

Approved

Gilmanton Energy Committee

August 18, 2021

Present: Nate Abbott, Aimee Ruiter, Sue Hale-de Seve, Sarah Thorne, Cyndi Paulin, Dick de Seve, Elise Smith

Meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

Nate made the obligatory opening announcements. The first order of business was to review the minutes of the July 14, 2021. Sue moved, Aimee seconded approval. Approved.

Nate began the meeting by having a discussion of the budget for the upcoming year. The Selectmen held a preliminary meeting concerning the budget on Monday, August 16. Candy Daigle presented a report for the Cemetery Trustees. The Conservation Commission presented a discussion for increasing the portion of the land use change tax to 50% to the conservation fund. Nate made a preliminary presentation of our budget, but we will vote on a more concrete budget this evening. The Selectmen have the ability to adjust numbers until January, so these hearings were more conceptual. Our report showed up to \$400,000 in Energy Efficiency Measures (EEM) that could be implemented. Nate suggested an initial operating budget of \$1,000 for various expenses. Big items will be what is budgeted for the EEM's. Resilient Building Group will not be able to present to the BOS until October, so they need to be notified to get on the BOS agenda. Our budget would include \$250 membership in Clean Energy NH, including two members to their annual meeting in October. Elise asked to be one of the folks to attend. Aimee would also like to attend. Sarah will assure that the dues to Clean Energy NH have been paid.

Sarah added comments on the report that Nate presented. She found one small math error; she urged all to review the report for further amendments. Nate noted that there was discussion of adding a ground mounted solar array atop the landfill. That is not permitted as it might affect the integrity of the closed landfill.

We then discussed the possibility of meeting in person. The COVID numbers are increasing, so that may not be advisable.

Energy Audit report, Nate: discussed the figures involved in the audit for each of the Town's building included in the audit. Energy Use Intensity (EUI), then Energy Efficiency Measures to address lowering the EUI's. Costs broken down by conservation measures, solar installation measures. Nate told the Selectmen that most of the costs for the Old Town Hall need to be held off until final disposition of the building, except for the lighting for the Historical Museum. Nate made a column with recommended expenditures for this year, others for future years. Discussed the insulation of the fire department roof, putting that off until solar installation on building. All agreed, change made.

Discussion of potential solar installations on town buildings. Nate expressed hesitancy to recommend all installations at once. Nate suggested the Public Safety building for the first project. Then, a heat pump system becomes more doable for that building. That building's heating system is due for review and possible replacement soon, so doing solar and heat pump makes more sense. Sarah noted that we had not asked the consultant to include solar in their audit, noted that the audit had not used the normal

instruments to measure solar potential, so these numbers are really raw estimates. Nate noted that the Selectmen had suggested making this budget a separate warrant article so that these numbers would not change various department budgets. Cyndi suggested that this is a good time to engage the Selectmen in these discussions, even if some projects are longer term. Nate asked for any further discussion. Sarah commented on the heating system for the public safety building and costs listed. If the heating system is good for another 10 years, it doesn't pay to make the upgrade much sooner without extenuating circumstances. Sarah will check those numbers with RBG later this week. Sarah suggested moving those numbers to the "deferred" column. Nate suggested moving a number of \$60,000 to allow for any changes, additions, etc.

Dick moved \$60,000, Sarah seconded, for energy efficiency measures for the current year. Approved. We will then discuss establishing a Capital Reserve Fund for energy efficiency measures and renewable energy projects.

For the CRF for EEM and REP, Cyndi moved \$25,000 to establish the fund, Sarah seconded. Approved. We discussed the Capital Improvement Plan and Master Plan in relation to these efforts. We will check on where the town is relative to these.

Newspaper article coming later after approval of budget.

Solarize Campaign: Aimee. Don't have much to report at the moment. Have a table at Old Home Days event.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Next meeting is September 15, 6:30 p.m., which will be the meeting time going forward.

Respectfully submitted,

Dick de Seve, Secretary