

GUILFORD SELECTBOARD MEETING
May 23, 2016, 6:30 PM - Guilford Town Office

Selectboard Members Present: Gabby Ciuffreda, Gordon Little, Sheila Morse (Chair), Troy Revis, Jr. (Vice Chair)

Missing: Dick Clark

Officials/Staff Members Present: Katie Buckley (Town Administrator)

- I. Call to Order at 6:30 PM
- II. Recognition of Public – Ian Kiehle (BCTV), Will Wohnus, Terye Wohnus
- III. Rules of Procedure
- IV. New Additions
 - a. Letter, May 23, 2016, Will, Terye & Forrest Wohnus – re: 150kw Solar Project, 708 Guilford Center Road – move to New Business
- V. Changes to Agenda Order
- VI. Approval of Minutes
 - a. May 9, 2016 - **ACTION:** Troy moved to accept the minutes as written. Gabby seconded. All were in favor. None opposed. No Abstentions. Motion carried.
- VII. Old Business
 - a. FY16 RERP Grant – Disposition of remaining funds – Three priorities were given at the last meeting: purchasing batteries for the EOC, moving the repeater and wifi for the Highway Garage. Ron has not provided any recommendations for which remaining funding should be spent. **ACTION:** Gabby moved to have Katie work with Ron and Dan to spend remaining RERP funds by May 31st. Gordon seconded. All were in favor. None opposed. No Abstentions. Motion carried.
- VIII. New Business
 - a. Letter, May 23, 2016, Will, Terye & Forrest Wohnus – re: 150kw Solar Project, 708 Guilford Center Road – Will Wohnus read the Wohnus’ letter aloud and asked for it to be included as a record with the meeting. Sheila expressed her deepest apologies to the Wohnus’ for the wording she used in an email to Peter Thurell, Soveren, regarding their property. She agreed that she should have brought this to the full board’s attention and obtained their approval before requesting more information from Mr. Thurell about the project. The Wohnus’ accepted Sheila’s apology; she “is truly sorry.”
 - b. Vigilant Guard Exercise Expenses for Herb Meyer – The Vigilant Guard exercise will take place in July 2016. Herb Meyer has been the Town’s designated point person for

- this exercise. There are expenses associated with the Town's participation in it that were not planned. Among them is meals, lodging and mileage for staying at the exercise's Sim Cell (Command Center) during the event. **ACTION:** Troy moved to accept the approve expenses that will be incurred by Herb Meyer for lodging, meals and mileage to support the Vigilant Guard exercise. Gabby seconded. All were in favor. None opposed. No abstentions. Motion carried.
- c. FY16 Professional Audit Services Agreement - Mudgett, Jennett & Krogh-Wisner, P.C. - **ACTION:** Troy moved to accept the FY16 Audit Services Agreement with Mudgett, Jennett & Krogh-Wisner, P.C. Gordon seconded. All were in favor. None opposed. No Abstentions. Motion carried.
 - d. Vendors without Worker's Compensation Insurance – The Town recently underwent a Worker's Compensation audit. There were two vendors identified that do not have WC insurance - X-Pert Lawn Care and the Town Pound. The Selectboard has three options: 1) do nothing, 2). Purchase a rider through VLCT PACIF for each of these vendors or 3). Create a policy stating that only fully insured vendors will be used by the Town. **ACTION:** Gabby moved that the Town purchase the insurance through VLCT for uninsured vendors for X-Pert Lawn Care**, create a policy for only hiring fully insured vendors and investigate the WC issue for the Dog Pound and report back regarding alternatives. Troy seconded. All were in favor. None opposed. No Abstentions. Motion carried. **Since the meeting the Town has learned that X-Pert Lawn Care is fully insured.
 - e. Sale of Old File Cabinet at Town Office - **ACTION:** Gordon moved to accept Peter Hetzel's offer of \$25 for the file cabinet (with the newspapers on top of it!). Troy seconded. All were in favor. None opposed. No Abstentions. Motion carried. Going forward the Town will create a policy for the disposition of Town assets and equipment.
 - f. Green Up Appreciation Letter and Gift - **ACTION:** Gabby moved to accept the letter of appreciation as written and buy a gift certificate from the Guilford Country Store in the amount of \$25.00 to include with the letter. Troy seconded. All were in favor. None opposed. No Abstentions. Motion carried.

IX. Discussion/Updates

- a. Green River Covered Bridge Project – Katie Buckley – The update remains the same as that which is on the Town's website, under "Announcements":
www.guilfordvt.net
- b. Dog Officer Reports – The Selectboard is very impressed with the manner in which Marianne Lawrence, Dog Officer, is handling dog complaints. There have been several of late, all handled with thoroughness and care.
- c. Tax Sale Update – The Selectboard expressed their deepest gratitude to Penny Marine, Delinquent Collector, for her excellent work in bringing Guilford's property owners with delinquent taxes into compliance. There are now only 2 properties that will go up for tax sale on May 31st.

- X. Highway**
- a. General Update –
 - i. The Hale Road Bridge project will take place in June, date unconfirmed. The Bridge will be closed for 3-days. The exact dates for this closure will be listed on the homepage of the website: www.guilfordvt.net
 - ii. Ditching is taking place.
 - b. Excess Weight Permits - Cardinal Logistics - **ACTION:** Troy moved to approve the excess weight permit as presented with the usual restrictions and from this point forward allow the Road Commissioner to approve Excess Weight Permits instead of the Selectboard Chair and have them included under “Communications” so that the public is aware of them. Gabby seconded. All were in favor. None opposed. No Abstentions. Motion carried.

