

ST. GEORGE SELECT BOARD & ASSESSORS

St. George Town Office

MEETING MINUTES

September 12, 2022 - 7p.m.

The Select Board meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Richard Bates (Chair); Select Persons: Randy Elwell, Steve Cartwright, Van Thompson and Wayne Sawyer; Town Manager Richard Erb, Finance Director Irene Ames, Susan Ellis, Jerry Hall, David Percival, and Chris Williamson.

Present by zoom: Van Thompson and Loreen Meyer were present.

REGULAR SESSION

Public Comments

Jerry Hall

I want to comment that every time I've gone to the transfer station recently, I've been pleasantly surprised at how good it looks down there. I think the transfer station looks the best in recent months that I've ever seen.

Adjustments to the agenda

New Business

1. Postponement of the general assistance audience discussion until 9/26
2. Meeting with the Shellfish Committee (GRISMO) on Thursday at six o'clock

Old Business

1. Native American Sign - Steve Cartwright

Solar Report

Bates

Jerry is here to talk about the solar report.

Jerry Hall

We installed the solar panels at the transfer station over the winter of 2017-18 but we didn't purchase the system outright. I found in discussing it with members of the Budget Committee that not everybody had the background on it. So anyway, there were tax incentives of course, for solar installations but the town couldn't get them so a subsidiary of Revision was able to get them, and they purchased the system, ran it at the transfer station and we signed a power purchase agreement with them for six years; we would purchase electricity from them starting off at \$.11 per kW when the current price from CMP was around \$.13 per kW . There's a schedule where the rate went up. It stayed at \$.11 per kW the first two years and then it went up marginally in the remaining four years. For purposes of justifying it we assumed that CMP prices would only increase 1% per year; during the six year period, they have increased way more than that. They were around \$.13 per kW and now they are currently around \$.20 per kW per kilowatt hour. We projected them as it shows in Exhibit 1. We had projected CMP's price to be around \$.126 per kW to start and we've projected it to be \$.132 per kW but it is currently at around \$.20 per kW. The electricity we're purchasing from Revision is at a significant discount from what we would be paying to CMP. The town was using around 90,000 kilowatt hours a year when we put this together and so based on that, we needed a system that would produce around 83,000 kilowatt hours a year. If we produce more than we use, we lose it. And so, the system was installed. The first commercial production began in April 2018. We had some startup issues that in fact, carried on for much of the first year, but by the end of the first quarter of the second year, we got everything pretty well straightened out and put those behind us. The system pretty much produced electricity in line with the original expectations with one exception. In year three it produced way more than we expected it to produce, and you know the output is an approximate thing. It depends on how many sunny days you have. It depends on how many days where you might have snow cover blocking the reception. And year three apparently was a gangbuster year in terms of producing solar power. And so, the output of the system, as shown in Appendix two, was 91,000 kilowatt hours versus the plan at around 83,000. In year four, which just ended in March, it produced 84,000 kilowatt hours in line with expectations.

Bates

Can we rule out that the system hasn't deteriorated in that year, and could that explain the diminution in output?

Jerry Hall

To be conservative in our projections, we've projected that the output of the system would decline by a half a percentage point per year. It hasn't been noticeable because we've had more sunny days. So that's right. It's hard to tell because of the fluctuations but in year four, it produced 84,000 kW hours and we had one half a percent degradation; we had projected that it would produce 82,000. We want to make sure we don't have a catastrophic issue happening, sunny days from year three obscuring the results; we don't think so.

Bates

Do they maintain it?

