

**North Branch Fire District #1
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Minutes of the Special Meeting of the North Branch Fire District #1, Prudential Committee, July 30, 2015.

This Meeting, having been duly warned, was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Vice Chairman, Daniel Facilla.

Members Present: Thomas Ferrazza, Edward Barber and Daniel Facilla.

Absent: Hobart Terhune and Cyndee Frere.

Also Present: Daniel Hoviss, Bruce Genereaux, Bart Howes, Rebecca Snow and Linda Holland.

Daniel Hoviss of e-Solutions & Bruce Genereaux of Green Mountain Community Solar/Solar Proposal for the North Branch Fire District #1: Green Mountain Community Solar (GMCS) is a Vermont LLC started in 2014. To date GMCS has completed two community solar projects, one in Groton and the other in Chester. A third project is currently taking reservations and is scheduled for construction this fall. A fourth project St. Johnsbury is currently in the permitting stage.

The first task is to identify a favorable site, get an agreement with the land owner, in our case the Fire District owns the land; test the permit issues with the Agency of Natural Resources, Town Officials and Green Mountain Power. A construction evaluation is next to ensure the site can be built upon and obtain a not-to-exceed bid. Next is to apply for the permits, prepare the marketing materials and get commitments for 60% of the panels. The 60% pays for the installation of the panels and the remaining 40% is kept to finance operations and maintenance. Construction takes approximately three months.

If the Fire District installs a 150kW system they will need 25 residences to buy 15 panels each equaling a total of \$450,000 if the District is installing a 500 kW they will need 90 residences to buy 15 panels each equaling \$1.6 million. The 500 kW also requires and Act 250 Permit.

Barber asked about the solar trackers and Mr. Genereaux explained that the trackers are 20-40% more efficient but are also 20-40% more expensive. The adjustable panels create 10-15% more energy but also cost 10-15% more.

Another option the Committee discussed is to purchase panels at the Chester solar farm, if any are available. The land, racking structure, inverters, wiring, maintenance, taxes and insurance is all included in the one-time buy-in price. GMCS also offers a buy-out option should the District's plans change.

Barber asked the life of a solar panel. Hoviss responded that a panel's life is approximately 25 years; at that point they degrade to approximately 80% efficiency.

Ferrazza asked about the leasing of the property. How much can the Fire District expect to receive on a lease? Genereaux explained the variables in the fee structure regarding the leasing of property.

The Committee favored the 60 acre Wilmington site as the Fire Districts option. Eliminating the subsurface disposal field due to commitments with the farmer and the feasibility of enlarging the subsurface area. The area around the plant was also eliminated as it is prime area for any plant upgrade or expansion. The other option under consideration by the Committee is to buy into the Chester solar farm.

Genereaux will send the Prudential Committee a letter of intent for their review.

Executive Session for Personnel Matters: On Holland's suggestion, Ferrazza moved to go into executive session at 11:34 a.m. to discuss personnel matters. Seconded by Barber. Passed unanimously. Ferrazza moved to come out of executive session at 12:14 p.m. Seconded by Barber. Passed unanimously. Holland will make the inquiries as discussed.

Facilla adjourned the meeting 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Linda L. Holland,
Administrative Manager

cc: H. Terhune, D. Facilla, E. Barber, E. Floyd, T. Ferrazza, Cyndee Frere, Bart Howes, Ed Floyd, Joe Mahon, Amiee Pritcher, Arlene Palmiter, Donald Albano, Linda Anelli, Adam Levine, Jeannie Flanagan, Deerfield Valley News and the Brattleboro Reformer.

Posted: North Branch Fire District #1, Wastewater Treatment Facility & Administrations Building. Dover Town Office.