

**HOLDEN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
October 7, 2019**

6:30PM

Memorial Hall

Present: Chairman Renzoni, Tyler Gibbs, Geri Herlihy, Robert Lavigne, Chiara Barnes

Others Present: Peter Lukes, Town Manager
Stephanie King, Assistant Town Manager
Stephen Madaus, Town Counsel (6:33PM)
Liz Fotos, Town Recorder

Chairman Renzoni called the meeting to order at 6:31PM. The Board stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Appointments, Licenses, and Permits

None

2. Town Manager Update

MMA Annual Meeting: The Mass Municipal Association will be holding its annual meeting and trade show once again at the Hynes Convention Center January 24 and 25, 2019. We have received registrations for most of the Select Board and my office can register you upon your request if you have not yet done so. The MMA Fall Meeting will be in Gloucester on November 21 and 22.

18 Industrial Drive Update: Our Owner Project Manager continues to make improvements to the site in terms of infrastructure and utility hookups, which will lower the costs of the final project when we go to bid. The DPW Facility Committee is meeting October 7 to go over the larger schematics, which will be approved and allow us to begin cost estimates, after which we will be able to public general contractor requests.

Our application to FEMA for delineating the flood plain on the back lot of the property has been submitted and we hope to receive a ruling within the next ninety days. If the flood plain is moved to where we believe it should be, we will continue onto the next step to fund a feasibility/ engineering study in FY 21 to design playing fields along with other accommodations such as parking, lights, field house, etc.

Mr. Madaus entered the meeting at 6:33PM.

Eagle Lake Dam Report: We are still anxiously awaiting the report from DCR and the Governor regarding the future of fourteen high hazard dams throughout Massachusetts, one of which is the privately owned Eagle Lake Dam here in Holden. We understand that this report is expected to be a thorough breakdown of the opportunities and shortfalls

for various paths forward and should include funding mechanisms for whatever suggestions DCR makes regarding the future of the area. In the meantime, my office is working on including capital expenditures for feasibility studies in FY 21 that will encompass several recreation areas and potential field space in Holden, including the Eagle Lake Rec area. Uncertainty surrounding the future of the dam and the lake make it difficult to set a solid framework for the recreation area design, but I expect that by the time FY 21 begins, we will have a better idea of where the dam and the lake will be headed.

Recreation: The Town of Holden Recreation Department is offering a Financial Planning for Beginners class. The instructor will explore the essentials of budgeting, managing debt and credits, investing and savings. Participants will learn the basics to better understand their financials and receive tips that will help them develop good habits for the future. This is a one night class that will be held Wednesday, October, 23rd at 6:00PM in the Recreation conference room located at 1420 Main Street. The cost is \$10.00. For more information or to sign up, onto holdenrec.com or call the Recreation office at 508-829-0263.

Public Safety Open House: The Holden Fire Department welcomes local families to a free Open House on Saturday, October 19 from noon to 3:00PM. The Open House, sponsored by Papa Gino's is aimed at teaching families fire safety and prevention practices. The Holden Fire Department Open House will be held at 1370 Main Street in Holden.

This Open House commemorates Nation Fire Safety Month (October). Participants will receive fire safety education through demonstration and discussions, tour the Holden Fire Station, see fire gear and apparatus, and meet with local Firefighters. In addition, Papa Gino's the Dedham, Mass Based pizza chain, will provide free pizza and children's fire safety activity sheets at the open house.

For the past 25 years, Papa Gino's has sponsored Open Houses throughout New England, helping to educate more than 2 million people about fire prevention and safety and we thank them for their continued sponsorship in Holden.

Christmas Even Office Hours: Christmas falls on Tuesday this year, and the Selectboard has traditionally voted to close town offices at noon on Christmas Eve in order to allow our employees to spend time with their families during what is normally a very slow business day for Town Offices. If the Board so decides, I am requesting a vote to determine holiday hours for Town Offices and for Non-Emergency Employees on December 24, 2019.

