

Selectboard Meeting

December 16, 2025 . 6:23 PM . ID: 233643381

Transcript

00:01 - 00:03

Selectboard Office

The conference will now be recorded.

00:05 - 00:07

Selectboard Office

So he's just so real, he's definitely not going to be here, right?

00:08 - 00:17

Selectboard Office

I don't, unless he's on Zoom then, I don't think so, but his truck was still at the highway so he's still at the fire, I think.

00:18 - 00:19

Selectboard Office

Yeah, okay.

00:29 - 00:32

Selectboard Office

All right, 6.30, we might as well get rolling here.

00:33 - 00:38

Selectboard Office

It should be a mercifully short meeting, at least from my standpoint, going into my second week with this cold.

00:39 - 00:40

Selectboard Office

But you never know.

00:40 - 00:48

Selectboard Office

You never you never absolutely This is not planning board if you've tuned in for that they had their fun this morning.

00:52 - 00:58

Selectboard Office

So first up on the agenda we just want to talk with with you guys with a change in command.

01:00 - 01:07

Selectboard Office

And you know take the lead on this sure So, Tim, I don't think we've met, I'm dead.

01:07 - 01:07

Selectboard Office

I'm dead.

01:08 - 01:09

Selectboard Office

I'm not.

01:09 - 01:09

Selectboard Office

Come over here.

01:10 - 01:10

Selectboard Office

Last summer.

01:11 - 01:11

Selectboard Office

Up by your house.

01:11 - 01:12

Selectboard Office

Okay.

01:12 - 01:13

Selectboard Office

Sorry.

01:13 - 01:14

Selectboard Office

Sorry.

01:14 - 01:15

Selectboard Office

Thank you.

01:15 - 01:16

Selectboard Office

Well, it's nice to see you.

01:16 - 01:18

Selectboard Office

Thanks for coming in and thanks for coming in.

01:19 - 01:25

Selectboard Office

And I guess the way I want to start off is to say thank you for your service, Devin.

01:25 - 01:35

Selectboard Office

In my mind you have just done an awful lot to sort of pull things back together from the Highway Department.

01:35 - 02:23

Selectboard Office

I, you know, I was just a citizen of this fine town when you joined the Highway Department and I've just seen a remarkable difference about the sort of the attitude and the way that everybody is pulling together and I think that it's tough to come in and it's only been a year and so it's a hard thing and I think that you've done a remarkable job and we are all very sorry to see you go so I just want to say thank you

for your service and we all wish you the best and I'm pretty sure we all have your cell phone number so you may want block some of us.

02:26 - 03:14

Selectboard Office

But I also you know you were on the hiring or those the interview committee for for the next highway chief and just wanted you guys to know that everybody on the hiring panel on the interview panel just that Rial really showed remarkable character and maturity and we really think that we are very lucky that he's spent time in both Chesterfield and here and worked with you Devin and I know that you've done a really nice job mentoring him and that you will continue to do that a lot of time but yes I know you haven't had a lot of time but I think he's somebody you won't block so So.

03:14 - 03:23

Selectboard Office

We just wanted to bring you all in, see how you're feeling, and let you know what kind of our expectations are.

03:24 - 04:46

Selectboard Office

And for me, for my expectations, it's what you've been doing is to continue to work as a team and to think about safety first for yourselves, then for the residents of this and then for for service and that I think is really the the job that you that you all do so well and that we're looking free for you to continue continue doing so I'm gonna can I say what that and so we're changing who the liaison is to the highway department and so now it's gonna be me and both Devon and we all have my cell phone number and you too can all that please I want you have it and Christine and I'm gonna be making making a pest of myself I'll be stopping by and just seeing how you are but but seeing how everything's going but it doesn't you know if there are any issues I have I've been supervised and I've supervised for a very long time so I know that no matter how close you are and no matter what your what protocols you have inside sometimes personalities happen and sometimes it's hard to resolve among yourselves and I'll be there for you as a neutral party if there are ever any issues.

04:47 - 04:56

Selectboard Office

If you're going to have those disagreements, I'd prefer that they happen not in the middle of the night during a snowstorm, but if they do, that's fine too.

04:58 - 05:20

Selectboard Office

So I guess also I want to thank you two for doing such a great job this summer and for the time that, Travis, you're new, but so you haven't worked here that long, but thank you for all the service that you have provided and what you've done to keep things going in the town.

05:20 - 05:31

Selectboard Office

I thank you for such a small crew you all do and for so many roads and different services and all the stuff you have to deal with, you all do a remarkable job and I appreciate it, so.

05:33 - 05:34

Selectboard Office

That's all I wanted to say.

05:35 - 05:38

Selectboard Office

So it was certainly reiterate most of what you had to say, if not all.

05:39 - 05:46

Selectboard Office

I think it's important we're not a big enough town to have an HR person.

05:47 - 05:51

Selectboard Office

Kirsten kind of functions that way, particularly in terms of logistics.

05:52 - 06:12

Selectboard Office

But I think just to reiterate what Deb said, if there are problems, you guys ought to feel free to call really any of us, but certainly start with Deb, or in reality, start with Rial, and if you're having trouble working things out, don't be afraid to call somebody, any one of us really, to help.

06:13 - 06:16

Selectboard Office

So we don't have a lot of people working here.

06:18 - 06:19

Selectboard Office

So Ted, you're the old guy.

06:22 - 06:23

Selectboard Office

You're the OG, I guess.

