

**MADISON ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
TOWN OF MADISON LOWER LEVEL MEETING ROOM  
FINAL MINUTES  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 2019**

**MEMBERS PRESENT** - Noreen Downs, Co-Chair, Russ Dowd, Co-Chair, Russ Lanoie, Bob King (Selectman representative), and Sloane Jarell (who joined the meeting at around 7:30pm).

**MEMBERS ABSENT OR EXCUSED** – Adam Leiser (excused).

**OTHERS PRESENT** – Carol Dandeneau, videographer.

**WHERE AND WHEN POSTED** – Town Hall upper and lower level bulletin boards and Madison & Silver Lake Post Offices on January 8, 2019

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER** – By co-chairman Noreen Downs at 7:05pm.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – Motion made by Mr. Dowd to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Lanoie. Ms. Downs asked to add an administrative item at the end of the meeting. Approved. Motion passed 4-0.

**PV SOLAR PROPOSALS STATUS AND MERITS DISCUSSION**

1. Ms. Downs reported that Barrington Power had not submitted any additional information following the December 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. They had requested an update on what the SAU13 might be looking at in terms of future contracted 3<sup>rd</sup> party power prices. Mr. Dowd followed up with Chuck Bates at SAU13 and he was only able to provide that the rates would be going up. Mr. Dowd checked the Agera website and found that current rates were \$.102/kWh, but he was not certain if the company offered any breaks for schools or municipalities.
2. Ms. Downs provided copies of the key financial pages from the ReVision Energy proposal made on Dec 12<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Downs suggested looking at the pros and cons of the two proposals.
3. Ms. Downs pointed out that during the follow-up meeting with Barrington Power on Dec 12<sup>th</sup>, they did not propose any significant changes to the design or structure of their original proposal. Their intent was mainly to ask clarifying questions in order to rework the financials of the proposal.
4. Ms. Jerrell stated that ReVision Energy presented “out of the box” thinking when they made their presentation of an alternative proposal to start with a phase I – providing an array for the town buildings first–she stated you can see the positive impact of this proposal.
5. Mr. Dowd stated that ReVision Energy’s proposal was straight forward, and it would help folks taste, touch and see that this project is not complicated. Mr. Dowd commented on the fact that their proposal is predicated on Eversource having an average 2.5% escalation

in power annually. Ms. Downs pointed out that their PPA proposal did not start to escalate the pricing to the town until year 3 (at 2% annually). Implication there could be a risk that Eversource might not make increases in power pricing at the rate of 2.5% annually.

6. Mr. Dowd stated that ReVision Energy's proposal makes sense. The town does not have to buy the solar array at any time, even though they present financials have a column showing a buy-out in year 6. The sooner the town purchases the solar array in years out at a reduced rate, the more savings to the town after the capital expense is worked off.
7. Ms. Jerrell wondered if Revision Energy would come to town meeting.
8. Mr. King suggested the Budget Hearing might be a better opportunity to make a presentation.
9. Mr. Lanoie observed that ReVision Energy is making a big splash in the state. They are involved in many successful municipal and school solar projects.
10. Mr. Dowd stated that our committee interest is in being able to make something happen, and this would be our best opportunity.

11. Discussion:

- a. Ms. Downs re-stating that the ReVision Energy new proposal looked doable, it was a phased approach for town buildings only, did not have to involve the school at this time, was cost positive and would allow the town to get experience with solar power projects.
- b. Mr. Dowd liked ReVision Energy's fresh eyes on our circumstances, the positive cash flow, and the transparent proposal. The committee had steered the vendors in the direction of the school because they are the largest consumer of electricity in the town and because of the educational value. But given the current climate with the school budget and projects, consideration might not be possible now. ReVision's approach is enlightening, reasonably viable, and encouraging.
- c. Mr. King stated the lighting for the lower level town hall and the Chick Room in the library is postponed for now to keep budget down. He was not presently aware of the impact of the lighting upgrades completed in 2018.
- d. Ms. Downs pointed out that a state rebate was not included in the ReVision Energy financial analysis, and if awarded, could reduce the project costs further.

12. Following the discussion, a motion was drafted:

**MOTION: Approve the Revision Energy Solar proposal for the town hall PV solar project, and reject the proposal from Barrington Power, contingent upon the approval by the Board of Selectmen.**

Motion made by Mt. King, seconded by Ms. Jerrell.

Discussion: If the Board of Selectmen reject taking the proposal to the town, the door is still open for Barrington Power to submit their reworked financials.

Motion passed 5-0

13. Discussion continued to determine how to present to the Board of Selectmen. The BOS meeting is next Tuesday on Jan 15<sup>th</sup> and then Jan 29<sup>th</sup>.

**MOTION: Mr. Dowd and Ms. Downs will draft a letter to the Board of Selectmen with accompanying ReVision Energy documentation, to support the recommendation in moving forward with this ReVision Energy project.**

Motion made by Ms. Jerrell, seconded by Mr. King.

Motion passed 5-0

14. Ms. Downs will ask to get on the agenda for the Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> BOS meeting if the drafted letter is complete in time. Ms. Downs will find out the deadlines for the warrant articles.
15. Ms. Downs will notify Barrington Power and ReVision Energy of the committee's decision.

**Adjournment -**

Mr. Dowd made a motion to adjourn at 7:55pm; seconded by Mr. Lanoie. Motion passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,  
Noreen Downs, Committee Co-Chair

Minutes approved at the August 12, 2019 meeting.