Motion by Sel. Lavigne, seconded by, Sel. Gibbs, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED AS A GESTURE OF GOOD WILL AT THE HOLIDAY SEASON, THE SELECTBOARD VOTE TO CLOSE TOWN BUSINESS OFFICES FOR NON-EMERGENCY PERSONNEL ONLY ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER, 24 2019. ESSENTIAL PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYESS WHO ARE SCHEDULED TO**

WORK OR WHO ACTUALLY WORK ON THESE DAYS WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE UP TO EIGHT (8) HOURS OF COMPENSATORY TIME OFF AT THE DISCRETION OF THE TOWN MANAGER.

Halloween in Holden: On October 26, Halloween in Holden will take place. He stated a number of businesses are participating and they will have a list of participating businesses shortly. He thanked Jess Milliken, EDC Chair, for all her work. He stated that this was a great first event for the EDC and that she has served as Chair of the Master Plan Committee as well and did a lot for the Town. He stated that this event was a separate event from Halloween hours which are on Halloween.

Sel. Herlihy left the meeting at 6:40PM.

Mr. Lukes stated that a lot of people are excited for this event.

3. Town Manager Annual Review

Chairman Renzoni stated that they would need to pass this matter over tonight and would review it at the next meeting.

4. Student Opportunity Act

Sel. Herlihy returned to the meeting at 6:41PM.

Chairman Renzoni stated that he was going to ask the Board to endorse some of the amendments going through government. He stated that the 100% reimbursement was defeated and the House was waiting on it. He stated that he spoke with Representative Ferguson today regarding this.

Sel. Lavigne stated that it was disappointing that they continued to not live up to their word.

Chairman Renzoni stated that it was a matter of appropriations; he stated the money was there and it is just the priorities that the state house sees. He stated that regional transportation is not a priority and they want us to thank them for the 75% when that was not what was promised. He stated that they can have the conversation at the Regional Round Table on November 7, 2019 at 6:30PM.

5. Town Manager Goals 2019/2020

Goal 1: Propose a Plan for DPW Building Solar Array

Goal 2: Commission and Budget a Study of Town Hall and Starbard design and rehab post DPW office move to 18 Industrial Drive

Goal 3: Plan/Propose for recreation and playing field rehab and maintenance –increase recreation footprint; rehab and maintenance of existing facilities.

Goal 4: Eagle Lake Area Rehabilitation/ presentation of proposed use(s) for future of Eagle Lake area, recreation area, dam, surrounding land.

Goal 5: Begin process for Adams Road Development Post DPW Exit/ Village District overlay, incorporation of surrounding parcels/ infrastructure, early mode of RPT for private developers.

Goal 6: Five and Ten Year Staffing Plan for all Town Departments

Chairman Renzoni stated that the Selectboard had received an email from the Town Manager about the above goals. He stated after they read the goals, they could make a motion regarding them.

Sel. Lavigne stated that he thought the Recreation Department Goal was an interesting one. He stated that with population growth and more kids and families he thinks that it is good to look and see what the Recreation Department should be doing. He stated that they have had the opportunity to look at policies and that Chairman Renzoni's wife was looking with students at an all inclusive playground area behind DPW. He stated people are always requesting skate parks and other things. Sel. Lavigne stated that they have never had a real plan and it was time to start looking at the open space and looking towards recreation instead of seeing more development. He stated that he liked this goal.

Sel. Herlihy echoed Sel. Lavigne on the recreation goal. She stated that they have kids and they need more and better kept fields. She stated that she was also happy to see the Adams Road Village Concept as a goal because she thinks it's a great idea.

Chairman Renzoni stated that they speak annually to come up with goals for the Town Manager to help shape the Town for the next budget cycle and beyond.

Sel. Lavigne stated that this was an important part of the whole process. He stated that they report to the people and that as they hear from different constituents they can get a feel for different ideas for goals. He stated that this is more than just business as usual; this is where they can match up the operations with the wants and needs of the Town. He stated that he thinks this is a big step and that as they speak about Adams Road and more parks, it is important to do it here as those things don't just take care of themselves.

Sel. Lavigne stated that he likes the Staffing Plan as well. He stated that it can't be addressed in one year's time but in phases over years. He stated that it was important to start talking about school add on requests as well and when they talk about growth they have to make it sustainable.

Sel. Herlihy agreed and stated that a plan would allow them to budget for it.

Chairman Renzoni stated that they had been speaking about Recreation for a year. He asked if this was something that would be funded or if they would need to borrow for it. He asked if it would be out of the Recreation Revolving Account.