06:24 - 06:27

Selectboard Office

Kind of scary, huh?

06:29 - 06:31

Selectboard Office

And by old he meant seasoned.

06:32 - 06:33

Selectboard Office

Yes, of course.

06:37 - 06:58

Selectboard Office

Most experience And just because she's a liaison as Charlie said if You bump into any of us and have and there's something that you want to say just you know Tell me I will get back in touch with Dev and reality and say oh, you know I ran into Travis and he mentioned blah blah blah, you know, just so don't feel like oh.

06:58 - 07:01

Selectboard Office

You know, that's Amy or that's Charlie I should wait till I speak to Deb.

07:01 - 07:08

Selectboard Office

No, if it's something you need to speak to somebody about right now Just and you

see me see Charlie Speak.

07:08 - 07:08

Selectboard Office

Right.

07:09 - 07:23

Selectboard Office

And we've tried to work real hard on our own sort of inner communication To not be siloing and just talking to one person and not sharing that with each other so that we don't know who's tapping about what, so, if possible.

07:26 - 07:29

Selectboard Office

So I think, you know, that's the main idea, right?

07:29 - 07:30

Selectboard Office

Yep, just...

07:30 - 07:33

Selectboard Office

You guys have anything you want to ask about or concerns?

07:34 - 07:36

Selectboard Office

I don't want to let anyone know.

07:36 - 07:37

Selectboard Office

Okay.

07:38 - 07:40

Selectboard Office

We appreciate you taking some extra time in the evening.

07:40 - 07:42

Selectboard Office

Normally, you'd be home, obviously, by now.

07:43 - 07:44

Selectboard Office

Unless there was a snowstorm.

07:46 - 07:50

Selectboard Office

Yeah, I know we're gonna be short a person.

07:51 - 08:01

Selectboard Office

Do you guys think that you have the resources other than to to get the job done during storms and then you have it.

08:01 - 08:04

Selectboard Office

Yeah, so yeah and I was gonna comment on that before.

08:05 - 08:10

Selectboard Office

Yeah, so we may be that way for a while, we'll have to talk about it.

08:10 - 08:20

Selectboard Office

Like, everybody's struggling with budgets and certainly, you know, the town has here and we did manage to balance the budget when all is said and done now.

08:22 - 08:30

Selectboard Office

But I think we're seriously going to have to think about whether we're going to want to, you know, hire a fourth person or not, so the decision hasn't been made yet.

08:31 - 08:33

Selectboard Office

We'll be discussing it in the next few weeks.

08:34 - 08:38

Selectboard Office

And we do have two hire trucks for back roads.

08:38 - 08:39

Selectboard Office

We're going to contractors.

08:39 - 08:40

Selectboard Office

I noticed that.

08:40 - 08:42

Selectboard Office

Yeah, and there's one more room eating tomorrow.

08:42 - 08:43

Selectboard Office

Oh, that's great.

08:43 - 08:52

Selectboard Office

So well that worked out Okay, yeah, that's okay Okay, I don't know these things Are these people with a pump before?

08:54 - 08:56

Selectboard Office

Limited budget is one of them.

08:56 - 09:13

Selectboard Office

So they Plowed around me, you know, I haven't done the roads before and then another guy's out of Huntington Connor Grogan and He plowed driveways before, so, but he did, they all, they plowed last storm and it was, it was fine.

09:14 - 09:14

Selectboard Office

Okay.

09:15 - 09:18

Selectboard Office

So limited budget, somebody with a suite of trucks or?

09:18 - 09:19

Selectboard Office

No, they have one truck.

09:19 - 09:21

Selectboard Office

It's parked at the highway now.

09:21 - 09:23

Selectboard Office

And the kid's out in Chester.

09:23 - 09:27

Selectboard Office

He'll come up and, you know, do it.

09:27 - 09:27

Selectboard Office

Okay.

09:27 - 09:28

Selectboard Office

So will they have set routes?

09:29 - 09:29

Selectboard Office

Yep.

09:30 - 09:31

Selectboard Office

So what routes have you got them on?

09:31 - 09:39

Selectboard Office

Well, a kid from limited budgets on West Worthington and Connor starts out in South Worthington.

09:40 - 09:44

Selectboard Office

So West Worthington is like Bashnell and Parrish.

09:45 - 09:47

Selectboard Office

Yeah, Lindsay Hill.

09:49 - 09:55

Selectboard Office

Then they meet up down towards Kennebrook, you know, wherever is left.

09:56 - 09:57

Selectboard Office

That's where they all end up.

09:57 - 10:00

Selectboard Office

So these guys were doing most of the dirt roads, is that what amounts to?

10:03 - 10:08

Selectboard Office

And once they're froze like they are now, you know, we can do them with the big trucks too, so.

10:11 - 10:13

Selectboard Office

Okay, well that's good news.

10:13 - 10:16

Selectboard Office

So yeah, it should work.

10:18 - 10:18

[speaker unknown]

Out.

10:19 - 10:25

Selectboard Office

I have been contacting the people that have been applying for the job.

10:27 - 10:31

Selectboard Office

Most of them are just applying for their own employment.

10:31 - 10:33

Selectboard Office

So they've proved that they've looked.

10:33 - 10:34

Selectboard Office

Yeah, that's it.

10:34 - 10:36

Selectboard Office

Yeah, well, that's.

10:38 - 10:42

Selectboard Office

Anybody that has any experience maybe from East Hampton.