Jerry Hall

If something breaks, they fix it. The first year there were some design issues and sizing issues and problems in the first 13, 14, 15 months, but they acknowledged the issues, and we had some things that we knew were going to die early. They behave very well, I think. It's a good company. The plan was that in the beginning of year seven, we would buy it, we would buy it for \$79,032 and the projected return on investment at that rate was around 13 - 15%. We started a reserve and put in \$10,000 or so each year, so that we had a reserve built up so that we wouldn't have to take a lump sum out of the town budget that year. So overall, that's the good news. The bad news is that in a way, it's producing more electricity than we planned. And the way that the thing works, we have to buy all the electricity that it produces. And so, we're paying for electricity that we can't use. In year three, we lost \$1,070. In year four we lost \$1,390 credits that were banked. Credits expire if they're not used within a year and they started expiring until they lost \$1070 in year three, \$1390 in year four. The difference in CMP versus the revision price was so great, we had projected \$1,300 in electricity cost savings by year four. In fact, we saved close to \$3,000 and so if you take out the extra that we paid for electricity, we're still \$1,667 in year four versus the 13 that we projected

Cartwright

So, it's easily offset.

Jerry Hall

There are two reasons that we're producing more than we're using. One is that we were using somewhere around somewhere 53,000 - 56,000 kW hours in 2016 and 2017. Now we are using 41,000 - 43,000. So, we've got a 23% reduction in electricity usage in this building. We took out some high energy vending machines, replaced a lot of lights with LEDs and there a dishwasher that changed out. I don't know how much that contributed to it but there was a major reduction in electricity usage. So that's, that's the good news. And then the other thing is that there's this oddity in the system in that the electricity that's produced at the transfer station, if it is instantly used at the transfer station, it doesn't go through the meter where we can see it. Revision can see how much electricity is generated in total. They send us quarterly statements with a listing of how much is generated at the transfer station based on the amount of electricity generated. It gets allocated, and then they show how much is used. There's around 15,000 kilowatt hours that are generated at the transfer station and used at the transfer station that don't go through the meter. When we set up the applications, we didn't factor that in. So, the allocations are good. And so going forward, we should change the allocations. I didn't flag how we do that. We have a power purchase agreement with Revision but with CMP we have a net energy billing agreement, in which we spell out the allocations. We're allowed to change the allocations every so many months. We can just go to them and say we want to change these allocations. Somewhere around two thirds or more of the of the extra electricity can be used with different allocations.

Bates

The question came up from Tara, do you have the contact person that she needs to call to change the allocation please?

Susan Ellis

Is it in our purchase agreement?

Jerry Hall

It isn't in the purchase agreement because with Revision in the beginning when we set this up, CMP was going through terrible billing problems. In the early days of this agreement with CMP, we had all kinds of

problems. For over a year they weren't doing this right. They were sending us full bills. The town office was paying for all of the electricity that we were using here. And we had this huge pile of credits building up at the transfer station, but they acknowledged that this was their mistake; it shouldn't be happening this way. And so, we wound up with 1000s of dollars, literally of credits on our CMP bills.

Susan Ellis

I think the short answer there is we don't know she should just call CMP.

Jerry Hall

There was a person designated I recall and if there's a question of whether I can find it,

Susan Ellis

I bet if she calls the office and says I want to talk to the allocation person

Jerry Hall

No, there's a department that deals with that. And so, if you call up ask to speak to someone in that department. I'd recommend that you change the allocations as soon as possible. And we've been putting away \$10,000 a year to get to 80,000 at the end of year six. we need to put a little more than \$10,000 a year away and the remaining two years

Susan Ellis

Or we could use ARPA funds.

Jerry Hall

And the other thing that's been raised is that, logically before we take ownership of the system, we want to make sure that Revision tunes it up so that it's in good working order. And then my recollection is that we had talked with them about some sort of maintenance agreement with them on the system after year six when we purchase it. They have the skills to come in and check it over once a year or so. We should inquire about that so when year six rolls around, we're prepared for what's required going forward.

Irene Ames

What's the projection of savings for eight years?

Jerry Hall

We pay \$80,000 and then we were projecting that we would basically get \$10,000 - \$11,000 worth of electricity free. So, if you're looking at \$80,000 down, the breakeven occurs halfway between years 12 and 13.

Bates

However, we aren't using as much electricity so the multiplier and kilowatt hours used is more significant but the delta is so much larger.