Mr. Lukes replied it would be from whatever made it feasible. He stated that they needed to see what they were dealing with before they could really speak about funding. He stated that it may be a combination of places with youth sports working with the Town. He stated that they had to make sure that the fees that were being charged supported the activities.

Chairman Renzoni stated that the pool is also 20 years old. He stated that the diving board had some issues and that they can't wait for things to break to look into them because that is letting residents and pass holders down. He stated that they need to look at major items and rates and make sure that held true for all recreation events. He stated that was a big goal for a small office.

Chairman Renzoni stated that the goal regarding Eagle Lake is stand alone but that it is part of the recreation plan.

Chairman Renzoni asked if anyone disputed setting the Solar Array as a goal.

Sel. Gibbs stated that he heard from a lot of people on that.

Chairman Renzoni stated that the police department, senior center, and Mountview all had solar and he thought it should be on the new DPW building as well.

Mr. Lukes stated that there were different opportunities now but that they could still look at a way to do it.

Sel. Lavigne stated that when they built Mountview the Town got a lot back from USDA.

Mr. Lukes stated that it had changed quite a bit and won't be the same but that we want to do it and can find a way.

Sel. Herlihy asked if the infrastructure was different.

Mr. Lukes replied that the credits were all different and there was a different set up.

Chairman Renzoni stated that Goal #2, Study of the Community Campus post DPW move was something they needed to look at. He stated there were some structure problems in the Starbard Building and they needed to look at a plan regarding these Town properties.

The Board was in agreement.

Sel. Lavigne asked if they wanted to add in a goal about implementing the findings from the Master Plan.

Chairman Renzoni stated that the last Master Plan they established an implementation committee that carried out recommendations. He stated without objection they could add:

Goal 7: Establish a Master Plan Implementation Committee

Chairman Renzoni stated that the Adams Road redevelopment was another goal. He asked the Boards consensus.

Mr. Lukes stated that he had started to work on the Village Overlay concept. He stated that they do want to keep the satellite Fire Station there as well and to incorporate Adams Road into the future of the Town. He stated that the first step would be a feasibility study to start us in the direction.

Chairman Renzoni stated that was also looked at in the Master Plan because of its walkable distance to Town.

Chairman Renzoni stated he felt that Goal 6; Five and Ten Year Staffing Plan was necessary.

Sel. Gibbs stated he thought that was good information to have.

Sel. Herlihy agreed and stated that staffing could not always be just about money; it also had to take into consideration safety and running efficiently.

Chairman Renzoni asked if there were any other goals the Town Manager wished to discuss.

Mr. Lukes replied he felt the seven discussed were good.

Motion by Sel. Lavigne, seconded by Sel. Gibbs, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO ADOPT THE 7 TOWN MANAGER GOALS 2019/2020 AS PRESENTED.**

6. Citizen Address

None

7. Selectmen Minutes

None

8. Selectmen Miscellaneous

Sel. Gibbs: none

Sel. Herlihy: none

Sel. Barnes: none

Sel. Lavigne stated that on the day of Halloween in Holden, Troop 180 will be doing a fund raising event at Seven Saws.

Chairman Renzoni: none.

9. Selectmen Subcommittee

Sel. Gibbs: none

Sel. Herlihy: none

Chairman Renzoni stated that Fin Com met and discussed recommendations for the Light Dept rate change. He stated that they didn't take a formal vote but they did have a long discussion on it.

Sel. Lavigne stated that EDC did not meet.

Chairman Renzoni called at recess at 7:02PM until the Public Hearing at 7:10PM.

Chairman Renzoni called the meeting back to order at 7:10PM.

10. Public Hearing – Municipal Light Department Rates

Motion by Sel. Lavigne, seconded by Sel. Gibbs, it was, **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO OPEN THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT RATES.**

Ms. Parenteau was present and presented **HMLD Cost of Service Study Results- 2019**

Chairman Renzoni thanked Ms. Parenteau for the presentation and opened it up for comments. He invited Paul Challenger, Fin Com to the podium to speak.

Mr. Challenger stated that this was a broad mandate for Fin Com and that in the past, they had not been too involved in Light Department affairs. He stated that he still doesn't think they need to be involved and the Cost of Service Study was to educate them a little. He stated that Fin Com did not take a vote on this and that he just wanted to highlight some of Fin Com's thoughts.

