SPECIAL SELECT BOARD MEETING
July 30, 2009

PRESENT: Paul Rooney, Chairman; Drexell White; Jack Driscoll, Town Administrator; Bill Kelly, Legal Counsel; Barbara O'Leary, Town Clerk

Town Attorney, Bill Kelly was present to discuss the proposal from RA Power in regards to wind power in Northport. They are also talking with Camden and Freedom about wind turbines. Camden has finished a wind study, but not the bird or bat studies.

This proposal is different from their proposal in the spring in which they would have been the developer. In the new proposal they would be consultants for the Town. They have shifted their focus from developing a wind power project to coordinating the process for a community based wind power project. Mr. Kelly stated they have an extensive background in the wind power field with many contacts within this field, as well as many political contacts.

The new pilot program for wind farms approved by the Governor is for community based wind programs with only a handful of applications being issued. Once a permit is issued, the State will guarantee buyers for the power generated. However, the Town would be responsible for raising the necessary funds. Mr. Kelly pointed out there is Federal grant money available, $5.5 million, for just such a project. The application must be filed by September 3, 2009 and money will be awarded by November 11, 2009. Discussion with Mr. Scontras indicated Senator Olympia Snowe is behind such a program and would help RA Power lobby for funding for a Maine town. The Federal money is available to all towns in all States. Mr. Kelly felt if Northport should be awarded this money, it could cover the cost of the project. He further stated RA Power has the background in this field; they have connections in both the financial and political community that could be an asset when pursuing such a project.

If the Board feels this could be a worthwhile project, Paul Rooney recommended a hearing should be held to inform the residents. He estimated about $45,000 would need to be appropriated to cover the cost of RA Power until the November date of the grants issued. If the grants were not awarded, the Town would go no further. Mr. Kelly agreed a hearing should take place to get the feel of the residents for such a project.

Drexell White asked if there is any sense of other towns interested in the Federal grant money. Mr. Kelly was not sure, but stated there had not been any applications filed as yet. He also pointed out there are tax credits that would be available with the Federal programs. He questioned the figure of $750,000 Ra Power uses for the application, building process. He believes this is too high and may be a worse case scenario.

Mr. Kelly stated anemometer studies would need to be conducted. However, Mr. Scontras felt this might not be the case. The bird and bat studies would need to be done.

A brief discussion followed on the Minnesota Flip. This is referred to when partners are re-paid their initial investment and Northport would become the sole owner after ten years. The private funds would cover the initial development and construction. A payback period would be agreed upon with investors, and ownership and revenue is then the Town's. Tax credits would also be available if we received the Federal grants. RA Power should be at the hearing to provide more financial information.

Drexell White stated if the Town decides to go forward with RA Power, it should be in the contract that they are seeking all kinds of funding and not waiting on Federal grants. Bill Kelly felt they would work

all angles of funding. Whoever is awarded the permits, this is a huge opportunity for alternative energy. He feels Ra Power will work their hardest to get this off the ground. When these permits are issued, it will be national, as well as State news, for projects such as these. Funds granted through the Federal Recovery Act must be used for the project and have it up and running by January 1, 2013; construction must be done by December 31, 2010. Bill Kelly asked RA Power how the towers would be built in such a short amount of time, but they did not see this as a problem, they have sources.

Drexell White asked if approved for the grants, would the Board need to go back to the town to use the funds. Paul stated this is covered in an article each year at town meeting, which was approved. It gives the Board authority to use the grant or funds for the reason specified.

The Board thanked Bill Kelly for his input into this project.

Discussion followed on a hearing and special town meeting date.

Under motion of Paul Rooney, second by Drexell White, the Board voted 2-0 to hold an information hearing on Wednesday, August 12, 2009 at 6:30pm at the Drinkwater School to further discuss the possibility of wind turbines in Northport.

Under motion of Drexell White, second by Paul Rooney, the Board voted 2-0 to hold a Special Town Meeting on Thursday, August 20, 2009 at 6:30pm at the Drinkwater School to see if the Town will authorize funding for a wind turbine project in Northport.

Under motion of Drexell White, second by Paul Rooney, the Board voted 2-0 to change the time of the August 20, 2009 Board meeting from 6:00pm to 4:00pm.

Jack Driscoll was instructed to ask RA Power to attend the next Board meeting on August 6th, the informational meeting and the Special Town Meeting. During the August 6th, Board meeting the Board will discuss funding for this project and the wording for the warrant article.

The Administrator was instructed to reserve the Drinkwater School for the hearing and special town meeting. An ad will need to be placed in the newspaper and notices placed around town. The change in meeting time will also need to be placed in the newspaper.

Paul Rooney asked the Clerk to have the bookkeeper, Vicki Eugley, prepare financial statements for the next meeting. He would also like to know what funds are in Roads & Bridges.

With no further business, Paul Rooney made the following motion:

Under motion of Paul Rooney, second by Drexell White, the Board voted 2-0 to ADJOURN at 7:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara O'Leary
Town Clerk