Van Thompson

Jerry, are we tied in? Could we get to the school on this? We can renegotiate; we own it don't we.

Bates

We still have to buy electricity from CMP. There has to be this arrangement with this net energy billing agreement.

Jerry Hall

The way it works is I think you can allocate to up to 10 sites, but it has to be the same owner; the same entity and so that if the school has a different name, owner, etc. We can't just because they have a separate board. We could put in EV charging stations and so that would be a way that we could utilize some of the extra electricity

Randy Elwell

Just talk to us about the allocation and how that's going to fit in because simply reallocating some of it is going to eliminate some of that issue right?

Jerry Hall

Maybe If you look at Appendix four you've got 68,551 kWh that goes through the meter. And so, when you change the allocation to this place, or that place by 1%, it's 686 kilowatt hours that you're moving from here to there. Year four is an unusual year because in year three we generated 91,000 kilowatt hours; we had a year to use those. So, we lost access in year four. So, the loss in year four is higher than it would be in year five, because we only generate 84,000 kilowatt hours in year four that we will need to use up in year five. In Appendix three, the total loss was \$9700. Depending on how much it produces in a year, we can probably save two thirds, three quarters, something like that. The electricity which currently has been lost. I mean, it's easy to see that you could up the town office by two or 3% the fire station by two or 3%. The salt shed could bump up one more, Port Clyde station could bump up one. I mean there's a way to put all those together so that of the of the \$10,000 lost, \$5600 of it could be saved by Revision.

Bates

Do we know why the firehouse on Route 73 and Port Clyde usage dropped? Is this the same thing as the town with the LEDs and stuff because I noticed it dropped quite a lot from this last year compared to the April to March of the previous year.

Jerry Hall

The fire station hasn't dropped.

Bates

Port Clyde used \$1318 and then the year before it was \$2644 so it is half and I'm wondering why.

Jerry Hall

I don't know. With the route 73 fire station I mean we had all the burn building stuff going on down there. We used \$6875 in year three down there. And it was only \$4625 in year four.

Bates

Port Clyde I wonder what changed that; truth be told the usage is crazy.

Randy Elwell

We don't use it as a fire station. Does the water company take power from the station?

Erb

Is there exterior lighting?

Randy Elwell

Yes.

Bates

I mean, as Jerry said. It's not very much.

Bates

I mean the bottom line is the voters made a good decision to go ahead with this project.

Jerry Hall

Some additional background for people. In 2016 we looked at this and we just couldn't get the numbers to work. There was a question as to whether the state was going to continue with the Net Energy Billing and that there was just too much uncertainty. So, we tabled it and then the uncertainty was ironed out. And the Net Energy Billing was going to be allowed to continue. And we went out and got quotes from three companies and the prices had come down even further. I was the Select Board representative to the Conservation Commission. And so, we felt that there was a good case to be made; that this would not only be the green thing to do but it would be a cost savings for the town.

Susan Ellis

So, do you need to vote to reallocate according to Jerry's recommendation?

Bates

We could do that. I think it'll be in the town's interest. I think it's good judgment to do that.

Van Thompson

What I'm talking about is reporting back to the town that you decided to do this, and this is a success story.

Bates

It was a success story.

Susan Ellis

So maybe in the year that we buy it, we should talk about it at the town meeting.

Erb

We could do one of the monthly newsletters. I don't know how widely read it is. I think you set the stage for the purchase by showing how good it is.

Bates

We should make sure it gets out in Ben's monthly newsletter. I know I was talking to Steve earlier about the issue about the Community Resilience Committee. Thank you very much for doing this as thoroughly as always.

Cartwright

It was an excellent report. Thank you.

