

**Select Board
Minutes
August 12, 2014**

Leverett Town Hall, 7 pm
Detmold, Jo Anne Mully

present: Rich, Julie, Peter, Lisa, Margie, David

Solar Presentation (also present George Lockwood and Shirley Thomas from the Energy Com)

Rob McLuaghlin from Clean Energy Collective came in to present an offer to purchase solar energy from a recently installed array in Hadley. The Town would receive a 15% discount on all electricity purchased from the solar array. This could amount to an approximate savings of \$8,000 to \$10,000 per year. A contract would be signed for a period of time (originally 20 years, but negotiable).

Margie spoke with Carter Wall, an energy expert, who lives in Leverett who advised that the town make sure that someone knows how to interpret the two bills since they are not consumer friendly, to ensure that there is a 15% savings being attributed.

The Energy Com. will meet next week to review the proposal. A contract will be emailed to Margie so Town Counsel can review, and Margie will provide copies of the town's electric bill to Rob so he can quote more accurate savings.

Transfer Station (Rich recused himself and left the room)

Andrea Morris came in (with her husband, daughters, brother-in-law and her mentor) to discuss a recent altercation at the Transfer Station. Andrea works at the Take-It-Or-Leave-It shed as a volunteer. She told the board that people are often rude and inconsiderate. They leave trash that no one would want at the TILI shed, which is personally degrading to those who visit the shed to take things, and she is often left with a mess to clean up. She was upset that after the initial complaint about her behavior a letter was sent to her instead of a phone call. The board apologized for not calling instead of or before a letter was sent.

Andrea was concerned about the larger issue of classism in Leverett and would like to have a dialogue about how, as a town, we could be more considerate of each other. The board agreed and will draft something for the newsletter about civility and respect at the Transfer Station (they also asked Andrea to send suggestions for the article). Additionally, a Town Meeting discussion will be planned.

Pole Hearing (Jerry Molangoski from WMECO, Gerald Peterson, abutter present, Rich rejoined the meeting)

A pole hearing was called to order at 8:15 pm.

WMECO would like to install a pole at the intersection of Briggs Rd. and Dudleyville Rd to correct a sag in the lines. The abutter was pleased to have the sag corrected.

Motion: To allow WMECO to install said pole. 3-0 in favor.

Mr. Peterson requested that if any trees need to be cut down that WMECo leave the wood so he can burn it in his wood stove.

Business:

Margie got the answers to questions from last meeting's discussion about HCOG aggregation. People do have the option to opt-out at any time without a penalty. The question about net-metering has not been answered by WMECO yet, however it is believed that residents with solar panels who are selling back to the grid should opt-out because there is no mechanism to track and sell with the HCOG system. A subsequent email to Margie said that net-metering should continue to be available.

Additional questions about the HCOG: Where does the HCOG get its electricity from? What is their marketing strategy? When would they do a mailing to inform residents of the change? Rich signed the acknowledgement that accompanies the HCOG's response to the DUP's most recent set of questions.

The minutes of July 29 were accepted as amended.

Julie updated the board on recent Personnel Board decisions about the Fire Dept.: firefighters beyond the age of 65 will be required to have an annual physical; which will be the standard HRD physical and will agree to have their medical history available to the physician. If the person does not pass the physical, then the Chief and board could make an individual job description tailored to the individual's area of expertise on the department and which will exclude responding to emergencies.

The board then discussed the fire department future in light of John's letter of resignation to take effect on Jan. 31, 2015. Margie had a timeline for the hiring of a new chief which the board agreed to go forward with while continuing to investigate other possibilities including shared personnel under discussion with Shutesbury and Sunderland, , an RFP for fire services (with Montague Fire District and Amherst being potential bidders, and applying for a CIC grant to explore these options Margie will call Sunderland to revisit previous discussions with them about fire services, she will call Shutesbury to see if their chief would consider filling in temporarily if needed; and she will call Amherst and Montague to see about contracting with them.

The board also agreed to create a hiring committee of Tom Powers, Dean Alfange, Judy Weinthal, Gordon Fretwell, Steve Sengebush, and Margie.

Jon K. asked if the board would allow the Town Hall Janitor's supply closet to be unlocked so that people using the downstairs could get to the supplies when it is time to clean up. Instead, a key will be added to the ring they pick up when renting the Town Hall so they can access the cleaning supplies.

Motion: To appoint Maxwell Karlin as a Jr. Transfer Station Attendant pending a copy of his work permit. Vote: 3-0 in favor. (physical has already been received).

The Household Hazardous Waste Day contract was signed. Lisa will put a link on the website for the Sept. 20 event.

A contract was signed with Holyoke Gas and Electric for network operator services for the fiber optic network.

A letter of support was signed for a Montagues Mass Works grant application.

The warrant for the Sept. 9 primary was signed.
Meeting adjourned: 10:00 pm