Mr. Challenger stated that overall the rates still look great compared to our neighbors; he congratulated HMLD on that. He stated they also liked the move to separate the distribution of use and thinks that will be beneficial to do.

Mr. Challenger stated that they did not fully understand why fixed components were not being collected on fixed charges. He stated for water everyone pays a fixed access to water and it seems that something similar could be looked at for HMLD. He stated that they spoke with Ms. Parenteau and that she indicated that was not how electricity worked and they want to do it variable for conservation. He stated that Fin Com kind of understood that but he thinks fixed charges for fixed costs made the most sense. He stated that if they did that they would not have a separate solar charge because they would not have to bill them back. He said with that being said, this issues get into things that HMLD understand better than Fin Com.

Mr. Challenger stated that the prompt payment changes made sense to them and the only concern was that it would bring the cash reserve up to \$4 million which was 28% of revenue. He stated that this was a high amount and the Town goal is 15%. He stated that the Light Department had the most stable revenue and he is not sure why all that should be stored away. He stated that was something for them to consider.

Mr. Challenger stated that they liked the proposal overall and understand that they (Fin Com) are not experts on this so they do not want to override anything. He stated that they appreciated the opportunity to give their thoughts.

Robin Van Liew, 1 Avery Road was present at the meeting. She stated that she had a solar array and didn't fully understand the change. She stated that they get very little power in the winter and only get power in the summer so are only putting power into the grid in June, July, and August. She stated that they will still be charged in capacity. She stated that they invested into this and now they were going to get charged a special fee only for solar people. She stated that she doesn't think this is a good way to have people conserve and that it does not seem fair.

Jane Dye, 39 Lovell Road was present at the meeting. She made public comment (attached).

Chairman Renzoni thanked both residents for their comments.

Sel. Herlihy stated that Mr. Challenger asked about the stabilization level; she asked if they wanted to address that topic.

Ms. Parenteau replied that they had their auditors do a presentation in May and did a comparison of funding balances. She stated that in 2008 the Light Department went though \$2 million trying to get infrastructure in place with the power outage. She stated that Light Department exposure is different than water in a catastrophic failure. She stated that the auditors felt that for the size of Holden that level is appropriate and that they should all be on the same page for those levels.

Ms. Parenteau stated that the recommendation was 6 months of expense on hand; about \$1 million/ month. She stated that it is significant but those are the levels that they should be looking to obtain.

Sel. Gibbs asked for Ms. Parenteau to explain the reason for the increase.

Ms. Parenteau replied that everything was melded into one rate.

Sel. Herlihy left the meeting at 7:52PM.

Ms. Parenteau stated that the purchase power was about .10 and they were unbundling the rate because if it is not addressed there will be a higher increase because it is the smaller amount.

Sel. Herlihy returned to the meeting at 7:53PM.

Sel. Gibbs asked Ms. Parenteau about the customers she referred to regarding the solar arrays. He asked if they were holding off on moving forward because of the rate change.

Ms. Parenteau replied that one customer indicated they were moving forward no matter what. She stated the other circumstance was that the Light Department had to match what the state offered. She stated that they were entering a pilot for that where there is \$36,000 for perspective customers who want to install.

Sel. Herlihy stated it was important to note that this was not punishment; non solar users were subsidizing this.

Sel. Lavigne stated that they were buying something for more than they were selling it for.

Ms. Parenteau stated that they would revisit the cost of service. She stated that this had not been done in 10 years. She stated that they want to make sure that they are not overcharging while still addressing the issue and that she would be bringing this forward again in another few years.

Sel. Lavigne asked if they were considering a minimum that would need to be put back on the grid.

Ms. Parenteau replied there was no minimum.

Sel. Gibbs asked what would happen if it was down for a few months (solar).

Ms. Parenteau replied that they don't measure solar. She stated there was a register on the home with two channels; everything that they were purchasing and everything they were putting back but it was not capturing what is being used.

Chairman Renzoni stated that with regards to Mr. Challengers comments; he knows they have discussed why it is different than water but he thinks they should look at that. He stated that they looked into water because it was failing and something had to be done and that the Light Department has been healthy so there was never a reason to look at it before.

