

# GREENWOOD SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES

February 15, 2022

5:00pm

**Selectmen require that masks are worn by anyone attending meeting.**

Topic: Greenwood Board of Selectmen Meeting  
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**Item 1:** Call Meeting to Order - Chair Chapman called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.  
Roll Call: Amy Chapman, Arnold Jordan, Norman A. Milliard, Kim Sparks, and Alan Seames.

**Item 2:** Pledge of Allegiance

**Item 3:** Review and approve:

**Expenditure Warrant # 32** (\$ 134,230.46) covering period Feb. 2, - Feb. 7, 2022  
Includes Voucher 899 payable to MSAD 44 for \$ 97,088.00

**Expenditure Warrant # 33** (\$ 80,263.94) covering period Feb. 8, - Feb. 15, 2022  
Includes Voucher 935 payable to United Insurance for \$ 30,010.00

The Board reviewed Expenditure Warrant # 32 & # 33.

Selectman Milliard motioned and Selectman Jordan seconded to approved Expenditure Warrants # 32 & # 33 as read. Vote: 3-0. Warrants are approved.

**Item 4:** Review and approve minutes of February 1, 2022

The Board reviewed the minutes. Selectman Jordan motioned and Selectman Milliard seconded to approve the minutes as read. Vote: 3-0. Motion passes. Minutes are approved.

**Item 5:** Comments from the Public - None

A. Selectmen contacted outside of meeting – No contact.

**Item 6:** Discussion with Kay Mann, Community Outreach Director, PowerMarket Maine

Kay Mann introduced herself and said that Kim had forwarded the Board the documents that explain how the program works. Kay asked the Board if they understand how this differs from having solar panels on your own roof. Chair Chapman asked if this could be a solar farm located anywhere. Kay answered that it could be anywhere within CMP's territory. Selectman Milliard asked how many farms do they currently have. Kay explained that they have four that are operational at the moment and the fifth one is coming online in April. Kay explained that the current farm they are working on is in Gardiner. Selectman Milliard stated that he has been getting these ads at his home for several different projects. He explained that he just reviewed her flyer and noticed a similarity with all of them in that they do not tell the consumer what is the price per kilowatt hour and asked if she could tell the Board what is her price per kilowatt hour. Kay explained that the price for the kilowatt hour is the published rate for delivery that is published by the Maine Public Utilities Commission. Kay explained that this community solar subscription model is a totally different as it not a competitive supplier that you can compare against the standard offer rate. Kay explained that when solar power is generated by the solar farm and it is applied against your CMP accounts to reduce the amount of kilowatt hours that CMP bills us for each month. Kay explained that whatever that amount is in a given month, PowerMarket will bill you for that same amount of standard offer plus delivery and then they will take 15% off of their invoice. She explained as an example that they would reduce our CMP bill by \$100.00 then we would receive an invoice from them for \$ 85.00. Selectman Milliard stated that it is the same promotional flyer that all of the solar projects are promoting to consumers. Selectman Milliard explained that if the consumer has no ability to make a determination on whether or not to switch because they don't have enough information. Chair Chapman stated that she doesn't think this is switching. Selectman Milliard stated that you would be converting a portion of your traditional bill from CMP to a solar farm. Kay explained that you would still get a bill from CMP but it would be reduced because the solar credits would be applied to reduce it and it is all called net energy billing. She explained that we would be paying less power from the utility and would then pay a portion of that savings to the community solar farm providers. Chair Chapman asked if this is strictly being offered to municipalities or can individuals in the community also subscribe. Kay explained that it is being offered to residential customers and small businesses. She explained that anyone who pays a CMP bill who is in a residential class or small business class can subscribe. Kay explained that the current rate off of the Public Utilities Website is 21.2 a kilowatt hour. Chair Chapman asked what is the downside and what does it mean to subscribe. Kay explained that we would be signing up to get a portion of the power from the solar farm which would be allocated for your usage to reduce our CMP bill. She explained that there is a 60-days clause in the event that in the future we want to cancel we would need to give them 60 days advanced notice and can cancel with no penalty or fees. She explained that the

downside would be that we don't own it so we can't build any equity in it and as CMP rates increase the rate at PowerMarket will also increase. Kay stated that the thing that stays constant is the 15% discount. Chair Chapman stated that we wouldn't be locking in a price but we would be locking in a discount of 15% off of the standard offer price. Chair Chapman stated that if we do nothing then the rates will increase as they always do and we will be paying 100% of our bill and if we subscribe to the solar farm our rates will increase but we will continue to pay 85% of the bill. Chair Chapman asked if the 15% guaranteed in perpetuity. Kay stated that it would be for the length of the contract which is 20 years – as that is the projected life of the contract. Kay explained after the 20 years there would be an option to extend the contract but she thinks that the solar fields are to be returned to their natural state at the end of the 20-year term. Chair Chapman asked if subscribers incur any costs for the decommissioning. Kay explained that the developer is responsible for any decommissioning costs not the subscribers. Selectman Milliard stated that if there is a 60-day notice to cancel, how long does it take an individual or municipality to sign up and have the contract take effect. Kay explained that their current project is expected to go online in April, however some of their projects in the past had delays attributable to CMP. Selectman Jordan asked what is our initial cost to buy into this. Kay stated that there are no initial costs with this model as it is in some other community solar models as you would be buying ownership up front. Kay stated that this model we are considering is like we are renting a condo – someone else builds it, buys it, and pays for it. Selectman Jordan asked how they make their money. Chair Chapman asked what does PowerMarket get. Kay answered that PowerMarket does the billing for the project and are partnered with the developers – Sunraise. She explained that the developers are the ones spending the funds to build these farms and they make their money by selling the power. Kay explained that the developers are sharing their margins with the subscribers.

The Board thanked Kay for all of the information and asked that Kim sign the Town up. Kim stated that she would reach out to Kay to get a copy of the contract for the Board to review.

**Item 7:** Open Public Hearing on Selectmen's Bylaws

Chair Chapman opened the Public Hearing at 5:30pm. There were no comments from the public as there was no one in attendance. Kim stated that the only person who requested a copy of the bylaws was former Selectman, Fred Henderson.

**Item 8:** Close Public Hearing – Having no comments at the hearing, Chair Chapman closed the hearing at 5:26pm.

No changes were made to the Selectmen's Bylaws at the Hearing. The Board signed their Bylaws.

**Item 9:** Executive Session per 1 MRSA 406 (5) (E) Personnel Matters

Selectman Jordan motioned and Selectman Milliard seconded to go into Executive Session per 1 MRSA 406 (5) (E) Personnel Matters at 5:30pm. Vote: 3-0.

Selectman Milliard motioned and Selectman Jordan seconded to come out of Executive Session at 6:00pm. Kim will contact the applicants for the Road Foreman position and schedule interviews for Thursday, Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Item 10:** Comments from the Public- None

**Item 11:** Meetings and Events

Tue., Mar. 1<sup>st</sup> – Selectmen’s Meeting, 5:00pm GTO

Tue., Mar. 15<sup>th</sup> Selectmen’s Meeting, 5:00pm GTO

Thur. Mar. 17<sup>th</sup> – Budget Meeting, 6:00pm GTO

Thur. Mar. 24<sup>th</sup> – Budget Meeting, 6:00pm GTO

**Item 12:** Adjourn - Having no further business, Selectman Milliard motioned and Selectman Jordan seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:05pm. Vote: 3-0. Meeting is adjourned.