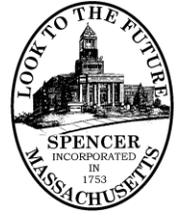


## Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen



Date: Wednesday, April 17, 2013  
Time: 6:00 p.m.  
Place: McCourt Social Hall, Memorial Town Hall, Spencer, MA  
Present: Vice Chair Woodbury, Clerk Stevens, Members Berthiaume & Fritze, and Town Administrator Gaudette. Chairman Pepe was not in attendance.

At 6:05 p.m. Vice Chairman Woodbury called the meeting to order and asked for a moment of silence to respect those that lost their lives during the Boston Marathon bombings on Monday.

### **Discussion Item: Solterra – Solar Farm Project at St. Joseph’s Abbey and an Introduction to Net Metering**

Steve Plonsker from Solterra was present to introduce to the Board, a proposed 18 MW solar panel farm facility on property owned by St. Joseph’s Abbey. The project proposes to tie in to an “expressed feeder” to the nearest substation in Rutland (up Paxton Road and up Barclay Road). The 18 MW facilities will be made up of several different arrays ranging from 1-5 MW. They applied to National Grid in May of 2012 and in October of 2012 prepared a system needs study. They hope to get their interconnection permit next month. As far as local permitting, they are starting base survey work (wetland flagging, topo) this week and will be submitting design plans to Conservation Commission, Planning Board and ZBA as necessary.

In terms of Net Metering, this is an incentive for developers to work with communities and also private off-takers of the electricity. The developer creates power that goes on to the grid, and through meter tracking, off-takers can receive a discount on their electric bill through net metering credits. Off-takers don’t have to be directly connected to the solar farm facilities.

Selectmen Stevens asked if there were any limits on whom the off-taker can be. Mr. Plonsker stated they can be public or private entities.

Selectmen Berthiaume asked what the benefit for the Town would be. Mr. Gaudette explained that the net metering arrangement would allow the Town to receive a discount on its electricity bill for use at municipal buildings. The Town would also receive a benefit from a PILOT/tax payment such as was just done with the Borrego project on Wilson Street.

Mr. Gaudette advised the Board that next steps in the process include negotiating the terms of a Letter of Intent to enter into a net metering agreement which would be brought back to the Board for approval and signature. Then Solterra would continue its permitting process and eventually there would be Town Meeting approvals required for the PILOT and Net Metering.

**Discussion Item: Letter of Support for Chapter 70, §6A**

Administrator Gaudette introduced correspondence from the Dudley Board of Selectmen regarding a proposed bill to amend MGL c. 70, §6 by adding §6A to cap education minimum local contribution rates at 2 ½ %. Selectmen Woodbury and Stevens discussed their support for the proposed legislation.

*A motion to write a letter of support for the bill (Berthiaume / Fritze) passed 4/0.*

**Discussion Item: Annual Town Meeting and Election Date**

Administrator Gaudette advised folks that were watching that information regarding the Annual Town Meeting and Annual Election is on-line at the Town's website for viewing.

**Other:**

Selectmen Berthiaume mentioned that the special "Talk of the Town" from Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup> can be viewed on public access Channel 13 and on YouTube.

***The meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m. All were in favor.***

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Gaudette  
Town Administrator