

Approved

## **Gilmanton Energy Committee Meeting**

Wednesday, August 17, 2022

Academy Building

Gilmanton, NH

6:30 p.m.

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

Chairman Nate Abbott opened the meeting with the standard announcements.

Minutes for the July meeting were reviewed. Cyndi motioned, Vincenzo seconded. Approved.

Nate: exchanged emails with Chase Conoyer. He's ready to re-post the RFP for work to be done. We need to provide a submission date that conforms with the Selectmen's meetings. One in September, on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Need the submittal by September 16. Heather Carpenter will return from vacation on August 24, and Nate will contact her shortly thereafter. Completion date for installation is 2 months from selection of contractor. Then we should be able to get work done by November, 2022.

2023 Objectives and Budget: Nate received a notice in June that asked for all budget requirements to be submitted by July 31. If we had wanted to do another project next year, we would have had to submit a warrant article by mid-July. Nate asked for \$1,000 for our budget for next year. There are funds available for an annual energy conference. We can also work on doing some public outreach on continued energy efficiency. If we want to do a solar proposal for 2024, probably need to have it ready by mid-May. Cyndi noted that there are still energy efficiency items that we could do without needing a warrant article. It would be appropriate to research what energy efficiency funds are available through the recently adopted Inflation Reduction Act.

Inflation Reduction Act: there are over \$300 billion in energy efficiency funds. We can try to get folks to come speak to us about what's available, how do we take advantage of those funds. Vincenzo and Elise believe that funds for Electric Vehicles go to individuals or auto makers, the rest go to the State for distribution. Cyndi strongly believes that having these funds distributed to the community level assists more people than having them go to individuals.

Nate: re-examine the objectives in our energy conservation measures based on the energy audit, and go to the Town to try to work on those unfulfilled objectives. We have a cap of funds available of \$40,000. The lighting projects won't use all of those funds; we can still use the remainder of those funds for some of the other objectives we removed from our original energy conservation proposal. Aimee asked if we have to spend those funds this year? Nate says no, those funds can be encumbered for other things that will be done next year. Elise strongly suggested doing as much as we can this year so we don't run into unnecessary opposition.

Vincenzo: the police department asked for a new cruiser that was not approved. Suggested speaking to

the police chief about the possibility of getting an EV truck to fill that need. Discussion of how any tax credit would help the Town. We would need to determine if the department still wants to push for a new cruiser.

Nate reviewed the various proposed lighting projects in Town buildings; these add up to \$18,000. Other items were weatherization projects, air sealing projects, attic insulation, wall insulation in various Town buildings.

Cyndi: if we can update the Selectmen on our current status of projects, could we discuss with them some of their priorities in our list. It would be helpful to work with the Selectmen on these decisions.

Vincenzo discussed whether some of these projects could be funded under the federal infrastructure bill grants. That way we wouldn't have to request funds directly, but include them under those grants.

Nate will review the breakdown of projects still to be done, will contact Sarah about these. We'll see if we can return to the Selectmen with other conservation projects for 2023 at their September 19 meeting. Check what else is available through the Inflation Reduction Act.

New business: Aimee asked what is our role in assisting on contractor selection? Nate: we can review all of them and give our opinion to the Selectmen, who have looked to the committee in the past for recommendations. The normal process is to unseal the bids for the contracts at the Selectmen's meeting, so the selection would occur after the meeting. Selectmen's meeting after that is October 3. That would give us time to review the bids, ask Chase to come to the September 21 meeting. Try to work with Chase and the contractors to get the work done quickly.

Nate: track the budget process to see what other boards are doing to see if we can partner with them to assist with those projects and save the Town money through energy conservation.

Nate adjourned the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

Next meeting date: Wednesday, September 21, 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dick de Seve, secretary.