

Approved

## **Gilmanton Energy Committee Meeting**

Wednesday September 21, 2022

Academy Building

Gilmanton, NH

6:30 p.m.

Present: Sue Hale-de Seve, Aimee Ruiter, Dick de Seve, Nate Abbott, Elise Smith, Cyndi Paulin, Vincenzo Sisti was absent.

Nate opened the meeting at 6:30.

Review of minutes: Elise motioned, Sue seconded approval. Approved.

Nate began, stating that there have been several communications regarding the bids for the contract on the LED lighting project. Elise reviewed the Selectmen's meeting on Monday. Both were around \$60,000. Chase is going to review the bids to see what he can modify them, or send the bids back to the bidders and ask them to adjust them to show what they believe they can accomplish for the \$40,000 the Town has approved for the project. Given that situation, we would have no more funds to do anything more than the LED lighting project.

Nate has suggested that the Town contact the bidders to see what they can do with \$40,000. Does that reflect the sense of the committee? Elise agreed on that. Nate said we need to know what we can get for the \$40,000. He reported that Chase Pennoyer had written to him that the Selectmen seemed receptive to the bids. Aimee suggested that Chase seek to amend the bids to see what could be eliminated to get under \$40,000. We are looking for a return on investment of \$14,000. We are paying Chase a certain fee that is included in the \$40,000 the Town approved. Nate is drafting a letter to Chase based on the numbers received on Monday, and working on reducing the proposals to meet the \$40,000 limit. Cyndi suggested that we prioritize the lighting in the buildings that will be used more often, so as to maximize the benefit to the Town. Aimee asked if the bids are public and Nate said they are and should be posted on the Town website.

2023: We agreed that we have to show the Town that we can provide the benefit we promised based on the funds we requested before we move forward with any further proposals. This will require education of our citizens on the benefits of these various potential projects over the course of 2023. Cyndi discussed the potential projects for the school that will require other Town entities to work with the school on any proposed projects. Nate has been in contact with Joe Irving from the school, and he has promised to attend our meeting in October. Nate had sent around a communication from Sarah Thorne from the Foster's Daily Democrat that discussed the politics of some of the energy concerns of the towns and the State. Nate requested that we all think about possible educational opportunities we can present to the Town in 2023.

Aimee intends to attend the October 14 Energy Solutions Conference in Manchester. Since we are a

sponsor, she believes that we get tickets to the event. She asked if anyone else wants to go; people will check their schedules to see who can attend.

New Business: none this month.

Next meeting is October 19, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Dick de Seve, secretary