Community Resilience Partnership

If you remember Meg Rasmussen came to talk to us a couple of meetings ago to explain the opportunities for state funding to help us with resilience grants. In order to be eligible for those we had to form a community resilience partnership and that involves going through various hoops we have come close to completing. We had a public meeting, for example, on Thursday, where we had 23 people in total, some on zoom. We discussed issues, held breakout groups and we've also had a couple of meetings as well of the Community Resilience Working Group, which isn't yet formally a town group. We're very close to submitting an application for becoming part of the partnership. But one of the things we have to do is to have a municipal resolution and that's what I sent out this morning. Please take a look at the attached document I'd like the Select Board to adopt tonight.

Community Resilience Partnership

Program Contact: Brian Ambrette
Community Resilience Partnership | Office of Policy Innovation & Future (maine.gov)
brian.ambrette@maine.gov

St. George Municipal Resolution on the Community Resilience

Partnership

WHEREAS, the Town of St. George has completed the Community Resilience Partnership's Community Resilience Self-Assessment and List of Community Actions, and held a community workshop on September 8, 2022 which prioritized the following action areas:

- Establish or recognize an official committee of community stakeholders
- Conduct a vulnerability assessment for critical infrastructure.
- Adopt and execute a plan for energy efficiency in municipal and school buildings.
- Install EV chargers in public parking areas
- Install a renewable energy project on municipal property.

WHEREAS, planning for community and infrastructure resilience will protect people, preserve businesses and the local economy, and reduce the impact and costs of natural disasters;

WHEREAS, investing in energy efficiency and weatherization improvements is proven to lower municipal electricity expenses and make buildings more comfortable for employees and visitors;

WHEREAS, the Gulf of Maine is warming 99% faster than other oceans around the world, and ocean acidification and warming ocean temperatures pose a serious economic and cultural risk to Maine maritime industries, heritage, and tourism;

WHEREAS, the Town of St. George is prepared to demonstrate leadership in reducing

energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, and increasing the resilience of people, infrastructure, and businesses;

WHEREAS, the State of Maine's four-year climate action plan, Maine Won't Wait, seeks to put Maine on a trajectory to decrease greenhouse gas emissions 45% by 2030 and 80% by 2050, and achieve carbon neutrality by 2045;

WHEREAS, achieving these emissions and resilience goals will require Maine to act with urgency to slow the causes of climate change and prepare people, communities, and the environment for climate-related impacts to come;

BE IT RESOLVED, the Town of St. George commits to participating in the Community Resilience Partnership, which supports community leadership in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing resiliency to extreme weather and climate change impacts;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town of St. George designates the Community Resilience Committee to coordinate planning, implementation, and monitoring of energy and resilience projects and to be the primary point of contact to the Community Resilience Partnership.

A motion was made by Elwell, seconded by Thompson, to enroll in the Community Resilience Committee. By a 5-0 vote, the motion carried.

Susan Ellis

Is that everything to do with the Resilience Committee tonight?

Bates

That is basically it. I could give you guys an update. Meg Rasmussen has been helping with the with the application and she's also been working with Sebago Technics, which was the company that was going to be helping us with the first project that we were going to apply for a grant for. That has worked out very well. We hope on the 20th of September, to submit both the application to become part of the partnership, and also our first grant application. And right now, things are on schedule. Meg is working very hard on this and getting letters of support. Since the proposed project is going to involve looking at some of the historic buildings and sites in town, we thought, let's talk to Maine Historic Preservation Commission. So, I made some phone calls there and rattled a few cages and they said this is exactly what we'd like towns to be doing. Sebago is going to write a letter of support as well. So, if all goes to plan, we should have a number of support letters and Anne Matlack volunteered to write one as well. I haven't heard from Dave Miramont yet. And so that's the status of that.

Susan Ellis

I have one question; are we talking to our own sea level rise committee?

Bates

Well, that sort of merged with the Conservation Commission, many of the same people. So, I think that's it; thank you for signing it. Hopefully we will hear from the state around a month from now about whether or not we've been successful, but meanwhile, the committee is going to continue thinking about things that we could do to encourage resilience and conservation. Rick has some ideas.

Communications

There were no communications.

