

Selectmen's Meeting – Hinsdale Police Department Training Room  
Meeting May 17, 2021

Present: Chair Steve Diorio, Selectman Bernie Rideout, Selectman Mike Carrier, Selectman, Richard Johnson, Selectman Megan Kondrat, TA Jill Collins and CDC Kathryn Lynch.

Members of the public present: Chief Charles Rataj, Highway Superintendent Bob Truesdell and Sean Leary.

Joining Via Zoom: Kaliegh Crissman Project Manager NextEra, Dana Valleau Project Manager TRC, Tracy Sudhalter Permitting/Wildlife TRC, Thomas Daniels Senior Engineer TRC, Sharon Burke TRC, Noah Craft E & C Project Manager NextEra, Ben Dritenbas Senior Environmental Service Manager NextEra, Tracy Backer Senior Attorney NextEra, Doug Patch Outside Counsel and Robert Harcke.

6:00 pm Chair Diorio called the meeting to order. Selectman Carrier made a motion to approve the manifests dated May 17, 2021 and minutes public and non-public dated May 10, 2021. He was seconded by Selectman Kondrat. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business: TA Collins read the appointment for Melinda Zavorotny as Deputy Town Treasurer. Selectman Rideout made a motion to accept Melinda Zavorotny as Deputy Town Treasurer. He was seconded by Selectman Kondrat. Motion passed unanimously. TA Collins read the Cemetery Deed for Elaine Hodgman Lot 16, #5, Section E at Pine Grove Cemetery. Selectman Kondrat made a motion to accept the Cemetery Deed for Elaine Hodgman Lot 16, #5, Section E at Pine Grove Cemetery. She was seconded by Selectman Rideout. The Motion passed unanimously.

TA Collins explained that she brought the plans for the sidewalk project and would like the Selectmen to review them with her. She explained that the project bid came in a little higher of the original budget. The State preapproved the increase but the Town will need to come up with the addition 20%. There is money left over in the bridge fund, some was used to pave South Parish Road. She is asked for approval to use up to \$60,000. The lowest bid for the project is \$659,000. TA Collins displayed the plans to the Board and described the project in detail. Selectman Johnson requested that TA Collins send an email of the figures to the Board this week.

6:15 pm Kaliegh Crissman Project Manager for NextEra shared the screen via zoom to present a project update to the Board of Selectmen. Ms. Crissman introduced all that attended via zoom. The power point presentation is available to the public.

Our Company: Worlds #1 generator of solar and wind energy. Operates over 40 large-scale solar projects. American-owned and operated, projects in 38 states and Canada. Deployed \$90B of infrastructure capital since 2010.

Project Overview: Location: Town of Hinsdale, Cheshire County, actively harvested forest lands adjacent to 115kV transmission corridor. Size & Technology: 50 MW with fixed-tilt solar photovoltaic modules. Project footprint: 280 acres. Target Schedule: File Site Evaluation Committee (SEC) application: Fall 2021, Start of Construction: Winter 2022-2023, Commercial Operation: December 2023.

Project Permit Process: Site Evaluation Committee (SEC) jurisdiction due to Project size, SEC process ensures that projects meet state regulations. The SEC gives due consideration to regional planning commissions and local governing municipal body. The SEC determination considers that the project must not have unreasonable adverse impact on aesthetics, historic sites, water quality, natural environment, health and public safety, and must serve the public interest. Various Public Information

Selectmen's Meeting – Hinsdale Police Department Training Room  
Meeting May 17, 2021

Sessions and Hearings in Hinsdale or Virtual as part of SEC process. Once certificate is issued, construction will begin.

Studying the Site: Natural & Cultural Resource Assessments: Wetlands, streams, and vernal pool surveys (2016, 2018, 2020), Bat survey (2016, 2020), Rare plant, animal, and natural community assessments (2017, 2020), Phase 1A and Phase 1B Archaeological Assessment (2017, 2020), Historic Architecture Survey (2020), Site-specific soil survey (2020). Site Specific Assessments: Geotech, Pile load testing, Boundary survey (2020), Site-specific soil survey (2020). Other Studies: Life cycle greenhouse gas analysis (On going), Visual Impact assessment (On going), Sound analysis (On going), Economic impact analysis (On going), Decommissioning plan, Emergency response and fire safety plan.

Community Engagement: Several town meetings and presentations beginning in 2017 and are ongoing. Initial introduction of project by Ranger Solar (January 2017). Payment in Lieu of tax Agreement (PILOT) with Town of Hinsdale (May 2017). Follow-up visit by NextEra: Board of Selectmen meetings (January 2017, November 2019, May 2021). Planning & Zoning Board meeting (May 2021). Public Information Session (Summer 2021 pending SEC filing).

Optimizing Design: Avoidance and minimization of natural resource impacts. No direct wetland or stream impacts. Sited adjacent to existing transmission infrastructure and fits harmoniously into the existing landscape. Use of existing road network to the extent possible. Adapts to local landscape and uses an efficient footprint with the least amount of disturbance practicable. Compatibility with local regulations: Commercial and Industrial Noise, Preservation of Rural Character, Wetlands Protection Overlay District.

Hinsdale Subdivision Requirements: Hinsdale Requirements for Subdivision Approval. Work with the Town of Hinsdale to obtain subdivision approval for the substation. Once constructed the substation will be turned over to a third party, National Grid. Would like to start this process early, to make sure the team is meeting NH requirements, including being able to file with the Register of Deeds.