10:42 - 10:43

Selectboard Office

Yeah.

10:43 - 10:51

Selectboard Office

Okay, you know, he's in Boston right now Doing a job Till you know on and off until christmas.

10:51 - 10:51

Selectboard Office

Okay.

10:54 - 10:57

Selectboard Office

All the ones haven't got back to me.

11:01 - 11:02

Selectboard Office

Okay.

11:04 - 11:07

Selectboard Office

Great we also got you on speed dial i-o.

11:09 - 11:11

Selectboard Office

We all know where he lives too.

11:12 - 11:12

Selectboard Office

We all know where he lives.

11:15 - 11:20

Selectboard Office

When he's out in bed at three in the morning, we don't know where to find him.

11:22 - 11:24

Selectboard Office

No, Real's, you know, Real's good.

11:25 - 11:26

Selectboard Office

He'll give 110%.

11:27 - 11:28

Selectboard Office

Yeah, I'm sure he will.

11:28 - 11:33

Selectboard Office

You know, he's young and there is a lot of things he needs to learn.

11:34 - 11:43

Selectboard Office

And hoping, you know, if these guys can help teach him, If they see he's doing something that can really be improved, you know, show them.

11:46 - 11:47

Selectboard Office

You know, work with them.

11:48 - 11:48

Selectboard Office

Yeah.

11:49 - 11:51

Selectboard Office

He's not afraid to work, I don't think.

11:52 - 11:53

Selectboard Office

No, he's not.

11:53 - 11:53

Selectboard Office

Yeah.

11:53 - 11:56

Selectboard Office

No, as long as you don't condemn him and beat him down, he'll do fine.

11:59 - 12:00

Selectboard Office

We won't do that.

12:05 - 12:06

Selectboard Office

Okay.

12:06 - 12:13

Selectboard Office

Cause when I, well, when I got there a year ago, I walked in to an attitude.

12:13 - 12:14

Selectboard Office

It was less than satisfactory.

12:15 - 12:15

Selectboard Office

Yes.

12:16 - 12:16

Selectboard Office

I recall.

12:16 - 12:27

Selectboard Office

And, and it didn't, you know, hopefully, you know, during the spring, we terminated one full-time employee and I was hoping everything would go smooth.

12:27 - 12:28

Selectboard Office

And it didn't.

12:30 - 12:32

Selectboard Office

So the attitude stayed.

12:35 - 12:43

Selectboard Office

So, you know, hopefully this is the end of the attitude and things will work out now.

12:43 - 12:44

Selectboard Office

Yeah, well, that's important.

12:48 - 13:00

Selectboard Office

It didn't, you know, it made a very toxic workplace and then, you know, it just wasn't a friendly atmosphere there for a while.

13:00 - 13:02

Selectboard Office

Yeah, well, nobody wants to work there.

13:09 - 13:16

Selectboard Office

Yeah, because that will not be satisfactory, you know, a toxic workplace is nothing, so.

13:19 - 13:19

[speaker unknown]

Yeah.

13:21 - 13:25

Selectboard Office

Yeah, you guys work hard, you should make work a place that you want to be.

13:29 - 13:30

[speaker unknown]

Okay.

13:30 - 13:31

Selectboard Office

Anything else?

13:32 - 13:32

Selectboard Office

All right, good.

13:32 - 13:33

Selectboard Office

Thank you guys very much.

13:33 - 13:34

Selectboard Office

Thank you guys.

13:34 - 13:35

Selectboard Office

Thanks for coming in.

13:35 - 13:39

Selectboard Office

You're welcome to stay for the rest of the week.

13:39 - 13:41

Selectboard Office

For a really good time.

13:41 - 13:42

Selectboard Office

We're doing liquor licenses next.

13:43 - 13:43

Selectboard Office

It's really fun.

13:45 - 13:47

Selectboard Office

The town has like 14.

13:47 - 13:49

Selectboard Office

We only use like three.

13:49 - 13:50

Selectboard Office

I know.

13:50 - 13:51

Selectboard Office

Thank you guys.

13:52 - 13:52

Selectboard Office

See you tomorrow.

13:53 - 13:53

Selectboard Office

Maybe.

13:58 - 14:02

Selectboard Office

For the size of our town, the number of liquor licenses we're allowed to have is just extraordinary.

14:04 - 14:07

Selectboard Office

Yeah, like 10% of the town can take care of themselves.

14:10 - 14:13

Selectboard Office

Okay, so with everybody on the planning board.

14:15 - 14:23

Selectboard Office

So how about I'll call these out one at a time, and then somebody can make a motion and we can move forward from that.

14:23 - 14:31

Selectboard Office

So first up is retail package goods at It must be Corners Grocery, I assume.

14:32 - 14:33

Selectboard Office

Yeah, two-pack or common.

14:34 - 14:35

Selectboard Office

Corners Grocery and Cafe.

14:36 - 14:47

Selectboard Office

So I move that we approve the liquor license for retail sales for Corners Store as well.

14:47 - 14:48

Selectboard Office

Corners Grocery and Cafe.

14:48 - 14:50

Selectboard Office

Corners Grocery and Cafe.

14:50 - 14:51

Selectboard Office

Second.

14:52 - 14:53

Selectboard Office

Any discussion?

14:55 - 14:56

Selectboard Office

All in favor?

14:56 - 14:57

Selectboard Office

Aye.

