Trustees Present: Walter Scott, William Spears, Jr., Ellen St. Marie and Guy Breault

Staff Present: Jonathan Elwell and Joanne Davis

Others Present: Will Veve, Leach Estate Solar Net Metering Project

The meeting was called to order by Walter Scott at 6:30 p.m.

1. Modifications/Changes to Agenda – There were no modifications or changes to the agenda.
2. Public Comment - There was no public comment.
3. Review/Approval of Minutes for May 9, 2017

William Spears, Jr. moved to accept the minutes of the May 9, 2017 Trustee Meeting as written, Ellen St. Marie seconded. Unanimous.

1. Leach Estate Solar Net Metering Project

Jonathan Elwell brought the Trustees up to date on this project. Will Veve is available for questions. Jon Elwell gave each of the Trustees a copy of the revised group net metering contract developed for this project. Jon explained that this contract had been reviewed by staff, VPPSA and Eli Emerson, Village attorney. Walter Scott asked about significant changes and Jon Elwell explained that the biggest change was in relationship to the true up. The original contract had an annual true up but staff are asking for a monthly true up. Jon Elwell, Will Veve, Luke Shullenberger and Eli Emerson participated in a lengthy phone conference about the project today.

Guy Breault asked Will Veve where the new project will tie in and Will explained that they are working with Greg Clark, Superintendent Electric Department to determine this.

Jonathan Elwell explained that State regulations require that we allow this project to be built. While the Village net loss will be approximately $100,000 per year (taking into account credits received for the solar credits if the Village enters into the proposed contract with Leach Estate Solar), the loss would be significantly worse if the Village does not agree to enter into the contract. .

Will Veve gave the Trustees an approximate schedule for this project. They are expecting a July 1st start date for the project construction. Construction will take 8 to 12 weeks and then there will be the technical work with Greg Clark. Will Veve estimates the site will be operational 12 weeks from July 1st.

Jon Elwell said in the interest of minimizing the loss to the electric department and based on staff input, it is recommended that we accept the contract .

Guy Breault moved to accept the Leach Estate Solar Net Metering contract. William Spears Jr. seconded. Unanimous

1. 261 Main Street Water/Wastewater Allocation Request

In the Trustee information there is a copy of a memo from Gary Denton recommending granting the allocation request presented by Tim Johnson and Debra Souza. This request comes from two parties as the residence is in sale transition with Souza in process of selling the property to Johnson. Jon Elwell wanted to be sure the allocation was properly granted. William Spears, Jr. moved to approve a 1.5 water allocation and a 1.5 sewer allocation for 261 Main Street. Ellen St. Marie seconded. Unanimous

1. Public Works Department Pickup Truck Financing Bids

Enclosed in the Trustee information is a memo from Joanne Davis outlining the responses from the four banks contacted for the new public works pickup. Peoples Trust Company is again offering the lowest interest rate so it is recommended we finance the new pickup with Peoples Trust Company. Ellen St. Marie moved that we finance the pickup through Peoples Trust, Guy Breault seconded. Unanimous

1. Manager’s Priority List

Jon Elwell included in the Trustees information a list of priority tasks in his position as Village Manager. This is meant to be an open discussion between the Board and the Manager about what priorities the Board wishes the Manager to be focused on in 2017. Jon asked for input from the trustees – any updates or changes? Guy Breault said that Jon Elwell might want to add the downtown initiative to his list.

1. SQRP Report

Jon Elwell included the quarterly SQRP report for the first quarter of 2017. There were no questions regarding the SQRP Report.

1. Manager’s Report

* N. E. Hydro – VPPSA is still working on the contract for this power purchase for its members. They are hoping to finalize it by the end of June.
* Bridge of Flowers & Lights-Phase II-advertising has been completed, bids are due 6/1/17 and it will be presented to the Trustees at the June 13, 2017 meeting.
* Diesel #1 – Phase I – advertised 5/18/17 and will be again 5/25/17 with bids due 6/15/17 and presentation to the Trustees at the July 11, 2017 meeting.
* Hydro Renovation Project-The Turner Group and Kingsbury Construction are working on contracts and lining up subcontractors for the project. Hope to have new contracts ready in June.

1. Other Business

Walter Scott asked about flowers for the Bridge of Flowers and Lights. Jon Elwell explained that because of the construction work being done on the bridge this summer we elected not to plant flowers this year.

Walter Scott and Guy Breault attended the last downtown initiative meeting. Walter found that there were a large number of grants available for projects.

1. Executive Session: Personnel Issue, and Negotiations in which Premature Public Knowledge may Compromise the Position of the Municipality

Ellen St. Marie moved to go to executive session for the purpose of discussing a legal and personnel issues at 7:21 p.m. Guy Breault seconded. Unanimous.

Guy Breault moved to return to regular session at 8:00 p.m. William Spears, Jr. seconded. Unanimous.

There was no action taken as a result of the executive session.

William Spears Jr. expressed concern about the impact of net metering solar power on the Electric Department. This will undoubtedly put upward pressure on rates for the utility’s customers. He wonders if the trend continues, will it put enough stress on the utility that selling the utility may have to be considered. It is troubling given the State of Vermont does not give an option for electric utilities to deny these types of projects in their service territory.

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Davis, Director of Finance

These minutes were approved as written at the June 13, 2017 Trustee meeting.