Project Benefits: Delivers safe, low-cost, clean, renewable energy. Substantial environmental benefits with minimal environmental impact. Provides over 150 construction jobs. Boosts southwestern New Hampshire's economy with more than \$30 million in new capital investment. Expected to generate millions of dollars in new property tax benefits over the life of the project. NextEra joins Hinsdale and Cheshire County Community (Chamber, Sponsorships, etc.).

Questions and Comments: Ms. Crissman explained that the land and the substation needs to be turned over to a third party (National Grid). The land will need to go through a subdivision process with the Planning Board. Would like to start this process prior to Fall of 2021. Chair Diorio explained that he feels this was a very good presentation and has no questions. Selectman Kondrat explained that it was nice to have an update. The Board was agreeable to an in-person meeting in July or August, TA Collins will arrange the meeting. TA Collins will set up a time after her return in two weeks to discuss the MOU.

6:30 pm Board Business: Selectman Carrier has a Library Trustee meeting this Wednesday. Selectman Johnson had a cemetery meeting at the cemetery last week, went well. He was happy to hear that the Highway Department will be repairing the road, cost savings. Next meeting is at Oak Lawn Cemetery. Selectman Kondrat cannot join the Planning Board meeting tomorrow, asked for another to join, Board decided they will be ok with just an update. Chair Diorio explained that Tim Nichols cannot put the graduate banners up this year. Dennis Nadeau and Bob Truesdell are willing to do it, but wants the Board

Selectmen's Meeting – Hinsdale Police Department Training Room  
Meeting May 17, 2021

to approve this since Dennis is no longer an employee. Selectman Carrier made a motion to approve the request. He was seconded by Selectman Kondrat. Motion passed unanimously.

6:45 pm Steve Gasset and Mike McCosker were present to discuss the Fire Department Building Committee. The Building Committee met last week and discussed a few options. They are exploring the Stafford Land. The State explained that the driveway would need to be at 150 Brattleboro Road, which is a rental property, due to Sand Hill. To make a perfect lot of about 3 acres they would need some land from Stafford 164 Brattleboro Rd., land from Barrett 57 Butler Ave, land from Fullam 156 Brattleboro Rd, and land with home demolished from Nilson 150 Brattleboro Rd. Can do the project with or without Stafford property but the lot would be slenderer. The footprint would be about 3 acres which the Town Architect Peter Tenant explained that they would need. We have not contacted the owners yet and if they do not want to sell, we start over. There is not any other town owned land in town that will work for this project. Selectman Kondrat asked about the lot at the school. Mr. McCosker explained that there is not enough room, it's a safety issue and he doubts the towns people would ever approve losing a ball field to build a fire station. Selectman Rideout asked if they knew how much tax revenue we would lose if they project moves forward with their proposed land. Mr. Gasset explained that no matter where the project is there will be a loss of tax revenue. Mr. McCosker asked Chair Diorio if he would be at the next building committee meeting (yes). At that time, they will have contacted the owners to see if they are in favor and will have a hand drawn map of the proposed lot.

Public Comment: Highway Superintendent Truesdell had no comment.

Chief Rataj explained how he has given his opinion to the Cheshire County Democrats pertaining to Dog License Fines and Gun Permit Fees. He has been asked to testify and has not made a decision yet. He also explained he is having technology issues. The Police Department is working on a 1990 database, they need to do duplicate work and it is redundant. To fix the system he would need to upgrade to a new system, this cost is \$10,000. To transfer the necessary data of more than 25 years will be \$30,000 to \$40,000 cost. He has found the money in his budget and can make it work. Selectman Johnson thanked him for being fiscally responsible and asked if this is a one-time fee, (yes). The Board discussed and felt no motion was needed and told the Chief to move forward with the project.

Sean Leary explained that the School Board reorganized their offices and he is remaining as Representative. He will be the Chair of the School Board and Kaylah Hemlow is Vice Chair. He has been working with Todd Horner from SWRPC on updating the 4<sup>th</sup> Chapter of the Master Plan, which is Economic Development. Mr. Leary is also working with Todd on a proposal through Monadnock Vital Economies Program. Todd is willing to help with guidance and the Planning Board will work on the updates, this could be a savings to the town as the last Master Plan Update was \$13,000. Mr. Leary had no updates for Parks and Recreation. As a citizen he asked that after the graduation banners are taken down that his banner, in remembrance of his father, be put back at the end of Highland Ave. Chair Diorio will email Dennis and ask him to make a list as he takes them down. When taken down they could be listed by banner name and pole number so they can be put back on the appropriate pole.

7:24 pm Selectman Carrier made a motion to enter into a non-public per RSA 91-A:3, II, (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee. He was seconded by Selectmen Kondrat. The motion passed unanimously.

7:52 pm the meeting reconvened. Selectman Rideout made a motion to seal the non-public minutes. He was seconded by Selectman Kondrat. The motion passed unanimously.

Selectmen's Meeting – Hinsdale Police Department Training Room  
Meeting May 17, 2021

They will discuss goals next week as they skipped over them in tonight's agenda. Selectman Kondrat will be absent for the June 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. Chief Rataj will need a non-public per RSA 91-A:3, II, (b) The hiring of any person as a public employee May 24th at 6:15pm.

With there being no further business to come before the meeting, Selectman Johnson made a motion to adjourn. He was seconded by Selectman Rideout. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:53pm.

Respectfully submitted,

CDC Kathryn Lynch