

TOWN OF RUMNEY
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SELECTMEN'S MEETING
MINUTES
January 28, 2013

Selectmen: Mark Andrew, Cheryl Lewis, Ed Haskell

Clerk: Diana Kindell

Public Present: David Coursey, James McCart, Terry French, Lloyd French, Phoebe Sanborn, Carl Spring, Jim Buttolph, Ed Cherian, Dan Kimball, Richard Wetterer, Mario Rampino and Ray Valentin.

Chairman Mark Andrew opened the meeting at 7:05 pm.

Minutes of January 7, 2013 were approved as written.

Minutes of January 14, 2013 were approved with one addition – added “Lloyd French voiced his concerns over fire fighter safety to #2 of the Groton Wind discussion”.

Dorchester/Groton Emergency Contracts: David Coursey has the formulas for updating the contracts and will provide that information to Anne Dow.

Town Warrant: The warrant for the upcoming town meeting was reviewed by the Board and changes noted. Article #17 – Voices Against Violence – dollars increased Article #26 - dollar amount added – Fire Department Capital Reserve amount increased.

Groton Wind – Doren Emmett, Ryan Haley: (Selectman Cheryl Lewis recused herself from the Board for this item) Frank Simpson, Rumney Road Agent spoke of the condition of Groton Hollow Road noting extra cover over the culverts that needs to be removed and the entire paved portion of the road needs an overlay of asphalt to correct the damage caused by the over weight trucks. Mr. Emmett said he was not concerned as the road is a better road than when they started. After further discussion it was agreed to do a road walk in the spring, including a contractor slated to do any repairs, and create a punch list of maintenance needed on the road. A letter confirming this decision is to be sent to Ryan Haley, Plant Manager and copied to Ed Cherian. With the construction phase completed, Ryan Haley will be overseeing the wind farm and in charge of operations.

Doren Emmett stated we will be receiving a site safety plan which is currently being created by the Vice-President of Iberdola. This plan and the operational plan should answer many of the questions regarding the wind farm.

Road access within the farm was questioned. The Fire Department and EMS do not currently have keys or any way to reach the towers in case of an emergency within the location. Ryan stated they access each situation and have a John Deere Gator outfitted

with EMS gear. The on-site workers can escort responders to the necessary site or they can bring a person out with the Gator. The roads are not plowed or sanded and only maintained by snow cats. Mark questioned their agreement to plow and sand the roads during the winter. We have an agreement with the Town of Groton for emergency services in that area and we are unable to fulfill that commitment. Ryan stated the site is manned Monday - Friday from 7 am to 4 pm with three (3) employees currently there as well as five (5) warranty personnel. The locks are being changed on the gate and building this week and keys will be provided to the necessary town departments. After hours response time could be two hours, with Ryan being the contact person. He did state there is an employee living next to the plant. Cheryl Lewis reiterated the Town has a signed legal agreement regarding the first responders.

Mark A. stated that no reports had been received by the town – incident or otherwise – as required in the agreement. The Town has no final site plan, information on hazardous materials or fire suppressant information. Mr. Emmett stated that this is being finalized at this time and we should be receiving that with the Safety Plan.

Another issue is the training costs. Mark stated the costs have not been fully funded at this time. It is not a large amount due, and will have Ann put the information together and send to Ryan Haley and Doreen Emmet.

Dave Coursey had several questions regarding access, equipment on the Gator used for on-site rescue and training. Ryan stated they do an annual training, which includes the Fire Department, Police Department and EMS, and Dave felt that needed to be more than once a year just to deal with summer and winter conditions. Mark suggested a meeting be set up, thru the Selectman's office, for all first responders. Communication between Groton Wind Farm and the various departments is key to solving problems and needs to improve. Ryan will set up meetings with the necessary people.

Mark questioned the status of the operation. Doreen Emmett stated the sub-station is fully operational. All towers are going through during a warranty phase and one or several may be off line at any time. The warranty workers will be on site for the next ten (10) days.

Carl Spring further questioned the plowing and sanding of the roads and awaiting the Safety plan. Do we have to wait thirty (30) days to review this plan? D. Emmett said the completion of the plan and the operations plan are being elevated and we should receive them soon. Mark questioned what we could do as a Town – Mr. Emmett stated we could send a letter to SEC and the Vice-President of the company (his information to be forthcoming within days). Mark would like an email sent to the Vice President with a copy of the Groton Agreement stating plowing and sanding would be done and a copy of the Town's agreement with Groton for EMS services. Mark stated we would like the agreement followed and would like answers by next Monday.

Phoebe Sanborn questioned the noise generated by the wind mills. She has a very high noise level at her home. Although the property abuts Groton, she was never notified as an abutter of any meetings regarding the wind farm. Mr. Emmett stated there is a limit to

noise level. A third party will be hired to monitor noise. The units can be adjusted if in fact it is above the approved level. Phoebe needs to leave her name and number to be reached for her home to be included in the monitoring. Mario R. also stated the noise level at his home at the end of Groton Hollow Road is high and questioned how they can adjust them. Mr. Emmett said they can curtail the turbines.

Carl Spring requested MSDS sheets be supplied to the town for any questionable materials in use for the towers.

Buttolph, Spring, Lewis intervention: (C. Lewis remains recused from the Board for this topic) Jim Buttolph stated he had previously sent the town a request for a letter of support to open the records. They have since been notified of a hearing date on February 19, 2013 to review the case. They feel the location of the plant building should have gone before the SEC prior to it being built. They are questioning the

- The relocating of the plant building
- Lack of a final plan showing placement of the towers
- Road agreement not being honored

C. Lewis spoke of the loss of property value on Groton Hollow Road due to the present location of the plant facility and how the lost tax base will affect the entire town. The Chair requested a letter of support for the motion of Buttolph/Spring/Lewis to reopen the records for Groton Wind Farm. The Town of Rumney would like the record reopened noting the above mentioned problems. This should reach SEC prior to February 7, 2013 at which time they will review the materials for the hearing.

Cheryl Lewis rejoined the Board.

Blasting Plan – Central NH Aggregates: Carl Spring and Diana Kindell spoke with the Selectman regarding the plan received from Precision Blasting for their upcoming blasting at the Central NH Aggregates pit. Carl felt the town should have a copy of a safety plan on file with the town – not just at the job site, and a blasting design plan. He further felt the blast notification should extend to property owners within a half mile, not just 1000’.

Diana felt the town office should receive notification of all blasts as well as the Fire Dept. and the Police Dept. as neither is a full-time staffed department. As none of us are experts in blasting, we will check again with MRI as to whether or not they have an expert available if so needed.

The letter does need a response as to the town’s concerns. Atty. Waugh should be approached regarding any basic blasting ordinance the town can enact and enforce. An outline of concerns will be created by Carl and Diana and presented to the Board.

Highway Department: Dan Kimball questioned if pricing information was available for a new backhoe or will be prior to the hearing for the purchase of a new one on the 11th of February. The Chair stated it was not yet available. Dave Coursey stated some maintenance on the present backhoe should extend its useful life.

Selectmen: A letter questioning the position of Cheryl Lewis as a Selectman signing letters regarding Groton Wind Farm was discussed. It was determined a response should be sent including minutes of the meetings in question showing she was recused from any decision making on those matters.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Signed: Checks; Emergency contract for Town of Ellsworth

Respectfully Submitted,

Diana Kindell
Clerk