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LIGHT AIR NOISE (LAN) Bylaw Committee

Remote Meeting, 4:00 - 6:00 PM

July 14, 2020

Attending: Sherrill Rosoff, Renee D'Argento, Michael Veit, Pat Kenneally, Ron Karr, Tim Brothers, Vince Premus, Tony Beattie, Mark Little, Harvey Serreze

Absent: Casey Campetti

Approval of Minutes of April 29:

Motion made by Vince to accept, seconded by Harvey. Unanimously approved.

Real Term Energy Overview:

Andrew MacLean, Town Administrator, reviewed the contract status with Real Term Energy, including the work objective, projected cost savings, and notional schedule for replacement of street lights. Some of the important highlights are as follows:

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- a) The Real Term Energy bid was endorsed by the Board of Selectmen in June. The TA has subsequently signed a contract with Real Term Energy to changeover all of Pepperell's street lights to LED technology.
- b) The projected cost to the Town of Pepperell to replace all of the street light fixtures with LED lighting is approximately \$140K to be paid for a 4-5 year period. It is expected that with the improved energy efficiency, the changeover should decrease the town's utility bill for street lighting by at least 50%.
- c) Replacement of fixtures generally takes 3-4 months once the plan is approved. Pending resolution of the buyback contract extraction, Andrew believes the work could be completed by this fall, or at the latest in the spring.
- d) Pepperell becomes the owner of the lights and masts. National Grid continues to own the poles. The town gets an easement for the top of the pole in exchange for ROW access for National Grid. This arrangement leaves open a future revenue-generating opportunity for the Town of Pepperell to rent space on the top of each pole for potential 5G cellular antenna technology.
- e) Pepperell becomes responsible for light bulb maintenance/replacement; This expense is expected to be on the order of \$10K per year.
- f) Andrew reports that other municipalities in Massachusetts, including Swampscott and Rockland, have reported positive experience with Real Term following through on their contract responsibilities.

Questions from the LAN Committee:

Tim: Requested that Real Term Energy be required to setup a demonstration of a sampling of light fixtures to be considered for deployment so that residents can see and evaluate the

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difference in lighting temperature firsthand. Tim further emphasized the potential to decrease the luminosity as you switch technologies. Andrew replied that the company will conduct a photometric analysis to make sure we have the light fixtures we need while minimizing the amount of light pollution. Andrew indicated that a demo could probably be accommodated and that Real Term purports to be agnostic with respect to the exact light fixtures we use. They are open to sourcing whatever we want, but we have to be pro-active and ask. Tim also called attention to the use of “house-side” shielding to minimize light trespass into homes that are near street lights. Again, if we are pro-active, these accommodations should be made available at minimal cost (need to confirm cost). Andrew suggested putting the light bylaw in front of Real Term as soon as possible so that they can understand our goals at the front-end of the planning process.

Tony: Will the Town get credit for the resulting energy savings toward our Green Communities Act (GCA) commitment? Andrew is fairly certain that will happen by definition as energy usage is automatically tracked. Our baseline for municipal energy usage was recorded the moment we entered into the GCA commitment, which targets a 20% carbon footprint reduction by the year 2030 (Need to confirm).

Renee: What will the changeover impact be to our municipal energy footprint? Andrew estimates approximately 10%, as street lights are responsible for about 20% of our municipal energy consumption (and the projected savings of LED technology is about 50% over existing lights).

Sherrill: Stated that she is glad that Andrew is seeking LAN inputs to the Real Term Energy proposal and urged that he stay aware of the need to also convert municipal exterior lighting fixtures in the future. Andrew replied that is committed to doing so and it is on the Capital Planning Committee’s to-do list, although not highest priority at the moment.

There was also some dialogue about concerns that there would not be enough time to bring the Light Bylaw to Town Meeting before work commences on the Real Time Energy contract if work is to start in the fall. Andrew replied that he is committed to following the spirit and intent of the bylaw, whether or not it is approved by Town Meeting in time. Andrew reiterated that he

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welcomes LAN Committee input and would seek the LAN Committee's concurrence on the ultimate proposal before any work commences.

Sherrill: What happens in the case of extreme weather...who is responsible for storm damage to street lights? Andrew replied that any damage to lights is on the town and would be claimed under insurance. National Grid would continue to be responsible for any power outages resulting from storm damage.

Tony: What about light trespass in agricultural areas? Andrew alluded to the capacity of "smart lighting" to allow the dimming of more rural areas that are less heavily travelled. Vince also added that the changeover plan should accommodate the use of the so-called "house-side shielding," brought up by Tim Brothers earlier. These should be deployed not just for homeowners with streetlights adjacent to their property, but perhaps as a general rule throughout town in order to afford the protection against glare and light trespass in agricultural areas that may not be as heavily populated with houses. The cost of the additional shielding is believed to minimal (should confirm). All agreed that if we plan to accommodate this feature up front, it should be realizable with minimal cost impact to the town (as opposed to installing after the fact).

Andrew concluded the Q&A by requesting a cheat sheet with the most important highlights from the Light Bylaw so that he could put those in front of Real Term Energy during the planning process. Tim took an action to provide that in the next couple of days. Finally, Andrew is also seeking recommendations from LAN with regard to athletic field lighting so he is prepared to address with the Capital Planning Committee when the time comes.

Webpage Development: We reviewed the draft webpage material. The consensus was that it is ready for release on the Town of Pepperell website. The committee also agreed that it is time to post the final draft of the bylaw on the Town website for public comment. Sherrill to contact Martin Cadek to arrange.

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Outreach: Sherrill also reported that the PBA has elected a new president, Joanne Smith. Sherrill is going to contact Joanne to discuss outreach and soliciting feedback on the final bylaw draft from Pepperell business owners. A civic engagement night is also expected to be scheduled once we know the date of the Special Town Meeting, likely October or November although pending meeting constraints dictated by the pandemic. Details TBD.

Administrative business: Tony Beattie announced his resignation from the LAN committee in light of his being elected to a 3-year term on the Board of Selectmen last month.

Meeting adjourned at 5:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Vince Premus