XI. Finance

- a. GL Adjusting Entry Approval - Dan recently sent the 1993 Chipper to be fully rehabbed. The cost of all the repairs and labor is \$6,487.86 (included in the warrant). This investment qualifies as a “capital improvement” to the Chipper. It has been paid through the Capital Fund; this fund needs to be reimbursed. **ACTION:** Gabby moved to approve the journal entry to transfer \$6,487.86 from the Highway Fund (009), account 009-5330-22.00, “Repairs” to the Capital Fund (004), account 004-2800-00.01, “Transfer In – Highway.” Gordon seconded. All were in favor. None opposed. No Abstentions. Motion carried.

b. Warrants

Payroll – WE 5/15/16	\$ 6,798.07
Payroll – WE 5/22/16	\$ 6,366.94
Expense Warrant #1622	\$ 22,622.52 **
<u>Expense Warrant #1623DP</u>	<u>\$ 202.00</u>
TOTAL	\$ 35,989.53

ACTION: Troy moved to pay the Payroll and Expense warrants as presented above. Gabby seconded. All were in favor. No abstentions. None opposed. Motion carried.

**Significant expenses (over \$1,000)

- Barrows & Fisher Oil Co. – Diesel- \$1,092.19
- BCBSVT – Employee Health Insurance Premiums - \$3,604.79
- Cersosimo – Sand & shoulder material - \$4,648.00
- DJ’s Trucking Service & Repair – Tires & Rims 2011 & 2012 1-Tons
- Powerplan (Nortrax) – Rehab 1993 Chipper (parts and labor) - \$6,487.86

XII. Communications

- a. Delta Dental – Letter, May 6, 2016 – Guaranteed Renewal Rates FY17
- b. WCSD – STARS Report April 2016
- c. Green Up Coordinator’s Report – May 2016

XIII. Executive Session

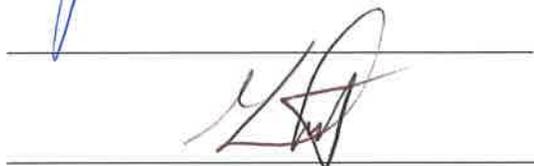
XIV. Adjournment - **ACTION:** Troy moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 PM. Gabby seconded. All were in favor. No abstentions. None opposed. Motion carried.

The next Guilford Selectboard Meeting will take place Monday, June 13, 2016, 6:30 PM at the Guilford Town Office.

All meetings are open to the public – we welcome and encourage you to come!



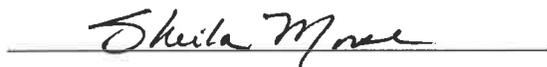
Gabby Ciuffreda



Richard J. Clark



Gordon Little



Sheila Morse, Chair



Troy Revis, Jr., Vice Chair

May 23, 2016

Will Terye and Forrest Wohnus
708 Guilford Center Road
Guilford, VT 05301

Sheila Morse, Chair
Gabrielle Cluffreda
Richard Clark
Gordon Little
Troy Revis, Jr
Guilford Town Office
235 School Street
Guilford, VT 05301

Dear Sheila and Members of the Selectboard,

We are writing to you regarding the appearance of the 150 kw solar array on our property at 708 Guilford Center Road. We became aware of this issue when Peter Thurell, of Soveren Solar, contacted us a couple weeks ago to ask if we wanted to attend a site visit you had arranged with him. The outcome of our meeting has become a matter of record in the selectboard meeting of May 9, 2016.

In our recent emails attempting to elicit background for the concerns over the array which have been expressed by townspeople and you as the Chair of the selectboard, we wanted to ascertain how these concerns arose. You have responded that the basis was verbal complaints to you by townspeople, but as yet these complainants have remained unnamed. You also state that there were "conversations requesting project updates", but there was no mention of complaints brought up in selectboard meetings. Nevertheless, you have taken this opportunity to characterize the brush piles near the array as "debris" and the site as an "eyesore" in your letter to Peter Thurell. You have apparently done this on your own, based on conversations outside the purview of the selectboard and without their formal sanction.

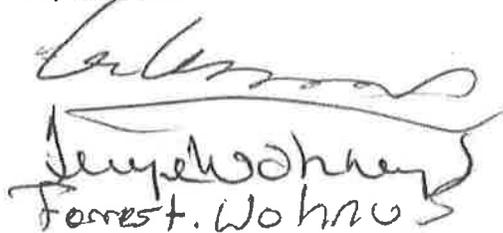
As we see it, there are two separate issues involved here. First, the fact that the array is visible from the road is contrary to expectations arising from Peter Thurell's statement early in the process, that the array would be "essentially invisible from Guilford Center Road". This is a reasonable concern that we have addressed in the May 9 selectboard meeting and which we will pursue with Peter.

The second concern we have is the referral to the "debris" on our property and the description of our property as an "eyesore". Lacking any state regulation or local zoning restriction, these words are unwarranted and insulting. To read them in your communication to Peter was unpleasant, to say the least. If these words came up in conversation with townspeople or other board members, past or present, it was your duty to state that, while these opinions may be understandable, you and the board have no authority to pass them on in further official communication with anyone.

We are still waiting to hear who has complained and believe it is our right to know since the matter has become one involving your communications as Chair of the Selectboard. We also want an official apology from you regarding the "eyesore" comment to be entered in the record of this meeting.

For the record, we would like to point out that we have taken what was an unused, overgrown, ledge-based, former barn yard and cleared it for this project, with help from Tammy and Jon Sargent. We have harvested 2740 feet of saw logs and over 50 cord of firewood. The tops of some of those trees are what remain to be processed. They will be dealt with in due time, but not because of pressure from you or any member of the Guilford Selectboard or townspeople. It is none of the town's business just as it is none of their business how often our lawn is mowed.

Will, Terye and Forrest Wohnus



Handwritten signature of Forrest Wohnus, with the name "Forrest. Wohnus" written below it.

cc: Katie Buckley