

Mark Bolinger called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm. Committee and public access at UberConference [888-919-7047 or 603-506-6463].

1. Mark read the official “right to know” statement re: telephonic meetings in times of emergencies, e.g. Covid-19, Pursuant to Governor’s Order #12.
2. Roll call taken of members present: Mark Bolinger; Matt Brown; Scott Nichols; Jim Nourse; Dan O’Hara; Kevin Sahr.

Members of the public joining: Morty Bailey

3. Approve minutes of February 10, 2020 meeting. Kevin moved; Scott seconds. Motion unanimously approved by roll call.
4. Town Highway Garage Heating System Update. Matt reported that he had met with Steve Williams, Ben Kilham and Dina Cutting. He also talked with Morty Bailey. He spoke to Carola Lea and Mike Smith about the potential for fund-raising. He would like to put together a proposal to the Select Board for a replacement pellet boiler system as well as a new circulator. He has investigated the past savings in fuel costs since the 2003 original system was installed; Ben is working on an analysis of potential future cost savings. Both Morty Bailey (Lyme Green Heat) and Scott Nichols (Tarm, USA) have submitted bids. Scott says that the new system will address the following issues: replacing the boilers, water storage, pellet storage and the need for a self-cleaning system.

Question raised as to what the fund-raising would be for. Scott suggests that it would raise the difference, if any, between replacing the current system with new pellet boiler system and replacing said system with propane.

Question raised about who will make the final decision on the heating system. Kevin states that Ben K. and Steve W. have been charged with determining what will work best; the Select Board will make the final decision.

Question raised about where the data for a propane-fueled system is coming from. Kevin states that this has already been done as there has been a bid submitted. The bids for propane and pellet systems are very competitive, in fact, the difference between the two is not enough to need outside fund-raising.

Kevin moves that the Energy Committee, with Matt Brown as its representative, work with Ben Kilham and Steve Williams to craft a proposal to bring to the Select Board. Scott seconds. Motion is unanimously approved by roll call.

Scott introduces the problems that the original radiant heat system has with heat distribution. His research suggests that the town should replace the 3-phase circulator with a single-phase circulator. This should also lower the energy costs, which is a goal of the Energy Committee. Kevin suggests that Scott and Morty send information on the technical merits of this proposal to Ben and Steve.

Question from the public about whether the new heating system will be subject to a competitive bidding process. Kevin responds that this is not the appropriate setting for this discussion as the Select Board is responsible for determining the process.

5. Update on Fire Station. Scott has reviewed the construction plans provided by Chief Mundy and Rob. He has given feedback, including drawings, on the need for greater insulation of the slab as well as a concern that the tower design may result in a chimney effect with heat loss. He has not heard back from either Chief Mundy or Rob. Kevin added that he had no new information about the energy concerns of the new building.

Scott expressed his understanding that the station will in fact be heated by a pellet boiler system. Kevin said that to the best of his knowledge that is the case. Scott stated that he had received a note from Chief Mundy stating that Lyme Green Heat had been awarded the bid. Scott would still like to receive an update as to the design of the building envelope, but has held off pursuing it as his initial conversations gave him the impression that he was considered an interloper in the design process.

Kevin thanks Scott for his contributions to the energy efficiency of the new station.

6. Nomination & Election of New Officers.
 - a. Mark nominates Jim Nourse as Chair of the Energy Committee. Scott seconds. Motion passes unanimously.
 - b. Jim nominates Mark Bolinger as Secretary. Matt seconds. Motion passes unanimously.
7. New Business. Question was raised as to whether the committee could meet outdoors if the town offices remain closed for our next meeting. Kevin replies that we could, as long as physical distancing is in effect and the public is correctly notified and included. The limits for a group to gather in NH currently stand at 50.
8. Adjournment. Scott moves; Matt seconds. Meeting is adjourned at 8:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Nourse, Secretary