

**North Hero Selectboard Meeting**  
Tuesday, February 16, 2016 6:00 P.M.  
North Hero Town Office Meeting Room  
DRAFT

In Attendance: Selectboard: Rob Rousseau, Andre Quintin, Ben Joseph

Town Clerk/ Treasurer: Pete Johnson

Public Works:

Board Clerk: Kathie Dustira

Guests: Tracy Giroux, Co-President North Hero Historical Society  
Andria Cotier, VT Electric Co. (VEC)  
Jeff Wright, VT Electric Co. (VEC)

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Rob called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**REVIEW AND APPROVE BILLS FOR PAYMENT**

Signed and approved for payment of \$13,825.67

**ADJUSTMENT OF AGENDA**

The agenda was adjusted to accommodate visitors.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- ❖ Andre motioned to accept the 02-01-2016 minutes. The motion was seconded by Ben and passed 3/0.

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

- Tracy Giroux – The agreement between the North Hero Elementary School, Hero's Welcome and the Town of North Hero has been tabled until the next meeting.
- Jeff Wright, from the Chief Operating Office of VT Electric CoOp. (VEC) said he and Andria Cotier were attending the meeting in an effort to "set the record straight" in regards to what they can and can't do for the solar project that the Select board had been working on.
  - Ben Joseph reviewed the long history in regard to the Selectboard and various persons regarding a solar power project for North Hero. Ben wanted to know why the Selectboard was allowed to go so long in negotiations with them before being told of their intentions of developing a site in Grand Isle. Ben ended by stating that the Selectboard would still like to go ahead with pursuing a solar project.
  - Jeff responded that he felt they had failed us. He said he'd looked at the North Hero site eight years ago and that the site chosen near the transfer station was a good one. He spoke of net metering being from 2% – 15% of their peak load, and that now it is at 15%. VEC tried net metering 1.5M in South Hero, and that fell apart due to frogs. Then tried 1 M in Alburgh, but then learned they could not afford to build it, so they asked developers to come up with another site before going to them. The developer – (Bulrock?) began negotiations with Grand Isle. Then all of a sudden, they (VEC) started hearing about the North Hero site. Bulrock never even gave a price for North Hero's site to be developed.
  - Jeff said it all comes down to price and location, and that the North Hero site would have cost them more.
  - Ben responded that the North Hero Selectboard was encouraged to continue negotiations with VT Electric CoOp. The Town had voted overwhelmingly in favor of the project (84 yay, 4 nay), and wondered what he thought the Town should do now.

- Jeff encouraged the Selectboard to continue pursuing solar, and encouraged us to deal with Encore. He said not to hesitate calling him if we had any questions at all.
- The Selectboard asked some questions:
  - Are they just considering 5 M projects? Jeff: No, the projects could be smaller.
  - What is the status of Grand Isle? Jeff: "We have great confidence that GI will be approved." There are a few neighbors who do not support it. They should know by June if it is a go.

Public Works:

- None

Town Clerk: Pete Johnson

- The Water Board came up with a plan for emergency notification, and they'd like the Selectboard to ok it. The VT Alert system is a secure network and would only be available to five people: Pete, Corinn, Kevin, someone on the Water Board and someone on the Selectboard.
- ❖ Andre motioned the Water Board go ahead with the VT Alert System. The motion was seconded by Ben and passed 3/0.
- Everything is all set for Town Meeting on Tuesday, March 01, 2016. The Town will go before the School this year.
- The next Selectboard meeting, March 7 will be an organizational meeting.

FINISHED BUSINESS FOR ACTION OR DISCUSSION

- None

NEW BUSINESS

- Health Complaint – The Board received a letter of complaint regarding the property 716 South End Road. The neighbors say it is a public health hazard and an eyesore. They would like something done. The house is on lien. Rob will see what can be done.

CORRESPONDENCE SHARING: DISCUSSION OR ACTION

- The Board passed various correspondences around for review.

AGENDA BUILDING

- Solar Project - Encore
- Plowing Community Hall Agreement

EXECUTIVE SESSION

OTHER BUSINESS

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ADJOURNMENT

- ❖ Andre motioned to close the Selectboard meeting at 7:30 p.m. The motion was seconded by Evan and passed 3/0.

C: Board: Robert/ Eileen / Andre / Ben / Evan

Town Clerk

Web Page File