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**Medway Energy & Sustainability Committee**

**Medway Middle School,**

**DPW Conference Room (Door 9)**

**45 Holliston Street, Medway MA 02053**

**February 19, 2020 7:00 PM**

**Members present:** Carey Bergeron, Alex Siekierski, Kristen Rice, Jason Reposa, Stephanie Carlisle, John Forest and Tracy Rozak, Recording Secretary

**Also present:** Byron Woodman- Solectenergy, David Travalini, ComCom Chair

**Absent:** Larry Ellsworth

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* ***Kristen called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.***
* **New Business**

Byron Woodman from Solectenergy introduced himself and talked about his background and experience. Stephanie has consulted with him on other projects in the past. Byron explained his role and stated his comapany finances the system and builds the system and then they sell the electricity to the municipality at a discount. We would be buying this on a per kilowatt basis. Typically a rooftop system with a parking canopy system is for a 20 year agreement.

Byron stated that Medway decided on a capital purchase in the past rather than a power purchase because it was the better financial option at the time as Medway wasn’t looking for a 2-3 year payback period. Right now, we are looking at different components. With any solar project, there is a fact finding component, the concept, the fact finding stage and during this time, Solectenergy is spending money on utilities, engineers and preparing the contract. Then they come back to the town and confirm a rate and then move forward from there.

In January 2019, Byron did a presentation for Stephanie, Armand and Donna Cardy, DPW and the Schools. Canopies were an idea that was not approved a few years ago. Maybe it would be better received this time around.

Mr. Foresto stated that Memorial, Burke and the McGovern School roofs have to be replaced every 20-25 years. Alex asked about other canopies that Byron has done. Byron stated he has done multiple megawatts on several sites all around Mass. His company has built over 500 systems so far. Parking canopies like the one in Wayland, REI and Raytheon have massive canopies. The aesthetics, design, lightening, security, painting etc has come a long way.

Byron went through his presentation and explained that Power Options is a nonprofit energy buying consortium that sells oil, natural gas, etc to nonprofits and the public sector. They have over 400 members and have 200 million in annual sales of energy supply. He stated Solectenergy awarded Power Options RFP for onsite solar PPAs for PO members. They have done between 60 and 70 PPAs with the Public and municipalities.

Byron pointed out the benefits of the PowerOptions Solect Solar Program. Byron also explained the Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target (SMART) Program. The committee discussed the possibility and implications if the state decides to change the plan.

Byron explained slide 9- Medway High School Solar Summary and explained that the system size of 731.9kW (DC) is optimal. It is an inverted Y type structure. Rather than have sloping sides the water would trough to the middle. This is safer as the snow won’t fall off the sides onto pedestrians. If they sold to them at a rate of 0.1150, this rate is locked in for 20 years which would be a significant savings. The majority of the savings is at the end of the term. John stated the town will be concerned that the company may not be around 20 years from now. Byron stated that if another company were to take over during the 20 years, the terms would stay the same and this would be written into the agreement.

Stephanie asked if the cost includes the structures that hold up the panels. Byron stated there is no extra cost for building the structure and they also maintain the equipment. They are basically generating the electricity and selling it to us and any extra goes back into the grid. The committee discussed the pros and cons of building the structures themselves. John asked how long block 3 would be open. Byron stated they are pricing them now as block 3 and it might be available for another 6 weeks. John stated the concern is that they are a municipality and things move slowly and they would not be able to do what they need to do for approval within 6 weeks.

Byron stated installation is best during the summer months while school is out. Kristen asked how long does the construction phase last. Byron stated usually 3 months which is perfect for the summer time. Byron then reviewed the Medway Middle School Solar summary which is a smaller project with lesser savings. Then he reviewed the slides that are the estimated annual and cumulative savings for Block 4.

Stephanie thanked Byron for his presentation and stated the savings is a little weak. Byron stated there is also the environmental piece to look at. Byron asked if they could offer a break even in year one, would the town be able to approve that? John stated it would take a long time to get this approved. He does not see this happening in 6 months. Byron stated the out of pocket expense would be about 2.5-3 million. Kristen asked what happens after the 25 year period. What if canopies have gone by the wayside by then? Byron stated typically the agreement has provisions for extending the agreement, or the town could buy it or have the system removed.

Byron stated he could also take a look at the roofs we need replaced. They could come up with a letter of understanding to secure the incentive while they look into getting it approved. John stated the town council would probably not approve of that. Jason asked if this would be a non binding letter of agreement/ letter of intent. Dave suggested they go to the School Committee and the Board of Selectmen to get this going. Kristen asked if Byron could meet with the School Committee. The committee discussed forming a sub subcommittee to move this project forward. The committee decided they will meet again on March 4th at 7pm.

**Report from the Chair**

Carey stated the annual report is due March 6th and she needs input from from the group. She will email them.

***No other topics were discussed at this meeting.***

* **Adjourn**

Kristen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 pm. Jason seconded the motion and it was voted to approve 6-0-0.

Respectfully submitted by,

Tracy Rozak