14:58 - 15:01

Selectboard Office

Do we all sign them or do you just, okay, all right, I can't remember, I knew.

15:05 - 15:05

Selectboard Office

It.

15:05 - 15:10

Selectboard Office

All right, next up is Senors, so Farm Brewery, Pouring Permit.

15:12 - 15:16

Selectboard Office

He's got, and we also have an entertainment license, I guess we'll take them one at a time.

15:17 - 15:20

Selectboard Office

So Farm Brewery, Pouring Permit for Sena, Farm Brewery.

15:21 - 15:25

Selectboard Office

Okay, so I move that we approve the, I wish I had a copy of it, but.

15:25 - 15:26

Selectboard Office

Oh, sorry.

15:28 - 15:35

Selectboard Office

I move that we approve the permit, the license for Sena's Farm Brewery Pouring Permit.

15:36 - 15:36

Selectboard Office

Okay.

15:37 - 15:38

Selectboard Office

I second.

15:39 - 15:40

Selectboard Office

Discussion?

15:41 - 15:42

Selectboard Office

All in favor?

15:42 - 15:42

Selectboard Office

Aye.

15:43 - 15:43

Selectboard Office

Aye.

15:44 - 15:44

Selectboard Office

Okay.

15:44 - 15:49

Selectboard Office

And then we have the entertainment license for the same premises.

15:50 - 15:55

Selectboard Office

So I move that we approve the entertainment license for Sena Farm Brewery.

15:55 - 16:02

Selectboard Office

And these are Monday through Saturday entertainment license if there's a Sunday.

16:06 - 16:07

Selectboard Office

So all in favor.

16:17 - 16:47

Selectboard Office

This is the thing with Peggy not being here usually she gives us copies over all of it So we all know what we're looking at because obviously I cannot remember from one moment to the next what it was i just said i think of the paper we're saying yes okay all right so next up is the golf club and this is a common visual license which means they sell food as well as alcohol right so i move that we approve the common vigilance license for the uh wordington golf club for on-premise consumption.

16:47 - 16:48

Selectboard Office

I second.

16:49 - 16:49

Selectboard Office

Discussion?

16:50 - 16:51

Selectboard Office

All in favor?

16:51 - 16:52

Selectboard Office

Aye.

16:58 - 16:59

Selectboard Office

Go ahead.

16:59 - 17:03

Selectboard Office

So the next one is the entertainment license, okay.

17:04 - 17:08

Selectboard Office

So again, it's the entertainment license Monday through Saturday for the Worthington Golf Club.

17:09 - 17:13

Selectboard Office

I move that we approve the entertainment license as stated.

17:13 - 17:13

Selectboard Office

Second.

17:14 - 17:15

Selectboard Office

Discussion?

17:15 - 17:16

Selectboard Office

Question?

17:16 - 17:17

Selectboard Office

All in favor?

17:17 - 17:18

Selectboard Office

Aye.

17:41 - 17:45

Selectboard Office

So next is common vitrular entertainment for the Golden Rod.

17:46 - 17:47

Selectboard Office

Yes, okay.

17:47 - 17:48

Selectboard Office

They don't have a Sunday one?

17:48 - 17:51

Selectboard Office

I don't remember if they used to do Sunday one.

17:52 - 17:52

Selectboard Office

Okay.

17:52 - 17:52

Selectboard Office

All right.

17:53 - 18:01

Selectboard Office

So I move that we approve the common vitrular license for on-premises consumption for the Golden Rod country in.

18:01 - 18:02

Selectboard Office

I second.

18:06 - 18:06

[speaker unknown]

Discussion?

18:06 - 18:07

Selectboard Office

All in favor?

18:07 - 18:07

Selectboard Office

Aye.

18:10 - 18:12

Selectboard Office

I think they could always come back for the Sunday one.

18:12 - 18:13

Selectboard Office

Yes.

18:13 - 18:14

Selectboard Office

The liquor licenses need to get done.

18:14 - 18:17

Selectboard Office

The entertainment licenses are so tight.

18:18 - 18:23

Selectboard Office

And so this is an entertainment license Monday through Saturday for the Goldenrod.

18:24 - 18:29

Selectboard Office

So I approve, I move that we approve the entertainment license for the Goldenrod Country Inn.

18:31 - 18:33

Selectboard Office

Discussion, in favor?

18:34 - 18:34

Selectboard Office

Aye.

18:34 - 18:34

Selectboard Office

Aye.

18:37 - 18:40

Selectboard Office

Actually, let me give it to Deb and then we can give it back to you.

18:40 - 18:41

Selectboard Office

You can file it and sign it.

18:41 - 18:42

Selectboard Office

Yeah, sounds good.

18:42 - 18:43

Selectboard Office

You can have these two.

18:45 - 18:50

Selectboard Office

Okay, this is like...

18:50 - 18:51

Selectboard Office

So next is Liston's.

18:51 - 18:54

Selectboard Office

Next is Liston's.

18:55 - 19:02

Selectboard Office

So I move that we approve the common vigilance license for on-premises

consumption for Liston's bar and restaurant.

19:03 - 19:04

Selectboard Office

I second.

19:06 - 19:07

[speaker unknown]

Discussion?

19:07 - 19:08

Selectboard Office

All in favor?

19:08 - 19:09

Selectboard Office

Aye.

19:09 - 19:10

Selectboard Office

Aye.

19:12 - 19:13

Selectboard Office

I'm forgetting my name.