Warrant

Bates

This new refrigerator is really expensive. It's nearly \$5,000 No sorry. \$6,000.

Irene Ames

What's happened with that is the fire department has paid 1/3 and the town office has paid the balance, \$3822.66 We're going to be reimbursed \$1911.34 from the ambulance that is paying 1/3, the town office is paying 1/3 of it and the fire department is paying 1/3.

Irene Ames

The other item was the attorney Bernstein Sharon Sawyer Nelson. \$1,148 of that was regarding land use ordinance. The \$476 was questions that came up during the Executive Session. There are three payrolls on this warrant.

Committee Appointments

There was there's a couple of appointments and I don't remember the names. Could you pass them over.

Irene Ames

Dale Wiley for the Cemetery Committee. Bill Batty is Clerk Assistant. Also, Tax Collector Deputy, and Treasurer Deputy.

Cartwright moved to approve Dale Wiley for the Cemetery Committee and Bill Batty for Clerk Assistant, Tax Collector Deputy, and Treasurer Deputy. By a 5-0 vote, the motion carried.

Minutes Review

A motion was made by Cartwright to approve the August 22, 2022 minutes as corrected, seconded by Thompson. After a 4-0 roll call vote, the motion carried, and the minutes were approved (Sawyer recused himself).

Town Manager Report

Erb

Some small items here. One is I do have Richard and Van signed up for the emergency management meeting. That's on September 28 at 5pm. I will be going as well. Anybody else want to go? Let me know. Some of you probably have seen that Steve Jarrett has been working on the peeling paint on the front side of the town office. And my understanding is that every time we paint it, it doesn't last and it's getting worse. I think the condition of the siding is that we're going to have to do something more permanent, but it was peeling badly enough that I felt like we had to do something as a short-term fix. So that's what we've done. The other thing that he found when he was up there is that we have had some moisture

problems and there is some damage, particularly on trim. So, we're going to get by as it is right now, but I think we need to be looking at a longer-term fix for that.

Van Thompson

So that's certainly something we'll put in the budget for the future. I've also talked about using ARPA funds.

Randy Elwell

Is it just the front, right?

Erb

The whole building for as long as I have been here. Something else, we have not had someone cleaning the Town Hall. We had Steve Jerrett doing it and the ambulance takes care of their part as well. I looked for a janitorial service last year. Didn't even get a response from anyone. But I have found a company, Masterclean out of Rockland and they have given us a very good price. They'd be in once a week, which means there still is going to be some work for the ambulance guys when they're here, but this will give us some regular cleaning. They are fully insured, have Workers Comp and everything else; they will start this week and we'll see how it goes. The price is good. I'm pretty happy about that. It's one of the franchises.

So, many of you are familiar with the contract we have with the DOT (Department of Transportation) that we entered into where we take responsibility for Route 131. They pay us and it's been a good deal for us. I was a little bit surprised when we got a letter from them this past week, the contract has a 2% escalator this year, but they said because of the increased fuel prices, they're going to increase it by 15%. Very good news. The contract with Jim Kalloch, also has an escalator for when diesel prices go up. We have not hit it before but as of right now we could when diesel goes over \$5 a gallon. When I checked it this week, the average state price was \$5.15. So, it will be put to good use. But that was nice.

Just to give you an update, it's not so much in your area, but we've had two new people take out nomination papers for the school board, Alison Fongemie, I think it's pronounced and Emily Chadwick. Both have taken papers but neither have turned them back in yet. So, we'll see if they turn them back in but looks like there'll be a race there. Just to let you know, we get our workers comp policy through Maine Municipal Association and Irene is working with MMA on some steps we can take them to give us a 5% discount. It is possible that we could get a 10% or 15% for the final bump. Quite a bit more to do after the first 5% but we're making progress on it.

Bates

I have a question about the Route 73, and I wasn't sure whether the DOT contract included it or not.

