

**Town of Woodstock
Select Board
Special Meeting
August 27, 2021
10:00 am
Town Hall & Zoom
Minutes**

Draft minutes are subject to approval.

Present: Chair Mary Riley, Ray Bourgeois, John Doten, Keri Cole, Joe Swanson, Nikki Nourse, Geoff Martin, Fire Chief David Green

A. Call to order

1. Chair Riley called the Select Board Special Meeting of August 27, 2021, to order at 10:05 am.

B. New business

1. Discussion regarding RECs & Fire Station Solar Array

- a. Mr. Martin stated that unfortunately the array at the Emergency Services Building is going to have to be a lot smaller. The existing building cannot hold the weight of all the panels. The addition can hold up to 30 kilowatts. The Wastewater Treatment Plant can hold 20 kilowatts. There is a fixed cost associated with each panel. Norwich Technologies would not be able to finance the array and have the Town keep the Renewable Energy Credits. The cost goes up with doing two arrays. The option is no longer available to keep the RECs. The 1st option is to abandon the project. With this option they are not saving any money or using solar. The 2nd option is to have Norwich Technologies proceed with the 2 smaller projects, and they would give the RECs back to Green Mountain Power. There would be monetary savings with this option. It would also still be good for the planet. However, they would not be preserving roof space for possible future projects. The 3rd option is to sign on to one of the projects that Norwich Technologies has in its pipeline. This would offset electricity needs. There is more savings with this option. This is because they would be able to have the same size of array. This would also keep the roofs available for the future. There is no cost with any option. There would be a reduction in their electricity bill. The Town has multiple accounts that are not getting credits now. Norwich Technologies is already in the permitting process, and they already agreed to sell the RECs to GMP. The REC system is a way to account for reducing emissions. These credits will now go to GMP to help their requirement. Option 2 and 3 still gives the Town more solar on the grid. This project will not help the Town with their Net 0 goal. However, emissions will be reduced.
- b. Mr. Swanson stated that option 3 is a good option. It gives Woodstock the option to possibly claim Renewable Energy Credits in the future.

- c. Chief Green stated that there is another option. They could fundraise or look for grants to reinforce the roof system at the Emergency Services Building. There are grants out there for these types of projects. This will not be an immediate fix. With a battery system in the future, they could go off the grid.
- d. Mr. Martin stated that next year the State is going to have a \$1 million grant for towns and schools to go solar. There will hopefully be even more opportunities like that. It would be a significant investment to improve the roofs. There are a lot of things up in the air. Sustainable Woodstock supports option 2. This way the Town is adding more solar to the grid on their own buildings. Mr. Martin stated that option 3 would give the Town the most savings.

Motion: by Mr. Swanson to approve option 3 to review proposals on projects that Norwich Technologies has in its pipeline and to possibly sign on to one of these projects.

Seconded: by Mr. Bourgeois.

Discussion: none.

Vote: 5-0-0, passed.

C. Other business - none.

D. Adjournment

Motion: by Mr. Bourgeois to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 am.

Seconded: by Mr. Swanson.

Discussion: none.

Vote: 5-0-0, passed.

*Respectfully submitted,
Nikki Nourse*