

## MENDON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MINUTES OF MEETING----- February 24, 2014

APPROVED-----March 10, 2014

Chairman Tinio, Selectmen Reil, and Goddard are present at the Miscoe Hill Auditorium, Mendon. Chairman Tinio called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

Chairman Goddard noted that signing the letter of intent for the net metering agreement would realize a discount of 22.5% off the annual Southeastern MA net metering credit rate. **Selectman Goddard made and Selectman Reil seconded a motion to allow Chairman Lawney Tinio to sign the Letter of Intent/Town of Mendon/Net Metering Agreement with Northeast Real Estate Solutions, Inc. The motion carried unanimously.**

Charles Phipps, Firefighter and Linda Hawkes, Treasurer/Collector joined the Selectmen to discuss the need for Mr. Phipps to reimburse the town \$2659 owed due to changing from an individual to a family dental plan in 2011. The difference in premiums was not deducted from his paycheck. Mr. Phipps reached an agreement with the Town Accountant to pay back \$25 per week. However, Ms. Hawkes would like the money paid back by end of fiscal year as opposed to May, 2017. Chairman Tinio agrees with \$25 per week pay back as Mr. Phipps is a town employee. If he were to leave, he would like a quicker pay back. Selectman Reil feels it is tax payer money that has funded the benefit and should be paid by end of the fiscal year. Selectman Goddard noted that the Town did have some fault in the discrepancy. A separate discussion needs to occur regarding who should take the lead on this type of situation. The town has been covering the shortage. Ms. Hawkes is concerned there is a precedent being set as others have been asked to pay money owed on a timelier basis. Those amounts were much less. Selectman Goddard asked if Mr. Phipps could pay \$50 per week. Charlie said he cannot afford to pay more than \$25 per week. Selectman Goddard said not to move forward with filing in small claims court. He would like to understand the current process. No payback schedule will be created yet.

*Action: This discussion will continue at the March 10 meeting.*

There is no need to vote on any new monetary changes to the town warrant as the Finance Committee has that prerogative.

Selectman Goddard will clarify with town counsel the motion regarding the number of acres being used on the 36 Milford Street parcel.

Mike Zarella, Firefighter, and Alan Tetreault, Highway Surveyor discussed the shoveling at the Town Hall. Mr. Zarella said the Fire Department will no longer be doing it as it is not in their contract. They have been doing it as a courtesy. Mr. Tetreault said that the Highway Department has never been responsible for doing it. *Action: Diane Willoughby will obtain quotes for shoveling the Town Hall.*

Meeting recessed at 6:55 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. to attend the Special Town Meeting.

During discussion of Article 16, Chairman Tinio & Selectman Goddard assured voters that when the lease with SunDurance is being negotiated, they will be ensuring property will be brought back to natural state after the end of lease or if company goes under. William Ambrosino, Planning Board Chairman, informed attendees that a bond is required per the zoning by-laws to cover the cost of removing equipment on the site. Mr. Martin, SunDurance Energy, said there will be a restriction requested for height of nearby buildings so solar panels can operate. He acknowledged they can operate within the current zoning by-law height restriction. Selectman Goddard spoke of the benefits of the proposed solar farm: lease will not increase property taxes, Town will receive income and it will no

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longer be a burden to tax payers. The site has been deemed not viable for commercial development due to lack of water and sewer as well as existence of ledge.

At conclusion of Special Town Meeting, 10:35 p.m., **Selectman Reil made and Selectman Goddard seconded a motion to enter into executive session under M.G.L. c.30A Section 21 to conduct strategy sessions with respect to contract negotiations with the Treasurer Collector and with respect to collective bargaining with the Mendon Permanent Firefighters Union, Town Hall Union and Mendon Police Association as an open meeting may have detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the Chairman so declared. Meeting will convene only to adjourn. Roll call vote is needed. Goddard-aye Reil-aye, Tinio-aye**

**Selectman Reil made and Selectman Goddard seconded a motion to adjourn at 10:45 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Diane Willoughby".

Diane Willoughby  
Administrative Assistant

Documents Discussed located in 'Administrative Secretary's' Office:  
Letter of Intent/Town of Mendon/Net Metering Agreement dated February 21, 2014  
Special Town Meeting Warrant of February 24, 2014