



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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NEW LONDON BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

Monday, December 19, 2022

375 Main Street

2:30 PM

PRESENT:

Nancy Rollins, Chairman
Janet Kidder, Selectman
Bill Helm, Selectman
Kim Hallquist, Town Administrator

ALSO PRESENT:

Jamie Hess, Energy Committee Chair
Bob Bowers, New London resident

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM.

Jamie Hess, Energy Committee

Jamie Hess met with the Board to seek their support for two grant applications for two projects (#1) electric powered pickup for Public Works Department and (#2) electric charging station on town office property.

Mr. Hess noted that for the electric pickup truck there is a requirement that it can't be used to plow snow and must be an F150 size. He suggested that other departments use the pickup to evaluate whether an electric vehicle would be useful in other departments. Mr. Hess noted that the federal funds are only for the amount representing the difference in the cost of the electric vehicle, not the full cost of the vehicle as he originally thought when the letter of intent was sent in. For example, if the cost of a regular truck is \$40,000 and an electric truck is \$50,000, the difference of \$10,000 would be eligible for the 80% grant or \$8,000. The application will also include the cost of a charging station for the electric vehicle which will not be available to the public. The estimated cost is based on the amount the Colby-Sawyer College station cost which was around \$1,000. Chair Rollins suggested that the amount for the charging station be increased as the cost will likely increase by the time the work is completed; Mr. Hess agreed.

The Board discussed the replacement schedule of the Public Works pickup trucks and questioned whether the F150 size and the fact that it can not have a plow, will present an issue. More research will be done. Mr. Hess noted that if the grant is awarded and the town does not have the money or does not need the equipment, it can decline the grant and not go through with the project. Selectman Kidder noted that she liked the flexibility in being able to decide whether the town will do the project once the grant is awarded.

Mr. Hess explained that the Energy Committee would like to seek a grant for the installation of an electric charging station at the Academy Building. He noted that this station will be different from the Colby-Sawyer College station in that it will charge for the electricity. It will be a single pedestal with two outlets. There was discussion of the possible need for an ordinance regarding who can park in the spaces and whether there is a time limit. Mr. Hess noted that it could be that signs are placed that encourage only

electric vehicles being charged to use the spaces, but not having non-electric cars ticketed if they use the space. Chair Rollins noted that she suggested the Committee consider the number of spaces needed and consideration should be given to handicapped spaces. Selectman Helm asked about the difference in costs between the station discussed earlier for the Public Works Department and the station being discussed at the Academy Building. Mr. Hess noted that the public access station (Academy Building) is more expensive due to the added equipment to allow for the charging of the electricity. He also noted that it also comes with a five-year maintenance contract.

There was discussion that even after the grant is awarded, there could be changes made so long as the funds are used for items consistent with the grant program. Selectman Kidder asked if there was any discussion of a charging station at the State Park and Ride. Mr. Hess noted that there are funds from the Volkswagen settlement that the Governor has earmarked funds for charging stations and RFP's have been issued. There is another program: NEVI: National Electric Vehicle Investment program which might also be used for highway charging stations.

IT WAS MOVED (Bill Helm) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to provide letters of support for the grant application for the Public Works electric pickup truck and for the electric charging station at the Academy Building. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Hess informed the Board that there are two items related to Community Power that he would like the Board to consider: (1) a warrant article for the 2023 Town Meeting will be needed to adopt the Community Power Plan as approved by the Energy Committee and (2) the Community Power Coalition Joint Power Agreement needs to be amended to correct a very minor flaw that stated that it could only be amended an annual meeting. The group feels that this is too limiting, and it should be allowed at any meeting. There is also the need to change a sentence regarding what constitutes a quorum. The Board will review the suggested amendments to Article XVI and will take up the issue again when they have reviewed the document. The Selectmen will include this issue on their agenda for the January 5th meeting.

Mr. Hess suggested that the Board and the Energy Committee discuss the Capital Reserve Fund (CRF) that was previously established to purchase the solar system that was installed at the Public Works Department. He suggested that it might be useful if the CRF could be used for other energy related projects in the event that the market for electricity costs makes it less desirable to purchase the solar equipment as originally anticipated when the CRF was established. Mr. Hess noted that the funds might be better used for other opportunities. The Board noted that the CRF was established for "energy conservation improvements" so that is broad enough to consider other projects.

Concept plan for future police station

Selectman Helm noted that several weeks ago Chief Cobb and Adam Ricker and members of the Energy Committee met with Norwich Solar to view the solar potential of the two lots behind the Gallery. He suggested that a similar view be made for the parcel the Board is now considering which is the 7 acers on Newport Road. Mr. Hess agreed that he would contact Norwich Solar. It was noted that there is no cost or obligation to the town.

Kim Hallquist asked if the Board would like to engage Jones & Beach to prepare a concept plan for a future police station on former Bewley property on Newport Road, Map 59 Lot 10 as they did for the parcels that were previously considered for purchase.

IT WAS MOVED (Janet Kidder) AND SECONDED (Bill Helm) to contact Jones & Beach to engage them to prepare a concept plan for the former Bewley property on Newport Road. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Board thanked Jamie Hess for all of the work the Energy Committee is doing on behalf of the town.

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to enter nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A-3, II(d): consideration of the acquisition, sale or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community.

Roll call vote: Rollins: yes; Kidder: yes; Helm: yes

The Board entered nonpublic session at 3:21 PM.

NONPUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

Ms. Hallquist informed the Board that the owner of the former Bewley property would be willing to sell the property to the town for \$375,000. The Board discussed this offer and determined that they felt they could support the price at Town Meeting.

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to return to the public session. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Board reentered the public session at 3:25PM

IT WAS MOVED (Bill Helm) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to adjourn the meeting. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Kimberly Hallquist
Town Administrator