

MENDON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MINUTES OF MEETING----- February 17, 2015
APPROVED-----March 11, 2015

Chairman Goddard, Selectmen Schofield and Reil are present in the Upper Town Hall, Mendon.
Chairman Goddard called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Selectman Reil made and Selectman Schofield seconded a motion to approve the regular session meeting minutes of February 5, 2015 and the executive session minutes of February 5, 2015 not to be released. The motion carried unanimously.

Selectman Reil made an announcement reminding residents about signing up for news and alerts online. There have been updates posted regarding trash pickup changes due to the storms.

Members began reviewing the warrant. Ms. Willoughby confirmed that the only change since the last meeting was the deletion of one article as requested. **Selectman Reil made and Selectman Schofield seconded a motion to sign the March 18, 2015 Special Town Meeting warrant. Action: Ms. Willoughby to send another notification to the Agricultural Commission regarding the article that was removed. The motion carried unanimously.**

Craig Brazell, Constellation Energy, gave an overview of his company and discussed electricity rates. The supplier charge is 70-80% of electric bill. Other costs are set by government regulations. Red portion of chart on the left is National Grid, supplier. We should currently have a fixed cost, \$.07 per kWh so we do not need to budget for the increased rate homeowners are seeing. *Action: Ms. Willoughby to follow up on that with Ms. Newman.* Mr. Brazell explained there is more natural gas demand and not enough money going into its infrastructure. This is caused by coal and oil demand decreasing. There must be an Independent System Operator for energy generation due to deregulation. Discussion was suspended to hold the National Grid Hearing.

Selectman Reil made and Selectman Schofield seconded a motion to open the public hearing for Mass Electric Company/National Grid to erect and maintain two new solely owned poles and anchors in Public Way for service to new cell tower on Inman Hill Road. The motion carried unanimously. Selectman Reil read the hearing notice. Chrystal Tognazzi, National Grid, explained that Pole 12 and 13 will serve a new cell tower. They both require anchors. Assistant Fire Chief Bucchino explained that this is for power to the new communications tower. Wiring cannot go underground because of ledge. **Selectman Reil made and Selectman Schofield seconded a motion to close the public hearing for Mass Electric Company/National Grid to erect and maintain two new solely owned poles and anchors in Public Way for service to new cell tower on Inman Hill Road. The motion carried unanimously.** Selectman Reil made and Selectman Schofield seconded a motion to erect and maintain two new solely owned poles and anchors in Public Way for service to new cell tower on Inman Hill Road. The motion carried unanimously.

Anne Mazar, Community Preservation Committee Chairperson, joined Selectmen to discuss the Lot 43 Quissett Road Pearson property. She showed them that the front portion will be purchased by someone and it will have a conservation restriction on it. Lot 43A will be purchased by the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife. **Selectman Reil made and Selectman Schofield seconded a motion to approve the 35.69 acres-Pearson Farm, 43 Quissett Road Conservation Restriction to the Mendon Conservation Commission pursuant to M.G.L. c. 40, § 8C, M.G.L. c. 184, § 32 and in compliance**

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with Section 12(a) of M.G.L. Chapter 44B, the Community Preservation Act, so called. The motion carried unanimously. Ms. Mazar said three originals need to be signed and notarized. She will leave them in the Administrative Assistant's mail box so Selectmen can have them notarized by the Town Clerk.

Mr. Brazell re-joined the Selectmen and explained that electricity rates are higher in the summer. He is using historical 12 months, 18 months, etc. to base fees to get a better weighted average. Potential pipeline projects and expected demand are taken into consideration. The contracts are written to start and stop on a meter read date. Mr. Brazell recommends a short-term contract to be able to make a decision if we feel the market will be more favorable. Another option would be a longer term contract to better plan for budgeting. Mr. Brazell will provide a new contract start date page with corrected rates on longer term contracts. Chairman Goddard asked how purchasing solar power would effect our contract. Mr. Brazell explained the difference between net metering credits and those that are behind the meter with panels on the roof. Chairman Goddard said the Town will use net metering. Mr. Brazell said signing his contract has no impact on the Town's contract with net metering. Item 16 of the Constellation Energy contract says the Town must give a 120-day notice. A fixed price, 'all-in rate' is needed to get the ancillary cost on bills if one is to go 'behind the meter'. The Town would want a single bill to make sure it gets the credits.

Mr. Brazell answered Chairman Goddard's question about the Hampshire Council of Governments' product. The Council had a monthly, variable rate until 2012. Since then rates have been increasing. They are brokering through aggregating multiple towns. The cost is based on those who are peak users such as large businesses. Chairman Goddard wants residents to be aware that if residents don't opt out of the Hampshire Council of Government's contract, they are included. *Action: Ms. Willoughby to post a Selectmen's meeting during the Finance Committee's meeting next Wednesday so Selectmen can possibly select a contract term with Constellation Energy. She will send Chairman Burke a note to put this topic on their agenda. She will also get a letter of opinion from counsel for next Wednesday in order to fix the rates before the March contract end date.*

Selectman Reil made and Selectman Schofield seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:22p.m. Members agreed there is no reason to have town counsel attend the Special Town Meeting. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,



Diane Willoughby
Administrative Assistant

Documents Discussed located in 'Administrative Secretary's' Office:

Regular Session and Executive Session Meeting Minutes of February 5, 2015

March 18, 2015 Special Town Meeting Warrant

Plan of Land in Mendon, MA, Owner: Inhabitants of the Town of Mendon, G-9562

Mass Electric/NGRID Petition for Pole Locations dated January 23, 2015, Plan No. 18483590, Inman Hill Road

Exelon Corporation: A National Energy Leader Package