19:13 - 19:26

Selectboard Office

And this is the entertainment license Monday through Saturday for Liston's bar and restaurant I move that we approve this entertainment license as Second.

19:30 - 19:30

[speaker unknown]

Discussion?

19:31 - 19:31

Selectboard Office

All in favor?

19:32 - 19:32

Selectboard Office

Aye.

19:34 - 19:36

Selectboard Office

So here are the Sunday licenses.

19:39 - 19:41

Selectboard Office

So there's Sunday licenses for all three.

19:41 - 19:43

Selectboard Office

Oh, OK, all right.

19:50 - 19:51

Selectboard Office

So thanks.

19:53 - 19:54

Selectboard Office

So move them one by one.

19:55 - 19:59

Selectboard Office

So I move that this is a Sunday license for Siena Farm Brewery.

19:59 - 20:03

Selectboard Office

I move that we approve the Sunday entertainment license for Siena Farm.

20:06 - 20:06

[speaker unknown]

Gotcha.

20:08 - 20:09

Selectboard Office

All in favor?

20:09 - 20:09

Selectboard Office

Aye.

20:10 - 20:10

Selectboard Office

Aye.

20:10 - 20:12

Selectboard Office

I think only you signed this.

20:12 - 20:15

Selectboard Office

Yeah, only one signature.

20:16 - 20:20

Selectboard Office

This is a Sunday license for Liston's restaurant.

20:23 - 20:24

Selectboard Office

Yeah.

20:26 - 20:26

Selectboard Office

Second.

20:38 - 20:44

Selectboard Office

Here's the Sunday entertainment license for the Worthington Club I move that we

approve it.

20:44 - 20:45

Selectboard Office

Second.

20:47 - 20:47

[speaker unknown]

Discussion?

20:48 - 20:48

Selectboard Office

All in favor?

20:48 - 20:49

Selectboard Office

Aye.

20:51 - 20:57

Selectboard Office

And last but not least I move that we approve the Sunday entertainment license for the Golden Rod Country Inn.

20:57 - 20:58

Selectboard Office

Second.

20:59 - 20:59

Selectboard Office

Discussion?

21:00 - 21:01

Selectboard Office

All in favor?

21:01 - 21:02

Selectboard Office

Aye.

21:05 - 21:06

Selectboard Office

I was contentious.

21:07 - 21:07

Selectboard Office

Oh I know.

21:08 - 21:08

Selectboard Office

It usually is.

21:09 - 21:11

Selectboard Office

Yeah it's like what they're going to do Why are you reading?

21:12 - 21:17

Selectboard Office

All right, so this is Dean Messick's used car dealer license.

21:18 - 21:21

Selectboard Office

Again, this is an annual thing that we consider.

21:26 - 21:28

Selectboard Office

I don't know if you guys need to look at it, or do you want to make a motion?

21:29 - 21:29

Selectboard Office

Yeah.

21:30 - 21:31

Selectboard Office

It's the same over here.

21:32 - 21:33

Selectboard Office

Right, but what's the second page?

21:34 - 21:40

Selectboard Office

Oh, this is, we would have to sign something here, which I'm not sure what that means.

21:41 - 21:41

Selectboard Office

Let's see.

21:43 - 21:45

Selectboard Office

Let you indicate it on that.

21:45 - 21:46

Selectboard Office

Excuse me on this.

21:49 - 21:51

Selectboard Office

And this is for him to display.

21:51 - 21:53

Selectboard Office

All right.

21:54 - 21:55

Selectboard Office

This is the application.

21:56 - 21:57

Selectboard Office

I don't know what it has.

21:57 - 21:58

Selectboard Office

Signatures.

21:58 - 21:58

Selectboard Office

Both.

21:59 - 22:00

Selectboard Office

But we will assign both.

22:00 - 22:00

Selectboard Office

Okay.

22:00 - 22:01

Selectboard Office

All right.

22:01 - 22:11

Selectboard Office

So I believe that we approved the used car dealers license class 2 to buy and sell secondhand motor vehicles for Dean Messick excavating.

22:12 - 22:13

Selectboard Office

Second.

22:13 - 22:14

Selectboard Office

May I?

22:14 - 22:15

Selectboard Office

Absolutely.

22:15 - 22:16

Selectboard Office

Thank you.

22:21 - 22:21

Selectboard Office

I seconded.

22:22 - 22:23

Selectboard Office

I'm just looking.

22:23 - 22:23

Selectboard Office

Okay.

22:23 - 22:24

Selectboard Office

Discussion?

22:25 - 22:25

Selectboard Office

You're looking so...

22:26 - 22:26

Selectboard Office

It's okay.

22:27 - 22:28

Selectboard Office

I'm just curious.

22:28 - 22:29

Selectboard Office

All right.

22:29 - 22:30

Selectboard Office

So all in favor?

22:30 - 22:30

Selectboard Office

Aye.

22:30 - 22:33

Selectboard Office

All right, so you could sign it.

22:33 - 22:35

Selectboard Office

We all sign those both of them.

22:35 - 22:36

Selectboard Office

We'll sign it here.

22:37 - 22:39

Selectboard Office

Yeah, sign the white one and the green one for whatever reason.

22:39 - 22:41

Selectboard Office

I don't know what the white one is exactly.

22:42 - 22:42

Selectboard Office

The white one is the application.

22:42 - 22:43

Selectboard Office

The actual application.

22:49 - 22:53

Selectboard Office

Because these are applications to the town and the other stuff is applications to the state.