Chairman Renzoni stated that he thinks that they make a policy and get the fixed fees recovered. He stated that they could then charge the customers fair share to get it to the infrastructure. He stated he had the same questions as Fin Com regarding this.

Sel. Herlihy stated that she thinks it is important to note that a Cost of Service Study was not done in 10 years.

Chairman Renzoni stated that this was healthy so there was no need to fix it. He stated that the Power Light Advisory Board was very technical and was looking to do work. He stated that this has been a process.

Sel. Lavigne stated that he noticed that the purchase power goes down substantially 2018/2019.

Ms. Parenteau replied it was a result of the capacity markets.

No further questions or comments were asked.

Motion by Sel. Gibbs, seconded by Sel. Lavigne, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT RATES.**

Motion by Sel. Herlihy, seconded by Sel. Lavigne, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO MOVE THAT THE HMLD BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPROVE AN INCREASE OF \$0.0075/kWh IN BASE (distribution) RATES, THE UNBUNDLING OF THE RATES INTO DISTRIBUTION AND PURCHASE POWER COMPONENTS, DECREASING THE EFFECTIVE NYPA HYDROPOWER CREDIT FROM \$0.01 TO \$0.005 /kWh AND INCREASING THE CURRENT PROMPT PAYMENT DISCOUNT FROM 10% TO 15% (RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL) AND FROM 5% TO 7.5% (GENERAL SERVICE) EFFECTIVE ON NOVEMBER 1, 2019 ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE GENERAL MANAGER.**

Motion by Sel. Lavigne, seconded by Sel. Herlihy, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO MOVE THAT THE HMLD BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPROVE THE ADOPTION OF A LOW INCOME RATE WHICH WAIVES THE CUSTOMER CHARGE EFFECTIVE ON NOVEMBER 1, 2019 ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE GENERAL MANAGER.**

Ms. Parenteau stated that the intention of the third motion was to capture the distribution charge. She stated that they were very aware about this and the average cost is \$4.41/kWh. She stated that this is an added fee so they weighted that. She stated that there had been some studies done nationwide that showed that as a result of people installing solar they were more likely to use more kWh so that would make up a portion of that. She stated that they did not want to hit the customer for the full subsidy and they also wanted to study this to see if customers were using more hours. She stated that this will be looked at in an on going fashion.

Sel. Herlihy stated that this was different; wholesale to retail. She stated that we were still not recouping the cost.

Sel. Gibbs stated that this is something he had been back and forth on and he had heard from a lot of people about this. He stated that he understands that this is a poor business model but that they are not a business. He stated that this would be about a 1% increase so not a large one. He stated that he has been back and forth on this and just wanted to put his thoughts on record.

Sel. Lavigne stated that he agreed this was not for profit but that they were still running a business and it was important to make sure that we were able to sustain it. He stated that he has never been afraid to take an unpopular opinion but that they have to look at the cost of power for each user and charge the user not charge someone else.

Sel. Gibbs stated that it was a weird time trying to figure out the relationship between reusable energy and the Light Department.

Chairman Renzoni stated that dealing with renewable energy as a town is not a new problem and it was only going to get bigger with the cost of solar energy and battery storage increasing. He stated that we are not a business trying to maximize a profit but that we were still responsible to ensure that the grid is up and running. He stated that someone mentioned today that they only put power in the summer months but that the grid needs to be up and running always. He stated that this is a fixed cost and that they were trying to recapture. He stated that making money back on the commodity was necessary.

Chairman Renzoni stated he also wanted to recognize HMLD because for a better part of a decade they have been worried about green energy. He stated that it is a decision to go after reusable energy and it shows that the community is responsible. He stated that green energy is not in question, this is about public infrastructure and our responsibility to maintain it.

Chairman Renzoni stated that he thinks this is the first step in a process to possibly separate this into a fixed cost and commodity. He stated he knows that the Director indicated differently and that they should look at all possibilities as it evolves and we should look at how we conduct business.

Sel. Herlihy stated that this is not punishment for solar users. She stated that the Light Department still thinks this is important.

Ms. Parenteau stated that they were looking into different battery technologies and developing a portfolio approach because they do think that it is responsible to move in this direction. She stated that this is just the beginning.

