

**Minutes
West Rutland Select Board
September 12, 2016**

Present: Chet Brown, John Harvey, Sean Barrows, Nick Notte, Mitch Frankenburg

Others Present: Mike Moser, Amy Shollerberger, Carol Fernandez, Diego Quesaulo, Michael Fried, Peter Kulig, Bill Kulig, Alex Marechaz, Tom Burditt and Mary Ann Goulette.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Sean Barrows with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Approval- Chet made a motion and John seconded the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Unanimously approved.

Minutes Approval: 7/25/16 – Chet made a motion and Mitch seconded to approve the minutes of 7/25/16 with the correction of John Philbrook to James Philbrook. Unanimously approved. Minutes of 8/22/16 were approved on a motion by John and a second by Chet. Unanimously approved.

Public Concerns: Mike Moser stated that the sidewalk on the South side of Riggs property has grass growing through. He requested having maintenance check it.

Action Items:

- a. Appoint VLCT (Vermont League of Cities and Towns) voting delegate: Nick made a motion and John seconded for Sean to authorize the appointment of Mary Ann Goulette to this position. Unanimously approved.
- b. Set Water Sewer Rates: No change for FY17 from FY16 – The rates approved are as follows:
 - Water Base \$89.00 made a motion to approve and Mitch seconded –
 - Water Bond \$98.30
 - Sewer Fixed 185.00
 - Total: \$372.30

Chet made a motion to approve the above rates and Mitch seconded. Unanimously approved.

Board Member Concerns:

Chet: He got a complaint about fireworks. Need to notify troopers. Also speeding on Dewey Avenue. Need to address a lot of speed limits throughout the town. The Board requested that Frank to come up with streets that need speed to be reduced.

John – none

Nick – nice job on Sheldon/Pleasant.

Mitch – nothing

Sean – noting

Solar Proposal – TCE Trading did a brief review of the proposed Solar Proposal to be constructed on Mike Tyminski's property behind Frank and Joe's garage. Michael Fried is Project Manager, introduced themselves. They are interested in becoming a neighbor of the town by installing the solar system. Issues and ideas discussed included:

- a. Public informational meeting scheduled for next week.
- b. Have done other projects in other states.
- c. How big is project in megawatts? Working with GMP to see what they will allow them to do.
- d. Concern about the location being so close to residential and recreation center. Alex Marechanx, a neighbor of the project, is concerned about the dangers if a child were to enter the solar panel area. Nick asked "What are the dangers if a child got into the area?" No exposed wiring.
- e. Chet shared that part of the land is wet land.
- f. Border widths? Will follow all state regulations required.
- g. Mitch – TC Trading – what is corporate structure. Consulting firm that TGE owns.
- h. What other states has the company completed solar projects: NJ, CT, Tennessee, and NC.
- i. Where is funding from? TGE will fund the project.
- j. Have you ever planted vegetation to hide the panels. Yes, they have.
- k. Electricity will go into grid and be sold by GMP.
- l. Green footprint has no benefit from this project at all.
- m. Outline the process you go through: 1. Submit several reports, environment, G&V, send notice to all neighbors and 45 day notice to file. Comments are received. If there is no major issue – certificate will be filed.
- n. If town objects to program, what position would you take? Part of the 45 day notice is to reach out to the community for discussion. He does not have the answer yet.
- o. Discuss the safety at the next meeting.
- p. Maintenance is ongoing. They will be landscaping.
- q. Fire Chief was just at a training on solar and he can come to the next meeting. Regarding visual aspect is very subjective.
- r. The project sits on 17 ½ acres and will consist of about 4500 panels.
- s. What binds you to maintain the fencing? It could affect the panels if not maintained. Underground trench vs. the pole.
- t. Perimeter is 50' from the property line to fence line.
- u. Sean – will everyone receive notice or just the abutting neighbors? View shed will determine this.
- v. Is there a contract to purchase the land? Yes with contingencies. Property value is 64,000. Zoning Map: Residential 2A. Could apply for variance. Next meeting is the 19th.

Approve Orders: The board approved the pay orders.

Adjourn: Motion by Nick to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m. Chet seconded and motioned passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Charleen Bowen