22:53 - 22:54

Selectboard Office

Oh yes.

23:11 - 23:12

Selectboard Office

Okay.

23:12 - 23:13

Selectboard Office

Sons at 740 Old North Road.

23:14 - 23:15

Selectboard Office

And again, this is an annual.

23:15 - 23:20

Selectboard Office

So I move that we approve the motor vehicle junk license class three for Granger and Sons.

23:21 - 23:23

Selectboard Office

I second that motion.

23:24 - 23:25

Selectboard Office

Okay, any discussion?

23:27 - 23:28

Selectboard Office

All in favor?

23:39 - 23:39

Selectboard Office

Yeah.

23:41 - 23:46

Selectboard Office

I know these paper clips are like, it's like having a hang down, you know.

24:06 - 24:14

Selectboard Office

That concludes the licensure portion of the meeting, which leaves us with really just a couple of things.

24:17 - 24:20

Selectboard Office

As far as the agenda goes, primarily we want to talk about.

24:23 - 24:29

Selectboard Office

So most of this stuff is not really necessary.

24:29 - 24:42

Selectboard Office

We really just want to talk to the planning board about your plans and whether we want to try to schedule a meeting that includes all the relevant boards that discuss the application which was accepted today.

24:44 - 25:08

Selectboard Office

So today we deemed the site plan review application complete and we also voted to accept the agreement from Blue Wave to merge the site plan review process and the special permit process into one process that is governed by the hearing that got continued to January 8th.

25:08 - 25:27

Selectboard Office

So from our perspective, that means that the 65-day clock that applies to site plan review is no longer there and rolled into the special permit process, which has no clocks and just continue until there's no more evidence to gather.

25:27 - 25:32

Selectboard Office

So does the special permit have to be accepted in the same way that the, no.

25:43 - 25:51

Selectboard Office

I guess I'm not totally sure what, I totally forgot to ask about the notion of a sort of all boards meeting.

25:52 - 25:53

Selectboard Office

So who are the other relevant boards?

25:53 - 25:56

Selectboard Office

Come and health, obviously, right?

25:57 - 26:25

Selectboard Office

Yeah those are the first ones highway department I'm interested so when the court of the bylaws when the application is deemed the second review application has been complete I then distribute it to the list of people in the bylaws including highway fire police concomm door health building inspector you guys something board I think I'm gonna I think I've decided to include the assessors although they're not listed in the bylaws I think that's everybody that I can't quite remember.

26:26 - 26:26

Selectboard Office

Fire, too.

26:26 - 26:27

Selectboard Office

Oh, he mentioned it.

26:28 - 26:29

Selectboard Office

You did an article, sorry.

26:29 - 26:29

Selectboard Office

Fire police.

26:30 - 26:31

Selectboard Office

Okay, go ahead.

26:33 - 26:37

Selectboard Office

Katrin told me I didn't have to do that today, so I did other things.

26:38 - 26:39

Selectboard Office

But tomorrow I'll send that out.

26:42 - 26:45

Selectboard Office

You know, in a small project, that would start a clock ticking.

26:46 - 26:47

Selectboard Office

We'd give them 35 days to respond.

26:47 - 26:50

Selectboard Office

If they didn't respond, then we would assume they'd have nothing to say.

26:51 - 27:01

Selectboard Office

This project, that is, those clocks went away because of the whole merging with a special permit thing, but also it's big enough that I'll probably call the highway

department and be like, you sure you have nothing to say?

27:02 - 27:14

Selectboard Office

Just so that we know, because there's no, that one's, you know, the clock is just so that we don't have to sit around and wait and not know and people don't respond or whatever, it's the main key here.

27:16 - 27:19

Selectboard Office

This is different, it's not like.

27:21 - 27:26

Selectboard Office

There's no reason it can't be longer than 35 days, It just allows us to do that.

27:30 - 27:31

Selectboard Office

So I don't know.

27:34 - 27:37

Selectboard Office

I think it's reasonable to meet with all the boards.

27:38 - 27:40

Selectboard Office

I don't know.

27:41 - 27:45

Selectboard Office

So would it be helpful to do that before you're hearing on the 8th or not necessarily?

27:45 - 27:49

Selectboard Office

I think that not necessarily.

27:49 - 27:52

Selectboard Office

I think that I'm continuing to be caught in this.

27:52 - 27:56

Selectboard Office

We deemed it complete, but the application is not sufficient.

27:57 - 28:02

Selectboard Office

We sent them a bunch of questions back in, I don't know, but a few weeks ago.

28:02 - 28:04

Selectboard Office

I can't remember quite what it was.

28:05 - 28:14

Selectboard Office

And we have a couple responses because those were things that we have the lease or at least the redacted version, and we have their insurance coverage page.

28:15 - 28:28

Selectboard Office

Those were things that they felt were actually relevant to completeness determination, And so they got them to us, but I'm pretty sure they're working on other things like they did a balloon test So I assume they're gonna give us a report.

28:30 - 28:42

Selectboard Office

I Do wonder if they're not working to move the one of the equipment pads out of the water supply protection district I don't know that but it it feels like They sort of asked about it in a kind of funny way.

28:42 - 28:44

Selectboard Office

So I think they're probably working on that.

28:46 - 29:03

Selectboard Office

So initially initially I was thinking they'd get those answers back to us really quickly and then we were gonna have this hearing on the 8th where I wasn't quite sure we were gonna be ready, but now I'm starting to feel like they haven't gotten them to us, so we're gonna have to take some time to review their answers, and that can be our conversation on the 8th.

