

Approved

# Town of Randolph OFFICE OF THE SELECTMEN

MINUTES OF MEETING July 8, 2024

Members Present: Paul Jadis, Michele Cormier, Rick Fournier  
Douglas Grant, Kathleen Kelley, Yvonne Jenkins  
Paul Kenison, Linda Dupont

The meeting began at 6:00 pm

Vouchers were reviewed and signed.

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Douglas Grant came before the board requesting a Building Permit to construct a shed on his property, and the board approved it.  
Hans Bauer submitted a Building Permit to construct a fabric garage behind his home, which the board approved.  
Nate Reid submitted a permit to install solar on a garage roof, the permit was incomplete and the board will contact Nate for more information.

Paul Kenison updated the board on the road repairs from the washouts. Paul Jadis recommended placing large boulders to deter water flowing across Durand Road to direct the flow into the ditches and culverts.  
The Bicentennial Committee requested the use of the town orange cones and saw horses for the Celebration weekend to be held in August.  
Yvonne Jenkins noted that a portion of Puggy Huddle had been washed out and asked if the Road Agent could look at this area.

Yvonne Jenkins and Kathleen Kelley came before the board on behalf of the REEP Committee.  
**TOWN HALL/LIBRARY SOLAR PROJECT**  
We continue to monitor the progress of the Town Hall/Library Solar Project and hope that the project can be completed soon.  
In a conversation with Melissa Elander on Wednesday, she mentioned that once this project is up and running, the Town can begin the process of receiving the 30% elective pay from the Government. The initial process is straightforward, but part two would involve an account to complete. It is quite involved but worth the effort because we will receive the funds.  
**NH DEPT. OF ENERGY - MUNICIPAL SOLAR GRANT PROGRAM.**We have reviewed the guidelines and application process for the grant money that was released at the end of June. Deadline for applications - August 1, 2024. We are considering applying for a grant to cover the cost of a rooftop solar array on top of the Municipal Garage. Here is where we are:  
According to the guidelines, we are eligible for the Tier II funding. “Proposers eligible for a Tier 2 grant may request a grant amount that is between \$40,000 and \$120,000. Proposers are eligible for a Tier 2 grant if they do not satisfy either of the criteria to be eligible for a Tier 1 grant.”  
It seems as though they require an existing solar proposal with the application - “All specification sheets for generating facility equipment, including manufacturer and model, as well as inverters, panels, racking, production meter, and monitoring software.”

This causes a problem, since the Town and REEP would not have time to prepare an RFP and choose a contractor, as well as submit the application by the deadline of August 1st.

I spoke with Melissa Elander from Clean Energy, and she said that other Towns have the same concern. She submitted a question to the NHDOE as to whether you could submit a proposal but then use a different company to do the work. i.e., after the application is submitted, go through the RFP process to choose the best contractor for the job. Answers to her question are supposed to be made available July 8. She will contact me as soon as she knows the answer.

Issue - we would have to find a contractor to submit a proposal knowing that they may not get the actual job. Since we are currently working with Smart Energy of NE, they may be willing to do a proposal and work on the DOE application.

Issue 2. Melissa said that the majority of the work on the actual application must be completed by the Solar Contractor, and we don't know if they would be willing to do that, or if they can do it before August 1st.

Issue 3. Will REEP have the time and energy to complete the application process?

#### MUNICIPAL GARAGE ENERGY AUDIT

We are revisiting the energy audit recommendations and feel that if the DOE grant is not feasible at this time, then we would recommend that the Town move forward with the insulation upgrades and energy saving measures outlined in the audit. This work would be eligible for a rebate from Eversource. (The Library received 50% of our insulation upgrade costs.) We would work through Margaret Dillon the auditor to help expedite that process.

#### LEVEL 2 ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS

Money is coming to Towns to install 4 level 2 charging ports. An estimated cost per port is \$15,000 (high end of estimate) or a total of \$60,000. Through this program, the Town would be responsible for \$12,000.

#### BATTERY STORAGE POSSIBILITY

Melissa helped on a grant project that would help NH Towns with Solar Power to purchase battery backup storage at a reasonable cost. There is a 50% incentive with a cap of \$20,000, plus an additional 30% payment. Basically we would be able to get 80% of our battery backup storage paid for. She was asking if Randolph would like to be put on the potential list of Towns interested in receiving batteries. I told her that I thought we would be, but would check with the Selectboard.

Yvonne stated that Melissa Elander sent additional information:

1. 30% Elective Pay/Direct Pay: We have created a guide to help towns navigate this. I can sit down with Linda and help with the pre-registration step, but the tax forms themselves are complicated and the towns I am working with now are choosing to work with their accountant.
2. Municipal Solar Grant Program. We have put together a list of information that the contractor will need to provide to complete the application. I have already sent David this list because he has been working with Colebrook, but we haven't discussed it yet. I have attached it to this email.
3. Level 2 EV Charging: The State is submitting an application for federal funding for EV charging stations and is looking for towns who are interested. This is not a commitment to install, but the state's application will be strengthened if they can identify locations at this stage. Clean Energy NH is asking towns if they would like to be included on the list that NH DES submits with their CFI grant application. If awarded, towns could receive 80% funding but would be required to install a minimum of 4 level 2 charging ports. Clean Energy NH is wondering if Randolph would like to be included.

4. Battery Storage Project: We have been working with Eversource to increase the incentive for batteries for municipal facilities. Eversource is interested in raising it to 50% with a cap of \$200,000 with an emphasis on installing storage at municipal facilities that have solar and also offer emergency services. Eversource is interested in having their summer interns complete interconnection studies for the towns that are interested in considering a battery. This would help a town determine whether a battery is even possible. There is no cost and no commitment to the town. Clean Energy NH is wondering if Randolph would like to be included.

Paul Jadis requested that the board review all this information and discuss it prior to making decision.

Katie added that Broadband within Randolph is almost complete and those residents who have not looked into Fidium should do so.

The Board agreed to have an ongoing Policy of “Town Best Practices”

- This would be reviewed with the board once a month
- Standard Building Permits
- These Practices will be shared with all Boards and Commissions as they are updated.

The board reviewed the bids for the manufacturing of the gates for the East End of Durand Road and agreed to award the contract to Cross Machine.

The board requested that Linda reach out to Lee Corrigan for a detailed Scope of Work for the Randolph Hill Road temp fix, as required by FEMA.

The board revisited the parking request from the Bicentennial Committee of using the Ravine House Pool area for additional parking during the Centennial Weekend. The board feels the safety risk is too high to use the Route 2 entrance, especially exiting at night. The board does not recommend the use of the site for this purpose.

The board reviewed the handouts for the public meeting to be held this Wednesday evening to update the residents on the options for police coverage in Randolph.

Adjourned 7:50 pm

*Randolph Board of Selectmen*

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*Michele Cormier, Chair*

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*Richard Fournier, Selectmen*

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*Paul A. Jadis, Selectmen*

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*Linda Dupont, Assistant to the Selectmen*