

*Selectmen's PUBLIC HEARING Minutes*

Monday, January 30, 2017

**PUBLIC HEARING RE: PILOT AGREEMENT – CHARIOT SOLAR**

Present: Chairman Gallagher, Selectmen Diorio, Darcy, McCosker and Rideout; and T.A. Collins.

6:30 p.m. Chairman Gallagher opened the public hearing.

Representatives from Ranger Solar (re: Chariot Solar Project) were present, as well as members of the public.

Chairman Gallagher read the public hearing announcement.

Danielle Changala introduced herself as Lead NH Developer and company attorney with Ranger Solar. Adam Cohen, Paul Harris, Chris Stewart, and Dom, Aaron, and CJ from Ranger Solar were also present.

Danielle made a presentation to the public introducing Ranger as a utility-scale solar developer, selling cost-competitive power. They are led by a team of developers in Vermont, New Hampshire, Connecticut and Maine. She stated that solar power is currently the most economic and least intrusive. The maximum height of their panels is about 12 feet. They use fixed tilt panels and can deliver power at lower rates. She explained that this is a lengthy process at state level and they will have a decommissioning plan. They want to make this a model for new solar development in NH. The project is completely on private land, around the existing electrical corridor (to connect to). They have done thorough identifying studies as to not impact valuable resources and have been able to minimize view from the public (except some area on Monument Road, where they will have buffers). The PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) Agreement enables the developer and the town to establish a payment amount over 20 years, resulting in over \$10 million in revenue to the town. This also will be taking land out of current use and providing money to the state.

She then took questions. In response to what happens after the life of the panel of the solar project, she stated that after 20 years they will be subject to regular taxes (normal tax liability).

In response to a timeline question, she stated that they intend to file an application in the spring of this year and will have another public meeting. The process can take up to 15 months. The likely scenario is that they will have permits by fall of 2018 and have construction completed and be online by 2019.

When asked about the total footprint of the project, the response was that it was about 400 acres and the total area with panels will be much less. The only impervious surface area is posts for racking which will be about 5 to 6 acres.

She stated that this is the largest project in New Hampshire by 50-fold and to date it is the largest project in New England.

There will be fences surrounding the area and access will be provided to local service providers.

6:53 p.m. Public Hearing Closed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim P. Worden  
Secretary