29:04 - 29:14

Selectboard Office

And also, I've always been a little bit trepidatious at sending all the departments things that are sort of half-baked, and I'm gonna do it.

29:16 - 29:23

Selectboard Office

But if they very quickly come back with a new set of plans that move the equipment pad that might affect somebody.

29:24 - 29:27

Selectboard Office

So it's going to get confusing just because there's going to be inversions.

29:29 - 29:35

Selectboard Office

So I guess what I'm trying to get at is somewhere around the 8th would make sense.

29:35 - 29:37

Selectboard Office

But I kind of want them to have responded.

29:38 - 29:45

Selectboard Office

It's sort of weird to have this set of questions that are actually pretty important hanging out there without answers.

29:46 - 29:54

Selectboard Office

It would be nice to get those, but we could also just have a conversation once we've given people a little bit of time to chew on them.

29:55 - 30:04

Selectboard Office

So we're going to talk about whether we want to meet on the 6th here, surely, but would that be helpful, or would you just assume we have to after you're done?

30:08 - 30:11

Selectboard Office

To try to bring everybody together on the 6th?

30:13 - 30:14

Selectboard Office

I mean, I don't know.

30:14 - 30:17

Selectboard Office

I guess I could sort of use you as an example.

30:18 - 30:20

Selectboard Office

I sent out kind of an early warning.

30:21 - 30:24

Selectboard Office

This is coming back in, I wanna say September or October.

30:25 - 30:33

Selectboard Office

I assume you haven't really looked at these details now, but yeah, I don't, I mean, I know Mike Fire is looking at them.

30:33 - 30:35

Selectboard Office

He's gonna have a new guy do it.

30:37 - 30:39

Selectboard Office

Yeah, we've been discussing it anyway.

30:39 - 31:11

Selectboard Office

Yeah, I mean, you're not, I assume not as affected is like it is so I think fire is really the core issue in a way there's a lot of runoff yeah so that's what I'm really interested in runoff and you know impact on the road so I hope like dig into it yeah we're also in the process of hiring the technical review which is you know an engineering firm to go through what they proposed and tell us what they think.

31:12 - 31:15

Selectboard Office

So again, that's the kind of, they'll look at the runoff.

31:15 - 31:34

Selectboard Office

And I think that what would be useful for us from all of these departments is to say, okay, so, you know, there's, I think it's a 400 page application and 200 of it is about water flow in through this culvert or this fitting on the end of the, it's incredibly complicated, I don't understand it.

31:34 - 31:47

Selectboard Office

And I don't know that it actually is what you need, because I'm not sure that, I mean, I'm sure it's what's legally required, but I'm not sure it actually answers the question, if you will.

31:47 - 31:53

Selectboard Office

We're going to wait for a final, yeah, as you can, and really make a decision until we know exactly what to do.

31:54 - 33:02

Selectboard Office

And so I think that what I'm going to be looking for is you to say, here, it seems like they're at water flow in this way but this is where I'm concerned so I think what they're you know I think the law says that they have to look at water flow surface water flow as anything or maybe it's just maybe the runoff is the word and they can't get worse from their project and I'll believe that you know there's there are two

equipment paths those are non permeable surfaces and so the infiltration trench or whatever it is so that the water that used to go through the ground where those pads are now goes in the trench like I'll believe their engineering is good there maybe I'll let an engineer determine it but it doesn't really get to how much water flows off the site onto the road in a different seasons are totally different yeah once your ground freezes right the water flow changes and so that I don't feel like they addressed that at all but I don't know how to address it.

33:02 - 33:14

Selectboard Office

And I think that when we come to an engineer reviewing it, we need to be able to say to the engineer, I want you to look at what happens seasonally when the ground's frozen, when it's not frozen.

33:15 - 33:23

Selectboard Office

The legoy has raised this issue of, it's wicked windy up there, so most of the snow blows off that field, and so spring runoff is one thing.

33:24 - 33:29

Selectboard Office

But if those solar panels block the wind and the snow state field.

33:30 - 33:31

Selectboard Office

What does that do to spring runoff?

33:32 - 33:35

Selectboard Office

I don't know, that would be so much better for the roach.

33:38 - 33:40

Selectboard Office

So there's no straight offs.

33:42 - 33:48

Selectboard Office

But I think that we can get an engineering, we can ask for that review, the details of

how we ask those questions, I don't know.

33:49 - 34:05

Selectboard Office

But I just, I think the planning board needs the expertise from people like the highway department just to know what questions to ask so that we can sort of guide the engineer folks who otherwise are going to say well that's general law says that the runoff can't be increased and this doesn't increase.

34:07 - 34:15

Selectboard Office

So I think similarly certainly health and fire would need the same kind of assistance from from your engineer.

34:15 - 34:21

Selectboard Office

Yeah and we need the same kind of you know sort of we need a around that.

34:21 - 34:24

Selectboard Office

So when do you think you would have somebody hired?

34:26 - 34:27

Selectboard Office

I keep hoping.

34:28 - 34:29

Selectboard Office

We have two proposals.

34:30 - 34:33

Selectboard Office

I know I've got a hand up and I'm not ignoring you.

34:33 - 34:35

Selectboard Office

We'll get to you as soon as we sort of get through this discussion.

34:36 - 34:38

Selectboard Office

We have two proposals.

