

**Joint Meeting of the Water & Sewer Commission  
And the Electric Utility Commission  
Meeting Minutes, June 11, 2018**

**Roll Call:** Commissioners Dennis Donahue, Steve Fitzhugh, Julie Goodrich (absent), and Ken Goslant. Others present: Town Manager Jeff Schulz; Utility Superintendent Pat Demasi; VPPSA Staff member TJ Poor; Conservation Commission members Debbi Zuaro, Laura Hill-Eubanks and Russ Barrett. The meeting started at 6:30 PM.

**Approval of Minutes from Previously Meetings**

Motion by Dennis Donahue, second by Ken Goslant to approve the minutes of April 2, 16, 30. Motion passed 4-0.

**Meeting of the Electric Commission Meeting**

**VPPSA Solar Project - Cheney Farm**

Steve Fitzhugh gave an overview of the VPPSA Solar Project on the Cheney Farm stating that VPPSA is investigating the feasibility of developing utility-scale renewable energy projects within its member's service territory to meet the Renewable Energy Standard (RES). As part of that effort, Northfield Electric and VPPSA asked developers to assess two Northfield sites for a utility scale solar project: the Cheney Farm and the Town's wellfield. The wellfield site was taken off the list for consideration because it is the Town's water source, and the site has a State approved resource protection plan that includes no build areas on the property.

The Cheney Farm site was selected for inclusion in VPPSA's RFP process because it is a municipally-owned property; is near the Common and substation; is near a three-phase distribution line required for interconnection; is currently a cleared site; and provides the potential, with battery storage, to create a microgrid at the Common for hazard mitigation.

Specifics regarding development and ownership of the project will need to be discussed if the community proceeds with the project. There are three potential options regarding project ownership: the developer could own the project; VPPSA could own the project, or NED could own it.

Next, TJ Poor, VPPSA staff person gave further details of the project stating that the Tier III Renewable Energy Standards require that utilities either procure additional new distributed renewable energy consistent with the requirements of the Tier II requirements, or acquire fossil-fuel savings through energy transformation projects. Under Tier III, utilities must procure either the amount of distributed renewable energy or fossil-fuel savings equivalent to 2% of their annual retail sales

in 2017, increasing by two-thirds of a percent each year until reaching 12% in 2032. If built, the Cheney Farm project will satisfy these requirements.

Next, Russ Barrett, Northfield Conservation Commission stated that the Cheney Farm is part of the Town Forest and he is concerned that the project will negatively impact the Town Forest. Also, the Town has an agreement with Norwich regarding use of and access to the trails in the Forest, and he is concerned about that the project's impact on the trails. Next, Deb Zuaro discussed the benefits of the Town Forest to the Community.

The next step in the process is to assess Community interest in the project. The Commission agreed that the Utility Commission should hold joint public hearings with the Select Board, and selected June 25 as the date of the first hearing.

Motion by Dennis Donahue, second by Steve Fitzhugh, to publish the draft Cheney Farm Solar project overview report on the Town Web-site, and hold two joint public hearings with the Select Board to assess community opinion on the project. **Motion passed 4-0.**

### **Nantanna Hydro Facility**

The Nantanna Hydro Facility is currently owned by a Colorado firm and their current agreement for the sale of electricity under a state agreement is due to run out, and as a result, the owners are asking if NED wishes to have a net-metered arrangement for the facility. Other options for the facility could be a purchase power agreement or an actual purchase. Steve will work with VPPSA on this issue and report back to Commission.

### **Other Business**

Steve noted that the sale involving Home Town Connections was completed. VPPSA is a member and the new arrangement will help NED develop a business model for smart meters and with displaying smart meter data.

Next, Steve noted that the interviews for the VPPSA website design for each utility is finished and the plan is to have VPPSA host or link to each member web-site.

Motion by Steve Fitzhugh, second by Julie Goodrich, to adjourn the meeting. **Motion passed 4-0.**

### **Meeting of Water and Sewer Commission**

Patrick Demasi gave an update on the Water/Sewer Department noting that they are working on the Union Street water line project that should be completed in July, and will then start the North Street water line project. Patrick also reported that the State of Vermont will perform an inspection of the Sewer Plant in July.

Jeff Schulz noted that he has entered into an agreement with an engineering firm to perform an engineering study of the drainage issues on South Main Street and the Slate and Elm Street areas. The goal is to develop plans to collect storm-water from

these areas and direct it to the storm basin behind the Legion for treatment, and to remove water from entering into the sewer plant and the combined sewer overflow.

Motion by Dennis Donahue, second by Ken Goslant, to adjourn the Water and Sewer meeting. **Motion passed 4-0.**

Jeff Schulz, Clerk