September 2nd authorizing the Municipal Manager to sign the amendment approving the discounted amount of power. The motion was seconded by K. Miller. D. Schneider expressed concerns about the urgency Green Lantern had at the September 2nd meeting to get on the agenda after it was posted, and the fact that the people present were upset at the project at Select Board meetings when they should have been addressing their great concerns with the Village Trustees over the past year. He also stated he will be very cautious about voting on any issue that is brought to the meeting without it being listed on the posted agenda.

It was asked if there are legal consequences to rescinding a contract that has already been signed. C. Nordle stated that question should have been contemplated before this evening. The motion passed by a majority.

PUBLIC COMMENT (unrelated to solar contract)

None

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:33pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Lawrence, Town Clerk

Approved on: October 20, 2014