

Board of Selectmen  
Minutes

Date: October 21, 2015

Members Present: Janet Flinkstrom, Mike McCallum and Mark Haines

Time: 7:05 p.m.

New Energy Resource Committee Update (NERC) by Paul McGrail, Chair of NERC Committee:

Inspected properties in Town to see which ones would be good for solar sites. Looked into the “Solarize Mass” Organization – has a lot of requirements/restrictions so did not proceed with that. Electricity usage for the Town was evaluated. CAP has not been raised in the State yet. Large scale farms are cost prohibitive for the Town with Unitil’s infrastructure & the current CAP would not allow us to do this until the other two projects before Unitil were completed – we would go into a holding pattern. They have decided to do a community effort and bring the cost of solar down for residents. Solarize Ashby Project to educate and do a mass purchase of solar. A town-wide mailing will be necessary to move forward with this project. They are asking the BOS to fund the mailing. Volume purchase to bring the cost down for each individual installation. This would involve individual homeowners obtaining their own solar energy. In the future if the tax credits go up the Town may be able to support a solar farm. Roberta Flashman clarified Item 1D in the RFP about the installers signing a contract with the Town and they will not be doing this. They will only be signing a contract with the homeowner. MM asked how the Town can negotiate a bulk purchase without a contract? Roberta Flashman did not know how to put that in a contract but, welcomed MM to talk further on this. MM said something will have to be done and RF agreed. JF will talk to Bob Hanson about funding for the mailing and get back to the Committee.

Northeast Municipal Gas Pipeline Coalition Update (Cathy Kristofferson): The Coalition met on Monday to go over aspects of the pipeline. Kinder Morgan has had to schedule 4 more meetings for informational purposes. Hearing on Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> will be the test case to see if the Legislature will uphold Article 97. Article 97 is part of the Massachusetts Constitution. A bill has been proposed to take Article 97 protection away from certain State forests. It is a matter of the pipeline potentially going thru 85 protected parcels that are protected by the State Constitution, 110 parcels total with Conservation Restrictions on them, including several lands to protect clean water supplies to multiple towns. There needs to be a large showing of public opposition to this bill at this hearing.

2) Selectmen approve the minutes of October 7, 2015 as recorded.

Motion: Mike McCallum                      Seconded: Mark Haines                      Vote: Unan

3) Warrant #W15P FY16 approve and sign Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$56,068.42 subject to further review.

Motion: Mike McCallum                      Seconded: Mark Haines                      Vote: Unan

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- 4) Warrant #W16B FY16 approve and sign Vendor Warrant in the amount of \$926,196.09 (NMRSD and Monty Tech payment was made) subject to further review.

Motion: Mike McCallum

Seconded: Mark Haines

Vote: Unan

250<sup>th</sup> Celebration Committee Update (Murray Cox):

Committee has been working with the Friends of the 250<sup>th</sup> to ensure that the celebration will be the greatest. They have made a lot of progress in just a few months. The Committee has been meeting regularly since June. They have an online store that people can order hats, jackets, sweatshirts and other Ashby items. They have a Facebook page and a website now. He recognized all of the members and volunteers that have made this possible. They did a survey to see what events residents want held at the celebration. He went over some of the plans and events that they are working on to get into place. The list is not complete and they are still looking for people to help with the plans. You can sign up on the 250<sup>th</sup> website. He had the Selectmen put on their 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration hats that are for sale.

Request for Selectmen's consideration of redemption of foreclosed property (Town Treasurer):

The Town had entered into a payment agreement with the homeowner to pay back taxes, several years' worth, which homeowner failed to follow. The Town then foreclosed on the property. Homeowner must make payment in full within 15 days including back taxes, current taxes, interest, insurance fees and court costs.

Homeowner spoke on his own behalf and thanked the BOS for their consideration.

- 5) Selectmen allow the Treasurer to redeem the foreclosed property Map 15, Parcel 64.1 and the Town shall be paid within 15 calendar days from today to be paid in full.

Motion: Mike McCallum

Seconded: Mark Haines

Vote: Unan

- 6) Selectmen approve and sign on a One Day Liquor License for the Fitchburg Rod and Gun Club License #428 for October 31, 2015 for the Halloween Party.

Motion: Mike McCallum

Seconded: Mark Haines

Vote: Unan

- 7) Selectmen appoint Mark Haines as North Middlesex Regional School District Facilities Committee Representative.

Motion: Mike McCallum

Seconded: Janet Flinkstrom

Vote: JF/MM - Aye  
MH-Abstain

MM explained to Lillian Whitney, what the Superintendent explained at their last meeting, as far as the purpose of this Facilities Committee.

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Any Other Business Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chairman: None

Assistant Town Administrator's Report: Read by MM Available on Ashby Website.

Public Comments (if any): Lillian Whitney announced a special celebration at Fort Devens for the Veterans. Look at Ashby Website for information. It is being held this Friday October 23, 2015.

8) Motion to Adjourn at 7:47 p.m.

Motion: Mike McCallum

Seconded: Mark Haines

Vote: Unan

Signed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates Minutes Approved by Board of Selectmen: \_\_\_\_\_