Chairman Renzoni asked what the life expectancy of the solar panels was.

Ms. Parenteau replied 20-25 years.

Chairman Renzoni stated that it was looking at an average impact of \$10/month. He stated that the largest entity being impacted was the municipal government and the school district.

Ms. Parenteau replied that it would be \$286/ month for Mountview.

Chairman Renzoni stated that they were able to accept the third motion or amend it.

Motion by Sel. Lavigne, seconded by Sel. Herlihy, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO MOVE THAT THE HMLD BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPROVE THE ADOPTION OF A NET METERING RATE THAT INCLUDES A CHARGE OF \$2.00 PER INSTALLED Kw of solar capacity (DC). CUSTOMERS WILL NET THE AMOUNT OF kWh PURCHASED FROM HMLD AND THE AMOUNT OF kWh DELIVERED TO THE HMLD DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM. ON A MONTHLY BASIS, CUSTOMER WHO IS A NET PURCHASER WILL BE BILLED FOR THE NET ELECTRICITY CONSUMED AT THE DESIGNATED RETAIL RATE. FOR CUSTOMER WHO IS A NET SUPPLIER THEY WILL RECEIVE A MONETARY CREDIT TO THE ELECTRIC ACCOUNT FOR THEIR EXCESS GENERATION BASED ON THEIR CLASS OF SERVICE. THIS CHANGE WILL BE EFFECTIVE ON NOVEMBER 1, 2019 FOR NEW CUSTOMERS AND APPLICABLE TO EXISTING CUSTOMERS ON THE 5 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE AUTHORITY TO CONECT LETTER ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE GENERAL MANAGER.**

Chairman Renzoni thanked the residents for coming out and the Light Department Director and Committee for all their hard work.

Motion by Sel. Lavigne, seconded by Sel. Gibbs, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO ADJOURN THE OCTOBER 7, 2019 BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING AT 8:20PM.**

APPROVED: 12/2/19

To: Holden Selectboard
From: Jane Dye, 39 Lovell Road
Re: proposed electric rate increase for solar users

The future is upon us.

Beneficial Electrification – the move to electrify everything - will occur in Holden as residents shift their energy use away from gasoline, oil and natural gas. They will be charging their electric vehicles, relying on high efficiency heat pumps to keep their homes comfortable and will manage their electricity use to conserve energy and to use it efficiently. And they will want to use electricity from increasingly green sources.

It is critical that electric rates send the right signals as we move into this new electrified world. I do not think it is a forward looking policy to raise rates for a group of residents who are stepping up to do the right thing, to start the move toward that electrified future by making a large, long-term investment that will create capacity and provide valuable, privately-funded, clean electricity at or very near the point of use.

It seems to me that there are going to be more and more challenges like this one coming our way as the world transitions from an economy based on fossil fuels to an economy based on renewable and distributed energy resources. For example, we all know that energy efficiency is the cheapest and most expedient means of increasing energy supply. However, promoting energy efficiency is counter to HMLD's business model as it would reduce their revenues. Energy efficiency is competition. This is a built-in conflict.

Holden residents are going to increasingly demand services that support the move toward beneficial electrification and a sustainable, ever greener grid. There are going to continue to be built-in conflicts unless we rethink the mission for HMLD. For the past hundred-plus years HMLD has done a superb job reliably operating the grid for the lowest cost possible. It is hard to stand up here and appear to be complaining about them because they do their job so well.

However, as I said, the future is upon us and we need more. We need to find a way to value things like energy efficiency savings, more and more local renewable energy, a smart grid, support for electric vehicles, energy storage, green power, green buildings, climate protection, resiliency.

So I don't know what to do about the question before us—that is the \$2 per kW charge on solar users—except to say that as there are so few solar users in town (<1%) and the dollar amount of revenue in question at this time is fairly small (\$24,000) I will say that I am happy to pay the 13cents or so a month to cover them because I want more solar in town. I would like to see more solar on people's roofs. I would like to see community solar projects for renters or for people whose roofs do not get enough sun. And I want more solar and wind in our portfolio and I want it to go toward our usage and not sold as Renewable Energy Credits to other users somewhere else. I want to see all these things because I value renewable energy replacing fossil fuels. There has to be a way to build that value in to our calculations.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.