

TOWN OF BROWNVILLE

PUBLIC HEARING

Commercial Solar Facilities Moratorium Ordinance
Tuesday, December 20, 2022 ~ Beginning @ 6:00 pm

BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS MEETING MINUTES
Immediately Following the Public Hearing
American Legion Post #92 ~ 67 Railroad Ave. Brownville

PUBLIC HEARING

To hear public comments on a proposed Commercial Solar Facilities Moratorium Ordinance. (Emergency ordinance pursuant Town Charter, Sec 2.11)

Hearing opened at 6:00PM by Felice Lyford, Deputy Clerk

Questions, answers and discussion by members of the town that were present. The concerns were basically about the visual appearance, the disposal of the expired panels and what would be the benefits of allowing this kind of business in areas of our town. Most comments were not in favor of allowing solar farms to be built in our area; therefore, moving forward with a moratorium ordinance to allow additional time to put a permanent ordinance in place. Be watching for additional meetings about the subject as we move through the process.

Closing comments and concerns ended at 6:15pm.

BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS MEETING

1. Board of Selectpersons Meeting Call to Order at 6:17pm by Board Chairperson.
 - a. Selectpersons Present: Byron Weymouth, Shelly Ekholm, Jim Hartin, Kevin Emery (Dean Bellatty absent)
 - b. Employees Present: Felice Lyford, Leesa Coates, Shawn Mitchell, Kevin Black, Crystal Cail,
 - c. Residents/Others Present: Jeff Coates, Mary Brooks, Matt Vachon, Walter Cook, Zac Slagle.

2. Action on Commercial Solar Facilities Moratorium Ordinance
After notice and completion of the required public hearing, a motion to move ahead with Commercial Solar Facilities Moratorium Ordinance by Shelly Ekholm, Second by Kevin Emery, All in favor.

3. Approval of prior meeting minutes from November 15, 2022
Motion to approve prior minutes made by Shelly Ekholm, Second by Kevin Emery, All in favor.

4. Review of the Treasurer's Warrants (Payroll, Accounts Payable, Water/Sewer) Done

5. Revised General Assistance Ordinance (Section 2.2 Special Definitions) A copy of proposed revision was handed out and covered by the Board of Selectpersons.
Motion to except the wording as proposed was made by Shelly Ekholm, Second by Kevin Emery and All in favor.

6. Water/Sewer Foreclosure Quit Claim Deed(s)
Both of the water/sewer foreclosed properties from September have been paid in full including the administrative fees. The Town needs to now release our interest in the properties back to the owners. Legal counsel did weigh in on the wording of Janice Winslow's property since there are heirs and an estate.

Motion to sign a release deed to Richard Bridges, Special Administrator of the Estate of Janice Winslow for 35 Spring Street and a release deed to Cody W Andrews for 32 Page Street by Shelly Ekholm, Second by Kevin Emery, All in favor

7. Revised Job Descriptions – Public Safety Dept

Motion to approve the job descriptions that are completed, as presented, for the following positions: Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief, Fire Captain, Fire Lieutenant, Code Enforcement Officer, Animal Control Officer, EMA Director and Public Safety Officer by Shelly Ekholm, Second by Kevin Emery, All in favor.

8. Department Head Updates

a. Administration

i. Charter Review – Proposed Amendment

Section 6.05 BOARD ACTION ON THE BUDGET
REVISED TO READ AS FOLLOWS

The budget prepared by the Manager shall be reviewed the Board of Selectpersons which shall approve such proposed budget with or without amendment. The Board of Selectpersons may choose to meet with the Town Manager prior to meeting with the Budget Committee; however, it is not a requirement.

Section 6.06 BUDGET COMMITTEE ACTION ON THE BUDGET REVISED TO
READ AS FOLLOWS

The Town Manager and Selectpersons shall meet with the Budget Committee for their review of the budget and recommendations.

Motion to proceed with a charter amendment for Section 6.05 and 6.06, Title: Board action on the Budget as presented by the Town Manager after obtaining input from our attorney on the wording by Shelly Ekholm, Second by Kevin Emery, All in favor

ii. Mileage Reimbursement Rate

Currently at \$.55/mi and Federal rate is \$.625 (due to rising fuel costs)

Motion to increase the mileage reimbursement rate to \$.625 effective January 1, 2023 made by Shelly Ekholm, Second by Kevin Emery, All in favor.

iii. Real Estate Tax Lien Foreclosures

Town Manager presented a list in print to the Board of Selectpersons
Motion to offer foreclosed property back to previous owners for all monies owed on their property including any interest, lien charges, water and sewer fees through the first quarter of 2023 with the addition of a \$250 administrative fee, so long as payment is received in full by the close of business 2/3/2023. Also, if the property owner had been notified of a possible dangerous building violation, they would be required to correct the problem within a 90-day period by Shelly Ekholm Second by Kevin Emery All in favor

iv. Budget Committee Appointments & Meetings

Returning members are Marie McSwine, Gary Chapman, and Mike Washburn.
Scheduled meetings are for 1/3, 1/10, 1/24 and 1/31/2023

