

Norwich Board of Listers
Listers' Special Meeting – 9:00 am
Wednesday, June 17, 2020

Draft Minutes

This meeting was held at Listers' office at Tracy Hall as below members are presented with following appropriate physical distance under COVID-19/the state of Vermont requirement. Public were invited through teleconference using ZOOM in order to maintain Tracy Hall regulation under COVID-19 requirement.

Members present: Cheryl Lindberg, Chair; Pam Smith, Listers; Spencer Potter, Contract Assessor; Masaki Schuette, Administrative Clerk (via Zoom). **Public:** Linda Cook joined at 9:17AM (via Phone)

1. Call to order

Lindberg called the meeting to order at 9:10 AM

2. Review and approval of agenda – action

Lindberg suggested postponing agenda item #4 to the afternoon portion of the resumed meeting at 3 PM because the Abstract is not printed as of 9:10AM. Smith asked to add “the solar array update” in the agenda. Lindberg recommended “the solar array update” to be added as agenda Item #4, and “Approval of Abstract” to be moved to #6 in 3 PM resumed meeting. Smith **moved** (2nd Lindberg) to approve the agenda with the aforementioned changes. **Vote was unanimous.**

3. Public Comment / correspondence --

No member of the public commented.

4. The solar array update --- discussion

Lindberg explained current status of the solar arrays: There a few commercial solar arrays in Norwich. The Listers are required to include commercial solar arrays in the 2020 Grand List, even if they are determined at some point to be tax exempt. The Listers requested Norwich Technologies, Inc. to complete the inventory forms (PV-604) for three solar installations. They are: Norwich Union Village Solar, the Route 5 North Solar, and the Starlake Village solar. The forms have recently been received and were forwarded to our District Adviser who will calculate the value of each array. Lindberg has spoken with the Town attorney to alert him that we may need to get a legal opinion on the Article approved by the voters in 2007. The Vermont statute exempts of 3 types of renewable energy from taxation: private, domestic, and agricultural.

Potter said that it would not be possible to get the value of these solar arrays on the Abstract, however, it is the goal of the Listers to include the arrays and the value established by the State on the final Grand List.

Linda Cook asked for the number of the specific statute on solar array taxes. Lindberg answered it is Title 32 V.S.A. § 3845.

5. Meeting will resume at 3 PM -- action

Smith **moved** (2nd Lindberg) to recess the meeting until 3 PM today. **Vote was unanimous.**

- Resume Listers' special meeting at 3:00 PM

Lindberg reopened the meeting at 3:00 PM. (Potter left the office at around 2 PM.)

6. Review and approval of Abstract – review / discussion / action

Lindberg **moved** (2nd Smith) to approve 2020 Abstract with Municipal Grand List Value of \$7,906,955.00 and Education Grand List Value of \$7,928,400.53. (Note: These Values are divided by 100)

Discussion

- Lindberg mentioned that there was an email from Vermont Office of Veterans Affairs for one of our veterans, Jeffery Nielsen, withdrawing his status due to his residency change. In the

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2020 Abstract, the values are in the Non-resident category, including the veteran's exemption. Schuette will ask Potter to adjust Jeffery Nielsen's data accordingly.

- Listers will be posting Public notices at Town clerk's office, the bulletin board outside of Tracy Hall, the Norwich Post Office, the Norwich Library, at Dan & Whit's General Store, the Norwich Listserv, and on the Listers page of the Norwich Town website.

Vote was unanimous.

7. June invoices – review / discussion / action

There is only one invoice to be discussed, which is from NEMC. Smith **moved** (2nd Lindberg) to approve payment of NEMC Invoice #2020-64. Lindberg will ask NEMC to update the Listers of any future fee changes and also ask that invoices be addressed to the attention of the Listers. **Vote was unanimous.**

8. Listers budget as of June, 2020 – review / discussion

Smith reported that Listers' unexpended amount as of the date of the report was printed (June 12, 2020) is \$24,505.06. From this amount, there are several known expenses to be paid before the end of the fiscal year, including the Listers 2nd stipend, wages for Admin clerk and Potter's June Invoice. Smith reminded us that we need to encumber the funds for the online mapping project in this fiscal year. Given that there will be a surplus again in FY20, the Listers will make adjustments in future budgets to lower the request in some areas and increase the amounts for the Reappraisal Reserve Fund. The Listers will also be looking at the cost of changing CAMA software in a future budget request. Lindberg will ask the Finance Office to provide a Listers' Budget Status Report monthly.

9. Approve draft minutes from Listers meeting on June 10, 2020 – review / action

There is a typo in under #7 that needs to be corrected; "Treasure" needs to be changed to "Treasurer." Smith **moved** (2nd Lindberg) to approve the draft minutes of June 10, 2020 with above correction in item #7. **Vote was unanimous.**

10. Next Meeting Date

The Listers will meet again on July 1st and 2nd, 2020 for grievance hearings from 9 AM to 1 PM on both days. As of today, we have received 4 grievance requests. Listers will work with Schuette to draft the information sheets for In-person and Zoom hearings.

11. Adjourn

Smith **moved** (2nd Lindberg) to adjourn the meeting at 3:47 PM. **Vote was unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Lindberg, Chair
Board of Listers