

February 8, 2024

Energy Committee February 7, 2024, Meeting Minutes (Irregular meeting to evaluate bids for Solar Installation on the Town Hall)

Barrington, N.H. Town Hall

In attendance: Paul Panish, Doug Bogen, Rob Gibson, Cynthia Hoisington (virtual), Matt Towne, Dan Federico (virtual), Jack Bingham

Guests: Jim Andersen

Absent: Leah Harrington

Meeting Start time: 7:03 pm

1. Paul Panish called the meeting to order.
2. It was agreed that in addition to not bidding on the project (as previously decided) Jack Bingham would recuse himself from voting on recommendations to the Select Board. The Committee will rely on him for technical expertise.
3. Criteria were discussed for evaluating bids. Primary criteria were trust in the level of expertise of applicants and information submitted, equipment reliability, gross cost, and warranty coverage
4. Explanation was provided on Estimated Generation and system sizing as well as array layout.
5. Reliability of Solar Edge equipment was discussed. Anecdotal and quantitative material indicates that Solar Edge equipment has high failure rates and replacement timeframe problems
6. Tesla inverters appear to be new and there is no information on reliability
7. Potential location of inverters is preferred to be inside electrical room rather than on building exterior
8. Decided that 603 Solar, Harmony Solar, ACE Solar, and Porter Electrical had excessive generation projections, questionable layout decisions, and insufficient due diligence in making a bid and were excluded.
9. Due to lack of record on Tesla equipment Granite State Solar was excluded.
10. Unanimous vote to recommend Mains Electric as the primary recommendation to the Select Board.
11. Seven yes votes and one no vote on recommending ReVision Energy as the secondary recommendation. The negative vote was due to the higher relative cost of the ReVision bid.
12. Breakeven cost points were discussed as being longer than expected. Paul will provide breakeven estimate for Mains Electric using the cost figures used in the ReVision analysis.
13. Meeting Adjourned 8:10 pm