

Chairman Reil, Selectmen Schofield and Burke and Town Administrator Kimberly Newman are present in the Upper Town Hall, Mendon.

Chairman Reil called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the pledge.

John Hodgens Jr., 16 King Philip Path, informed Selectmen that he and 30 of his neighbors attended a meeting in Hopedale held by Blue Wave which is proposing a power plant adjacent to King Philip Path and Swan Dale. He acknowledges that it will come before the Planning Board. He didn't think holding the meeting four days prior to Christmas was acceptable. He explained there was the PowerPoint presentation describing a massive 20 acres of solar arrays over three parcels. He hopes that Selectmen will speak with Blue Wave saying that they do not approve of way business is being done. He and his neighbors would like to see the property remain as open space in the residential area. A power plant does not belong in there. Chairman Reil confirmed the Planning Board has jurisdiction. *Action: Ms. Newman will follow up to see if any members of the Planning Board attended the meeting.*

Ms. Willoughby explained that a vote was never taken to sign the Chapter 90 requests discussed at the November 30 meeting. **Selectman Schofield made and Selectman Burke seconded a motion to sign the Chapter 90 Requests presented at the November 30, 2015 meeting. The motion carried unanimously.**

Selectman Schofield made and Selectman Burke seconded a motion to approve the regular session meeting minutes of November 17, 23 and 30 as written and the executive session minutes of October 5 and November 9, 2015 as written not to be released. The motion carried unanimously.

Selectman Schofield made and Selectman Burke seconded a motion to renew the annual common victualler license for St. Mark LLC d/b/a the General Store, 32 Hastings Street. The motion carried unanimously.

Selectman Schofield noted that the Renewal Certification needs to be signed annually for the licenses the Selectmen renew annually. **Selectman Schofield made and Selectman Burke seconded a motion to sign the 2016 Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission Renewal Certification. The motion carried unanimously.**

Leo Sullivan and Brian Murphy with Colonial Power Group (CPG) discussed the Community Choice Aggregation Program with the Selectmen. The Hampshire Council of Government's proposal was denied by the State. Hampshire Council of Governments has recommended the Town work with CPG. The opt-out program offers fixed-rate residential pricing to mitigate spikes in energy rates. Customers can opt-out any time and choose to return. A municipality can add green products. CPG will work with the Town to disseminate information to residents. CPG shops the utility market to get the best utility price. Holliston opted for 8.9 cent and 100 percent green option price (renewable energy credits) against 10.2 cents per kwh. Their commission is 1/10th of a penny per kwh. They have an anonymous profile of every meter reading in town. Every home would get direct mail with opt-out clause and information. In Auburn, 4.5 percent opted out. Mr. Murphy explained that procedural due process and substantive issues were not met by the Hampshire Council of Governments. CPG has followed the process of which the State DPU is accustomed. Only customers still on basic service from National Grid will be invited to participate. Mr. Murphy estimated 10-15% of residences have already opted to use an alternate source in Mendon. In order to obtain that information, CPG must have a contract with the Town. The Town would

need to select a price term in six-month increments. Power that comes off the grid would apply to those with solar panels. The town has to give 90-days' notice to dissolve the contract with CPG. This topic will be put on the agenda for the second meeting in January. *Action: Ms. Newman will confirm whether the town meeting vote in 2013 is sufficient to authorize the Selectmen to sign a contract with CPG without another Town Meeting. He would also would like to contact someone on the approved active list as a reference. Mr. Murphy will forward Ms. Newman the contacts.*

Ms. Newman wanted to remind boards, commissions and department heads to submit articles for the Special Town Meeting with supporting documentation to her office by February 11. The Finance Committee department meetings will be on Wednesdays and where they will also bring their supporting documentation. Ms. Newman is still working on evaluations. Chairman Reil feels the only things that should be going to the Finance Committee are those which the Selectmen have approved. He feels it would be a waste of the department heads' time. Mr. Merolli, Finance Committee Chairman, said this is a way to vet the information before it gets to the Selectmen. Ms. Newman explained only those departments who have a substantial change to their FY 17 budget or a request will be meeting with her.

Discussion followed regarding upcoming meeting dates. There will be a joint meeting with the Finance Committee to discuss the FY17 budget on March 14. Fire Department negotiations will be held on January 25. The Boards and Commissions meeting is February 1. Ms. Newman will send an email with key changes to the FY17 budget to board members.

8:21 p.m. Chairman Reil made and Selectman Burke seconded a motion to enter into Executive Session under M.G.L. C.30A Sec.21 to conduct a strategy session and conduct contract negotiations with Town Administrator Kimberly Newman. We will reconvene into regular session. A roll call vote is needed. We will reconvene into regular session. Schofield-aye, Burke-aye, Reil-aye.

Selectmen agreed nothing further needed to be discussed in regular session at 10:30 p.m. **Selectman Schofield made and Selectman Burke seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,



Diane Willoughby
Executive Assistant

Documents Discussed located in Executive Assistant's Office:
Regular Session Meeting Minutes of November 17, 23 and 30, 2015
Executive Session Meeting Minutes of October 5 and November 9, 2015
Chapter 90 Reimbursement Requests for Pleasant Street, Single Chip Seal
Chapter 90 Project Request Amendment to Original Project Request Pleasant Street, Single Chip Seal

St. Mark LLC dba The General Store, 32 Hastings Street 2016 Common Victualler License
2016 ABCC Renewal Certification

Documents Discussed located in Town Administrator's Office:
Community Choice Aggregation Program, Board of Selectmen, Town of Mendon, December 28, 2015
Town of Mendon, Community Choice Power Supply Program, Aggregation Plan Prepared by Colonial
Power Group, Inc.