Erb

I checked into that, and it might have been Tim Polky who answered. He said that for years the arrangement already was in place for Jim Kalloch to plow 73. It's not really clear what we are paid for that to be honest. It's been going on so long now. I should probably do a little more research. I'm thinking back to my days in Kennebunk and in Winterport. We used to plow route 69 and 139 Nobody paid us for it. I'm not sure how we get this deal on 131.

Randy Elwell

131 was always the State. Wayne Hilt did it for the State for years. 73 or even 73 up in South Thomaston.

Erb

These were State roads also and they expected us to plow them, and we did.

Bates

Maybe it is better not to interfere and leave that detail alone; we don't want to interfere with the 131 contract right now, let's keep getting that. That's all I had on my list. Okay, thank you. Any questions for Rick on any of this?

Randy Elwell

How did the paving go?

Erb

We're prepared for the paving, but it has not happened. This month I expect, the ditching is all done.

Committee Reports

Bates - Planning Board 7:00pm August 23 Meeting

1. The application to construct the CTE/Makerspace building at 28 Juniper Street was accepted as complete; meeting the standards of Site Plan Review ordinance, it was approved, subject to satisfactory resolution of the sprinkler system pressure issue.
2. The application for a change of use for the accessory building at 6 Co-op Road was accepted as complete; it was approved, with the conditions that public access is by appointment only, other than during the Peninsula Art Walk.
3. The application for a change of use for the building at 967 River Road was reviewed and a site visit scheduled for 5:00pm September 12, 2022.

Select Board Policy Manual Updates

Bates

We need to approve the Select Board policy manual updates. If you remember the things that we thought needed changing, one was the streetlight policy and Rick put in some alternative words for that. Now we have three weeks review time and then we can vote to approve those changes.

A motion to approve the Select Board Policy Manual updates was made by Sawyer, seconded by Ellwell and by unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Tobacco Free policy and resolution

Bates

So, the other old business is the Tobacco Free Policy and Resolution. I think Rick's suggestion is that we should vote on the resolution today.

Erb

Just really quickly, it basically covers the use of tobacco, in town buildings, recreational facilities, playgrounds, or assembly areas operated by St. George. I think we're trying to be somewhat flexible, but the people who leave the building to partake, we are not going to chase them down.

Erb

It pretty much follows what's already in state law and regulations. We will get a little money out of it, and they'll give us some signage

A motion to adopt the Tobacco Free Policy and Resolution was made by Elwell, seconded by Thompson and by unanimous vote, the motion carried, and the resolution was adopted.

Native American Sign - New business

Bates

Okay, moving on, American and Native American sign is the sign that Steve passed around to everyone and this one you said was priced very reasonably.

Cartwright

Neptune is a tribal member of the Penobscot Nation. So, we've got someone who was a native person doing the design, which I think is important.

Bates

I made a few phone calls and I've been advised we need to make sure this isn't seen by the town as an empty gesture because otherwise it can come back to bite us. Apparently, there are examples where other organizations have done this trying to be respectful, but without people really understanding what's behind it. What did the Wabanaki do here?

Maybe we can have a have a community meeting before we put this sign up, that educates people that the Wabanaki were here. We know there were middens off Treasure Point, right? I think rather than putting the sign up and causing confusion, we should do an evening session and Steve, you could get a couple of people to just talk and be available to answer questions so that when people have questions, we can point to the middens or other things, just to head off any concerns.

Van Thompson

I think it's a nice approach.

Randy Elwell

I don't know if it's the right wording but perhaps a resolution to go along with the sign to go in the town record?

Bates

With a little mention of the history, we can document that the Penobscot and Wabanaki were here. I mean that's a historical record that we can include in any kind of presentation. I don't know how you want to structure it. Steve, I'd like to put it on your shoulders to have a meeting. I'm willing to work on it. Maybe a community meeting beforehand, you know, maybe John Falla would come in with some historical record.