Motion to appoint the following people to the Budget Committee: Lynn Weston, Leesa Coates and Jeff Coates made by Shelly Ekholm, Second by Kevin Emery, All in favor.

b. Public Works

PSWC and MRC updates

c. Public Safety

i. 2023 Fire Dept Officer Appointments

Motion to make the following officer appointments in the Fire Department effective January 1, 2023 – March 21, 2023 made by Shelly Ekholm, Second Kevin Emery and All in favor:

Shawn Mitchell, Fire Chief
Kevin Black, Assistant Fire Chief
Matthew Vachon, Fire Lieutenant
Zachary Slagle, Fire Lieutenant

ii. Fire Station & American Legion (Shelter) Generators

As discussed at previous meetings, the two generators that were installed in September were partially funded through FEMA/EMPG grants, County ARPA funds and Town ARPA funds. Due to the length of time between initial quotes and the actual approval and installation, the cost of the generators increased. Shawn resubmitted the updated invoiced amounts to FEMA/EMPG and were approved for the increase for their 50% portion. The County was also happy to pay the increase in their 50% portion as well. Subsequently (after the invoices were resubmitted), we received an unanticipated invoice from Graves for the connection to propane at the American Legion. We were unaware of the added cost to make the connection to propane, along with a requirement to purchase a larger tank for a total bill of \$1,714.00. The Village Fire Station had an adequate tank; therefore, there wasn't a large unanticipated invoice for the propane hookup, but there was for the generator and installation itself.

Previously the Board approved \$3,962.50 from ARPA for 50% cost of the Village Fire Station Generator. The reflected actual 50% cost is \$4,797.22 for a difference of \$834.72. My recommendation would be to take the additional cost of the Village Fire Station Generator from ARPA as well as the additional cost of the American Legion Generator of \$1,214.00 from ARPA (we were able to charge \$500 from EMA Small Equipment and absorb it in that budget). Here's a breakdown on a spreadsheet:

Motion to pay a total of \$2,048.72 (834.72+1214.00) for the additional cost associated with both generators installed at the Village Fire Station and the American Legion, out of the ARPA funds made by Shelly Ekholm, Second by Kevin Emery and All in favor.

d. Parks & Recreation

i. After School Program Request

The YMCA had funding to offer an afterschool program (previously at the Milo Town Hall) last school year. The funding ran out, and they had to start charging for the program. Because the fees are too expensive for the majority of families, their participation dropped significantly. In an effort to offer the program at an affordable rate (\$5, \$10 or \$20/week depending on their ability to pay), Dawn McLaughlin reached out to the school and Milo Rec Dept as the Milo Town Hall was no longer an option to host the program. The school is allowing them to use Milo Elementary, and the Milo Rec Dept has accepted the program under their umbrella. The program is being offered to students within the MSAD #41 system, and Dawn is requesting any support Brownville is able to provide. I'm enclosing the program summary and estimated costs she provided me. I know that Tradewinds donated \$10,000 and Bissell Brothers was approached but hadn't set an amount last I knew. It is Dawn's plan to apply for grant funding to sustain the program in future years. Crystal asked what their current student breakdown is by town (LaGrange=2, LakeView=2, Brownville=13, Milo=15, 8 open slots, for a Total of 40). If we figure a %, Brownville currently has 41%. If we took the Total estimated cost of \$24,615 minus the \$10,000 donation, Brownville's 41% would be close to \$6,000 (there are likely going to be many more donations beyond the \$10,000). After talking to Crystal more, we are suggesting a \$3,000 contribution for the remainder of this year as well as offering some staffing hours at the program (to be

paid out of our payroll) to help defray the costs. It would be acceptable to use ARPA funds for this expense.

Motion to contribute \$3,000 from ARPA to the After School Program as well as offer some of our Rec staff to work at the program to help defray the costs made by Shelly Ekholm, Second by Kevin Emery, All in favor.

e. Water/Sewer

After attending the Zoom meeting with DEP to hear about the implementation of the new law that would prohibit DEP from issuing any Septage Land Permits in the future, it was our opinion the state will be moving in a direction that will prevent us (and many others) from spreading on our fields going forward. We will need to be mindful of options around the state. It will likely leave us with significant increased costs to haul or treat our septage.

9. Open Session:

An issue of vandalism at the Rec Dept ball field was talked about and it may be to the benefit of the town to install cameras that have internet access to monitor activities in a timely manner. To be discussed in a future town meeting.

10. Next Meeting – Regular schedule would fall on Tuesday, January 17th at 6PM. The Manager will post an executive session to conduct her annual performance evaluation, and search for a blank evaluation form to provide to the Board.

11. Adjournment

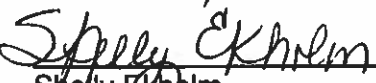
Motion to adjourn at 7:37pm by Shelly Ekholm, Second by Kevin Emery, All in favor

Respectfully submitted,
Leesa Coates
Selectpersons Secretary


Byron Weymouth, Chairperson


Kevin Emery


James Hartin


Shelly Ekholm

Dean Bellatty