



**Selectmen's Meeting
August 30th, 2017
MINUTES**

Selectmen Present: *Chad Hanna, Harry Lowd III, Paul Yates*
Also Present: *Chris Hall (Town Administrator); Sandee Brackett, John Egan (CEI), Danny Piper (Sundog Energy); Nick Sampson (ReVision Energy), Richard Simon (The Power Company).*

Selectmen were called to order by chair Hanna at 7.00 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Workshop on Solar Energy proposals:

Administrator Hall introduced John Egan of CEI who has been retained to advise the Town under a grant from the Lincoln County regional Planning Commission. Egan in turn introduced the three bidders and presented an overview of the key differences between the proposals. He emphasized that CEI has had business relationships with each of the three firms, and he does not wish to make a specific recommendation, but could testify that any of the firms would be a credible and technically competent partner for the Town.

Each proposal allowed for the Town to make initial savings over the current Standard Offer rate, and to have the power production free once the array is purchased. The purchase price of the array in year 7 varied by bidder, based on the initial cost, depreciation schedule, and the cost of purchased electricity in the first six years. The Town faces a trade-off between early savings and reduction of the year-seven capital purchase cost.

In discussion, the question of whether the Transfer Station could be included as one of the meters to be covered in a net metering agreement; this would need to be discussed with CMP as well as with South Bristol. Inclusion would significantly increase the optimal size of the array. ReVision's proposal is based on excluding the Transfer Station, but could be scaled up to include it.

It was noted that the Bristol Consolidated School is proceeding with the separate development of a rooftop array, and that their cost structure (with a Demand Charge) makes their savings harder to achieve than for the Town's other meters. The School Board expects to choose a vendor in early September.

The timing of proceeding with an installation was discussed in the context of the need for Town approval of (1) a lease on the land at the Transfer Station for installation of the array, and (2) establishing a capital reserve fund with annual votes to set aside funds such that the purchase of the array in year 7 would be fully funded. The question of how deferral until 2018 would impact the cost savings was discussed, as under current legislation there will be a 10% reduction in the delivery portion of the electric bill allowable under net metering agreements. ReVision had calculated that Bristol would lose only \$381 over 6 years due to that provision, based on their proposal. If the Transfer Station is included, allowing increased generation, the reduction in savings would likely be around \$500, i.e. 5% of the total savings allowable under 2017 rules.

Selectmen agreed that this should be placed on the Warrant for the 2018 Town Meeting, and that prior to that time a fully-costed design should be prepared and its installation agreed with CMP. The matter was tabled until the September 20 Selectmen's meeting, when selection of a vendor will be on the agenda.

Warrants:

Selectmen reviewed and signed payroll and accounts payable warrants for the Town Office, Bristol Consolidated School, Parks and Recreation, Bristol Fire and Rescue and the Bristol/South Bristol Transfer Station.

There were no Public Comments.

Other Business:

- Lowd proposed and Hanna seconded a motion of Thanks to the Town Staff and the volunteers who made Olde Bristol Days a great success. Motion passed 3 – 0.
- Lowd pointed out that the Bristol Fire Department had recently been called to suppress a brush fire on Bar Island, in the Lincoln County Unorganized Territory. This is in line with the Town's policy of responding to calls on Loud's and Marsh Islands in the Unorganized Territory, but it incurs considerable costs to the Town. He asked Administrator Hall to inquire in Augusta whether reimbursement can be sought from the state.

Notice of forthcoming public meetings:

Notice was given of the following forthcoming meetings:

- Parks and Recreation Commission, Tuesday, September 5th, 6 pm – Ellingwood Park Information Center
- Selectmen, Wednesday, September 6th, 7 pm – Town Hall
- Shellfish Committee, Monday, September 11th, 7 pm – Town Hall
- Bristol Mills Dam Cttee., Tuesday Sept. 12th, 6 pm - Town Hall
- Parks and Recreation Commission, Tuesday, September 19th, 6 pm – Ellingwood Park Information Center
- Selectmen, Wednesday, September 20th, 7 pm – Town Hall

Motion to adjourn at 8.39 pm: proposed Lowd, seconded Yates, carried 3 – 0.