

TOWN OF SIMSBURY – BOARD OF SELECTMEN

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 12, 2018

“APPROVED”

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CALL TO ORDER

The Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 5:00 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room of the Simsbury Town Offices. Present were: First Selectmen Eric Wellman; Board members Chris Peterson, Cheryl Cook, Christopher Kelly, Michael Paine and Sean Askham. Others in attendance included Maria Capriola, Town Manager; Melissa Appleby, Deputy Town Manager; Mike Glidden, Director of Planning and Community Development; Jeff Shea, Town Engineer; Attorney DeCrescenzo and other interested parties.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

a) Pursuant to CGS §1-200(6)(B) concerning Pending Claims and Litigation – Deepwater Wind Appeal, Petition 1313

Mr. Wellman said that the Board would be going into Executive Session to discuss a potential settlement agreement with Deepwater Wind.

Ms. Cook made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss matters concerning the Deepwater Wind Proposed Solar Project pursuant to CGS§1-200(6)(B) at 5:01 p.m. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Paine made a motion to adjourn from Executive Session at 5:30 p.m. Mr. Askham seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

SELECTMEN ACTION

a) Proposed Settlement Agreement and Option to Purchase Agreement with Deepwater Wind and Possible Vote

Mr. Wellman introduced a PowerPoint presentation entitled, “Deepwater Wind Settlement Agreement, September 12, 2018.” He provided background on the project, including how Deepwater Wind’s proposed solar project was selected through a tri-state RFP, and the role of the Connecticut Siting Council in approving the project. He said that filing an appeal of the Siting Council’s decision allowed the Town to reserve the right to appeal the project in the event that the Town’s concerns were not adequately addressed through negotiations with Deepwater Wind. Those concerns included protecting public health and safety and minimizing the impact to the neighboring community.

Attorney DeCrescenzo continued the presentation with an overview of the soil management plan, water testing protocol, and landscaping plan that were negotiated with Deepwater Wind. The settlement agreement also includes an option for the Town to purchase the land at the end of the project. Attorney DeCrescenzo said that he recommends approval of this settlement agreement.

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Mr. Paine said that he is pleased with this result; Mr. Askham concurred.

Ms. Cook, who left the meeting after Executive Session, re-joined the meeting by phone.

Mr. Askham made a motion to approve the settlement agreement as presented, and to authorize Town Manager, Maria E. Capriola, to execute the agreement following final review and approval by Town Attorney. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Askham made a motion to approve the option to purchase agreement as presented, and to authorize Town Manager, Maria E. Capriola, to execute the agreement following final review and approval by Town Attorney. Mr. Paine seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Wellman thanked Town staff for their efforts on this matter. He also recognized all of the work done on this by his predecessor, Lisa Heavner. Mr. Wellman also thanked his fellow Board members for their continued collaboration on this. Lastly, he thanked Deepwater Wind for working with the Town, and welcomed them to Simsbury.

ADJOURN

Mr. Askham made a motion to adjourn from the Special Meeting at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa A.J. Appleby
Deputy Town Manager