

Nelson Town Buildings Committee May 11, 2015

Attendees

- David Upton
- Sandy Mackenzie
- Russ Thomas
- Dave Birchenough
- Lisa Sieverts
- Bert Wingerson
- guest
 - Jack Ruderman from ReVision Energy

Action Items

- Dave U
 - Get a copy of the Town's electric bill for the past 3–4 years, including Safety Building, for Dave B.
- Dave B.
 - Analyze Town's electric bill
- Jack Ruderman
 - Is 3-phase required for larger project?

Meeting called to order at 6:04 PM

Jack Ruderman, ReVision Energy

- Community Solar Initiative
 - ReVision has an arm devoted to bringing solar to schools, towns, etc.
 - 2 paths to Community Solar
 - Power Purchase Agreement
 - School/Town can't use the 30% Fed Tax deduction or the accelerated depreciation
 - So Investor pays for the installation
 - Can use the tax deduction and the depreciation
 - Town buys the electricity for 20 years from the investor
 - ideally this is less than the utility is charging
 - this investor rates do increase every year
 - e.g. 10 cents, then 10.2 cents, then 10.4 cents
 - Town can purchase the solar system after 6 years at a discount
 - has to be FMV according to IRS
 - But this is 30–50% of the original cost
 - This is what Peterborough is doing with Borrego

- They also got a grant from the PUC which is what made the project viable
 - default supply value is the price for just the energy, less the transmission costs
- ReVision doesn't have to be the investor
 - the investor has to be tax hungry, and ReVision has used up most of their tax appetite
 - Now they partner with investors who have a tax appetite
 - ReVision is more comfortable working with investors that they know and have vetted.
 - Unless Nelson were to find a philanthropist who wants to donate, rather than invest
- PPAs have to be at least 60kW, otherwise not economically viable
- Community Solar Farm
 - video
 - <http://revisionenergy.com/community-solar-farms.php>
 - Maine
 - 9 households got together and found the site
 - Revision installs and owns the PV system for years 1–6
 - Members make lease payments to ReVision
 - System output is virtually net metered, and their electric bills are credited each month (no checks)
 - At year 7, members formed a mutual benefit non-profit and buy the system
 - This example is in its year 2.
- NH proposal
 - members form a non-profit
 - LLC?
 - Mutual Benefit Non-Profit?
 - They buy shares in the non-profit
 - Shares pay for the upfront costs
 - ReVision installs 100kW system
 - System is group net metered
 - each month utility sends check to the group/ Treasurer
 - Treasurer sends a check to the members
 - Proceeds may be taxable
 - Members receive 30% tax credit on the initial investment through Section 25d (residential federal tax credit)
 - e.g. invest \$10,000, get \$3,000 tax credit
 - Association receives state rebate, and sells RECs
- if we had solar in the safety building lot
 - unlikely that this system will produce everything that the town uses?
 - Needs more research
 - Revision will do a rate analysis and a load analysis to see if such an array would produce more than the town would use

- If we want to just offset the Town's electricity, then a PPA makes more sense.
 - ReVision will come and do educational programs, too, like talking to elementary school kids.
 - Jack says panels will last for 40 years, they are warranted for 25 years.
 - they degrade at .04% per year
- Is enhancement to infrastructure needed?
 - Yes, needs to be 3-phase system for the large safety building system
 - This may be expensive
 - But there isn't any 3-phase in Nelson, closest is Stoddard.
 - So that may be a deal breaker for the big system.
 - Jack Ruderman will research the 3-phase issue for Nelson.
- - How much maintenance?
 - there are no batteries at all
 - Really not much maintenance at all for the town
 - micro-inverters?
 - Jack is skeptical about micro-inverters

Solar Discussion

- Any large project has a lot of complexity. We will not propose a mixed residential/municipal project. Currently, we are leaning toward doing the Library roof project first as a purely municipal project.

Motion to Approve Minutes of April 20, Sandy makes the motion to approve, Bert seconds, all in favor.

Selectboard has approved the revised request for quotation for the Library lower level. It will be sent out soon.

- Bert reports that the Town Office 2nd floor Archives room HVAC is no longer working well. The situation is becoming urgent.

Next Meeting

- TBC next needs to meet when quotations are received for the Archives/Library Lower Level.
- propose June 8th 6 PM Town Offices, to be changed if quotes have not yet been received.

Motion to adjourn at 7:40 PM by Sandy, second by Russ, all in favor