Cartwright

So, Gary created a 12 by 18-inch white aluminum sign I thought would be more permanent. He could do color if you want but he was sort of thinking of keeping it simple and just have it black and white. The total without shipping was \$140.

Bates

Well, I think it's a bit of history. I'm thinking where the sign might best be located. It could be at the entrance to the town for example, but we don't want to spend money on the signs if somebody is going to take offense to it and toss it in.

Randy Elwell

We could put it at the Historical Society on the lawn.

Van Thompson

I think about placing it coming down 131 at South Thomaston, coming into St George. The same thing coming down 73 where you have the switch over.

Bates

So, is this logo in color?

Cartwright

At this point, he is proposing it to be black and white, just simply a white sign with black imprint on it, but he could do color.

Bates

We want to think a bit more about the wording but let's have this public meeting, where people get educated some more about it before we purchase it. I am concerned that using the word territory, people are going to get the wrong idea.

Randy Elwell

I can't help my ancestors.

Bates

I believe it should happen. Steve, if you're okay with trying to get a meeting, I can help you on that. In the next couple of weeks, we could have a community meeting.

Cartwright

Do you want me to hold off on ordering any signs...

Bates

My sense is that we want to do this. I'm hearing that from the board.

Liquor license for the Happy Clam

Bates

Okay. Liquor license for the Happy Clam. As Rick pointed out, there have been no complaints.

A motion to issue the liquor license to the Happy Clam was made by Elwell, seconded by Thompson and by unanimous vote, the motion carried.

School Board Election – New Business

Bates

So, Mike Felton asked for a support letter from the Select Board for the EDA grant that the school is applying for to help with the funding for the CTE Makerspace building and wrote a nice letter. We should go ahead and sign it.

The Town of St. George is submitting this letter to indicate our strong support with St. George school CTE Makerspace building projects. Through this project, St. George Municipal School Unit in partnership with Midcoast School of Technology will promote economic development in our town and region by addressing the existing labor force shortages and spurring the creation of new businesses to focus on pre-K to 12 education. CD programming along with workforce training programs, adult education courses, open shop time in partnership with local businesses, will have long term and immediate economic benefits. The Select Board unanimously voted to endorse this project, with strong support from our business community. We urge the EDA to join us in moving ahead with this forward-thinking partnership. Thank you.

Shellfish Management Board

Bates

I emailed you a note earlier today about the Shellfish Management Board who requested a meeting with us on Thursday, at six o'clock. I'm really grateful to Ryan, who subsequently got on the phone to DMR and actually, we are in good shape. The way that I understand it from Ryan and maybe I'm simplifying a little bit but basically, when the DMR comes to consider the allocation of oyster leases, the 20-year leases, the Shellfish Committee is quite within their rights to complain or whatever. But we also as the Select Board are within our rights and duties to state our opinion about oyster farming for example. And so the fact that we signed Jim Balano's application a couple of years ago, I still think was absolutely a good thing. You know, the revenue that he generates in the new business that he makes, is far better, far more financially lucrative than anything else he's doing. There's been some issues, complaining to the Clam Committee. I think we still need to have the meeting and we need to clarify what we can continue to do for the State for the DMR and at the same time, we want to make sure that they're fully informed. I think it sounds like they didn't actually get all the notifications about Jim Balano's application and Ryan can make sure that any applications he receives are sent via email to Danny Staples.

Erb

The impression I have is they will listen to whatever the town says. But frankly the DMR is going to make their own decision It really is a local decision.

Randy Elwell

Keith Miller has been doing kelp for the last five or six years. We can voice our opinion.

Bates

I think it will keep everyone happy.

Randy Elwell

Where Jim Balano is doing it, you cannot dig clams anyway. I can see if they had a good argument.

Bates

Ryan will commit to emailing him the stuff. So that's what that is. Do we have anything else to discuss tonight?

Van Thompson

A motion to adjourn was made by Thompson, seconded by Elwell and by unanimous vote, the motion carried and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammy Taylor

Recording Secretary

Town of St. George, Maine