

**TOWN OF NORTHPORT
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
August 20, 2009**

Town Clerk Barbara O'Leary called the meeting to order on August 20, 2009 at 6:30pm, at which time the following articles were acted upon.

Ballot Clerks: Alismarie Parsloe; Toupie Rooney and Barbara O'Leary

Attendance: 82

Art. 1. To choose a moderator.

Nominations for moderator: Joseph Moser was nominated, second, nominations ceased. Three votes were cast for Joseph Moser. Moser was elected Moderator and sworn in by Town Clerk Barbara O'Leary.

Art. 2 To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$50,000 from Fund Balance, and to allow the Select Board to enter into an agreement with TA Power Solutions to act as consultants for the Town in preparing and submitting applications for grants and other sources of funding for a community wind turbine project.

Moved to accept the article as read. Second, discussion followed.

Dee Reid stated she would vote No on Art 2 for several reasons. She attended the hearing and sees no solid business plan; no financial statements on the cost of erecting wind turbines or their associated costs; and no proven track record from start to finish with such a project. Mrs. Reid questioned why of all the towns in Maine only Northport was considering community wind turbines. She complimented the Select Board for thinking outside the box in regards to alternative energy, but did not think this was the answer.

With the country and State in a financial recession, this is not the time to gamble on an unproven project at an unknown cost. Mrs. Reid did not see the rush to apply for grants with September deadlines. She has spoken with lawmakers in Augusta and if wind power is successful, it makes sense that other grants will be available in the future.

On a personal note, Mrs. Reid stated Northport is a small community of neighbors. The wind turbines will affect property values beyond those located within 1-2 mile radius of the Transfer Station. She asked those present to look at the person next to them. Could you say I like the idea, but not in my backyard, but would like it in your backyard. She urged the residents to vote no. A round of applause followed.

Representatives Rick Benoit and Dean Scontras of RA Power Solution asked if they could address some of the comments made by Mrs. Reid. Moderator Joe Moser stated RA Power would like to address the meeting but would need voter approval. Molly Schaufler moved to allow RA Power to speak. A second was made. Joe Moser stated a show would allow them speak or not. After a count, the Clerk reported 20 residents voted to allow them to speak and 45 voted not to allow them to speak. RA Power was not allowed to address the meeting.

Article 2 was called to vote, second received. By a show of hands, discussion ended by a vote of 54 to cease discussion and 6 to continue discussion. Discussion ceased.

Dan Small moved to vote the article by secret ballot, second received. Moderator Joe Moser instructed the residents to come to the ballot box with their decision of YES or NO on the paper they received when they

arrived. They were also instructed to bring the yellow card identifying them as registered voters of Northport.

Ballot Clerks Alismarie Parsloe, Toupie Rooney and Barbara O'Leary counted the votes. The Clerk presented the votes to the Moderator.

73 NO
8 YES

By a vote of 73 against Article 2 and 8 for Article 2, the article failed to carry and was voted down.

A motion to adjourn was made and second. The meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara O'Leary
Town Clerk