

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
WORKING SESSION  
SEPTEMBER 5, 2014  
TOWN HALL  
2:00 PM**

Board Members Present: Nadine A. Hawver, Clerk  
Rene C. Wood

Members Absent: David A. Smith

Others Present: Rhonda LaBombard, Town Administrator  
Alicia Dulin, Assistant to the Town Administrator

Selectman Hawver called the meeting to order at 2:02 PM.

**SOLAR AGREEMENT:**

Administrator LaBombard explained that she sent the draft solar agreement to Attorney Everett and distributed the proposed tax agreement with PowerPlay Solar LLC, whose solar array is on Berkshire School's property. Selectman Wood asked how much Power Play Solar LLC currently owes in personal property taxes. Administrator LaBombard stated \$255,668.17 is owed in personal property taxes. Selectman Hawver stated that she wants to make sure that Power Play Solar understands that the amount they owe in taxes cannot be included in the tax agreement and that the back taxes would have to be paid before the Board signed an agreement. It was the consensus that the front loaded option is the best choice. Principal Assessor Tammy Blackwell entered the meeting at 2:14 PM

Discussion continued regarding the amount of back taxes owed. Assessor Blackwell explained that outstanding taxes are for FY13m FY14 and preliminary FY15. Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of Power Play Solar filing an abatement for FY15 taxes and the process for putting a lien on the personal property. Selectman Wood and Selectman Hawver agreed to move forward with a front loaded agreement with the 2% inflation rate as proposed by Power Play Solar. This inflation rate would be offset by the 2.05% depreciation rate. It was the consensus of the Board that Ms. Blackwell will make the necessary changes in the agreement and send it to Administrator LaBombard. Selectman Hawver asked that Administrator LaBombard communicate with Power Play Solar that the outstanding taxes need to be paid in full before an agreement is signed.

Tammy Blackwell left the meeting at 2:26 PM

**LIBRARY:**

Administrator LaBombard explained that there a few difficult issues that need to be dealt with at the Library. Selectman Wood suggested exploring a conference call with Town Counsel, the Library Trustees and the Board to go over the Library Trustees responsibilities. Administrator LaBombard stated she would contact Town Counsel with her questions and Selectman Wood's suggestion and then report back to the Board.

**ROUTE 7A CUTOFF – ASHLEY FALLS:**

Administrator LaBombard stated that the Highway Superintendent has looked into removal speed bumps for the Route 7A cutoff and they will cost about \$800. Administrator LaBombard stated that she had spoken to Chairman Smith and he is not in favor of speed bumps. He is in favor of having the

Police Department patrol more in the area and signage indicating that the cutoff is for truck traffic only. Selectman Hawver stated that she agrees with Chairman Smith and thinks that intensive patrol in the area for two weeks after the signs are put up will help. Selectman Wood also suggested signage for pedestrians walking.

**ROUTE 7A BRIDGE:**

Selectman Hawver stated that she received a call from a resident who was concerned that there was not enough signage for the Route 7A bridge closure and thought maybe that was why someone had driven through the barriers. She stated that she went and looked and she thinks there is sufficient signage indicating there is a bridge closure.

**MEETING SCHEDULE:**

The Board discussed scheduling a meeting with the Parks and Recreation Committee, Chief Munson and James Kelly to discuss the forest stewardship and land use plans for the Town Park. The Board also decided to hold a meeting on September 19, 2014 at 10:00 AM.

Selectman Wood moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Selectman Hawver. The motion carried unanimously.

Selectman Hawver adjourned the meeting at 3:00 PM

Respectfully submitted:

Alicia Dulin  
Assistant to Town Administrator

Documents reviewed at this meeting:

Berkshire School Proposed Tax Agreement

E-mail from Steven Levine – PowerPlay Solar Development LLC