

# August 24, 2011

## **Public Information Meeting And Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen**

*Minutes are subject to the approval of the Board of Selectmen.*

**Present:** First Selectman Mark E. Lyon, Selectmen James L. Brinton and Nicholas N. Solley.

**Public:** Jane and Mike Athas, John Meeker, Tony Mitchell, Jean Waterhouse, Jane and Jack Boyer, Mike Croft, Tony Bedini, Peter Tagley.

Mark Lyon opened the Public Information Meeting, welcoming those in attendance, at 7:02 p.m.

Mark presented the history of the possible installation of photovoltaic solar systems on Bryan Memorial Town Hall, Washington Depot Fire House, Senior Center, River Walk Pavilion, New Preston Fire House and Town Highway Department by DCS Energy. The Town learned of DCS from the Council of Small Towns (COST). He has since spoken with Ray Furse, from Warren who is in the solar energy business; Washington Supply who has installed panels on their buildings, CL&P, and other Towns who have taken advantage of DCS's proposal.

Surveys of municipal buildings were done, a structural engineer has inspected roofs of possible Town locations (except for the Town Hall which should be done shortly) and all would be able to support the panel installations.

This evening's meeting was scheduled to give the public the opportunity to ask questions and discuss the aesthetic implications (particularly on the Town Hall), etc. Ray Furse has been recommending installing solar panels on the Town Hall for years, as the southern exposure is ideal.

If the Town enters into the agreement with DCS Energy, they would install the systems on the locations at no cost to the Town. The lease would be for a 5-year period. At the end of the lease, the Town can ask DCS to remove the panels at no cost or can opt to keep them. The energy generated by the panels is credited directly to the Town. David Miles, Town Attorney, has reviewed the lease/contract and sees no problem. The Town would be responsible for obtaining the necessary permits, construction of a shelter for the mechanics if necessary, erection of fencing around the ground mounted systems at the Highway Garage and New Preston Fire House, and insurance.

There were questions and discussion about savings to the Town, maintenance to the panels (Town's responsibility), re-shingling if and when necessary, budgetary considerations, exposure at all locations, lifespan of converters, meters – day and night rates. The suggestion was made to attempt to get more information (picture) out to the townspeople perhaps by way of the Town's website. Comments were made in support of the installations and the Town's initiative to be active in energy conservation. Several attendees at this meeting felt that the effort had been made to present the information to the public and the Town should proceed with the contract.

**Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen:**

**Call to Order:**

Mark Lyon called the Special meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 7:50 p.m.

**Discussion of entering into contract with DCS Energy:**

Following the Informational Meeting, and in light of suggestions made, the Selectmen agreed to attempt to get a photo on the Town's website to give the townspeople an opportunity to see what the panels would look like and to vote on entering into a contract with DCS at next Thursday's Selectmen's Meeting – September 1, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.\

**Adjournment:**

Motion:

To adjourn the meeting at 7:54 p.m. as there was no further business for discussion.

By Jim Brinton, seconded by Nick Solley and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Selectmen's Secretary