

## Electric Committee Meeting

April 28, 2021

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Present: Ms. DeBenedictis, Mr. Carrow, Mr. Smith, Town Foreman Mr. Hurlock and Recording Secretary Melissa Knight.

Ms. DeBenedictis started the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the following items:

- To discuss the AMI Project
- To discuss and vote on the Solar Panels on the Public Works Building

Ms. DeBenedictis has put a lot of thought into this program; very concerned about the finances in the town. The town should hold off maybe revisit next year. The town will be funding a Town Manager position and needs to address water issues. The front office staff is calling the residents to remind them their payments are due prior to disconnection. It is a lot cheaper to send out late notice and call residents then to spend \$800,000 on a new program and the expense of purchasing meters to go with the program. Mr. Smith stated he feels it should be brought back to the committee for more discussion at a later time. Mr. Hurlock stated the presentations from AMI and Tantalus were not impressive. The last meeting with the representative from AMI stated the town will need to buy 500 meters. To purchase 500 meters is a lot when we were going to first phase in Ovations. Mr. Hurlock feels that we should research more on both programs. Both companies offer a basic package with the opportunity to add upgrades to the basic tier for an additional cost. The package that would be beneficial for the residents is allowing them to read their meter at any given time to see how much energy they are using. This is an upgrade. Ms. DeBenedictis stated the reason to go with AMP is DEMEC will finance the program. Mr. Hurlock stated with the program being new there are only five (5) towns as a reference with little data. Mr. Carrow asked if the town is ordering different meters. Mr. Hurlock stated he is ordering the current meters the town is using. The town is not able to purchase the meters that AMI uses for the program.

***Mr. Smith made a motion to table the AMI and Tantalus at this time this will allow more information regarding the programs to be collected and the town will be able to address the water issue, seconded by Mr. Carrow. Motion carried unanimously.***

Ms. DeBenedictis asked Mr. Hurlock if he was in favor of having solar panels installed on the Public Works Building. The money for the panels would come from the green energy fund. The question was asked if we are required to install solar panels to meet the requirements for renewable energy. As a member of DEMEC the Town of Clayton meets the requirement of renewable energy. Smyrna and Milford have the community solar field that helps DEMEC reach the requirements. Mr. Hurlock stated if the town installs solar panels this shows that we are making an attempt to comply with the requirement. The town only has so much roof space to install the panels. DEMEC has more renewable energy than Delaware Electric Coop. and Delmarva Power. The long term plan would be to purchase property to install a community solar field. Mr. Smith does not see any issues with installing the solar panels on the Public Works

Building. When the solar panels on the Clayton Fire Department building fail the committee discussed not to replace them; to install on the town buildings.

***Mr. Smith made a motion to approve option "A" to install 16 solar panels 6,000 watts in the amount of \$17,000 as long as the funding is in the Green Energy, seconded by Mr. Burnett. Motion carried unanimously.***

Meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Recording Secretary,

Melissa J. Knight