34:38 - 34:39

Selectboard Office

I'm waiting on the third.

34:41 - 34:47

Selectboard Office

I thought I might have it, but they've got a later start because I didn't know their contact until later.

34:48 - 34:58

Selectboard Office

But so in the next week or so, where the planning board is expecting to meet next, over the 22nd is, next week.

35:01 - 35:06

Selectboard Office

And well, we were hoping to meet with a consultant that we did hire, Beth Greenblatt, today.

35:06 - 35:12

Selectboard Office

But her husband had a medical emergency, and she had to take her into the ER minutes before our meeting.

35:12 - 35:15

Selectboard Office

So we're hoping to meet with her on the 22nd.

35:15 - 35:24

Selectboard Office

I need to make sure she can be on the 22nd if we have the thing that we can review these proposals But I don't know when exactly I'm leery of just giving up on them.

35:24 - 35:35

Selectboard Office

I'd rather Wait for it So hopefully you're hoping you'll have somebody on board for the eight Yes, that I think is reasonable.

35:35 - 35:37

Selectboard Office

I just have the holidays garden.

35:41 - 35:47

Selectboard Office

So they did the balloon test already?

35:47 - 35:48

Selectboard Office

They did it.

35:48 - 35:49

Selectboard Office

Did they actually notify you?

35:49 - 35:52

Selectboard Office

Did town know that they were doing with the day they were doing it?

35:52 - 35:55

Selectboard Office

We were told the morning of.

35:56 - 35:59

Selectboard Office

It was a Saturday morning and they got an email.

35:59 - 36:14

Selectboard Office

First the legoy said, hey, there's a bunch of Bree, the sort of main comment person at

Blue Wave, sent me an email saying, we're doing this balloon test.

36:14 - 36:16

Selectboard Office

For whose benefit is it that they're not telling anyone?

36:17 - 36:21

Selectboard Office

Well, I think the point is that they go out and they put the balloons.

36:22 - 36:26

Selectboard Office

We don't know where, we know where they, we saw where they were in the field, but why?

36:26 - 36:27

Selectboard Office

Why those places?

36:27 - 36:28

Selectboard Office

I don't know, I can't.

36:28 - 36:33

Selectboard Office

They don't, I was sort of thinking maybe it's the edges of the project, but it doesn't seem like it.

36:35 - 36:42

Selectboard Office

So they're going to document where they put the balloons, they're going to photograph to try to give a sense of what it is.

36:42 - 36:47

Selectboard Office

Because they have a balloon test for the cell phone tower on O'Rourke Road.

36:48 - 36:52

Selectboard Office

The day that they did it happened to be the foggiest day that I have ever seen.

36:53 - 36:56

Selectboard Office

You couldn't even, you could see the rope go up, that was it.

36:56 - 36:57

Selectboard Office

You never saw the balloon.

36:57 - 37:01

Selectboard Office

I mean, yeah, it was like, oh, lovely, we can't even see the rope past 10 feet.

37:01 - 37:03

Selectboard Office

I ran around and they had to do it again.

37:03 - 37:04

Selectboard Office

I saw it.

37:04 - 37:06

Selectboard Office

Well, they had to do it again.

37:06 - 37:07

Selectboard Office

Oh, it must have been the second one.

37:07 - 37:09

Selectboard Office

Yeah, I made them do it again.

37:09 - 37:11

Selectboard Office

I said, no, you know, you couldn't even see the road.

37:11 - 37:12

Selectboard Office

How on earth can you see the balloon?

37:16 - 37:19

Selectboard Office

So at least three members of the planning board went over.

37:19 - 37:21

Selectboard Office

And so Nestor and I went and talked to the Lagoyas.

37:21 - 37:25

Selectboard Office

They took us into their house so we could look out and see what their sort of view was affected.

37:26 - 37:30

Selectboard Office

We looked from the golf course or ran by the golf course trying to look up.

37:32 - 37:35

Selectboard Office

I think Nestor took a bunch of pictures, so that we have this record.

37:36 - 37:39

Selectboard Office

I'm waiting to see what it was.

37:39 - 37:46

Selectboard Office

Yeah, it was strange to me that, like, you'd think you could, but they did it.

37:48 - 37:53

Selectboard Office

I mean, I feel like the question we asked them was, have you done a balloon test?

37:53 - 37:55

Selectboard Office

Would you consider doing a balloon test?

37:55 - 37:56

Selectboard Office

And then they just did it.

37:56 - 37:58

Selectboard Office

So, like, I guess they'd consider it.

37:59 - 38:03

Selectboard Office

It was strange, I don't know.

38:03 - 38:04

Selectboard Office

Okay.

38:05 - 38:09

Selectboard Office

So you will, you're bound to, to continue that hearing.

38:11 - 38:12

Selectboard Office

Most likely.

38:13 - 38:20

Selectboard Office

Not bound to but it's more than likely it will be well I'm just wanted again about trying to schedule a meeting, just wait till after the eight.

38:21 - 38:23

Selectboard Office

I am not trying to get in the way here.

38:23 - 38:24

Selectboard Office

I think that.

38:26 - 38:34

Selectboard Office

I think that I'll put out this, you know, where we are right now to all the boards and let them know the hearing on the eighth is important.

38:34 - 38:37

Selectboard Office

And hopefully they can come to that and hopefully we'll have more clarity then.

38:38 - 38:45

Selectboard Office

And then I think, yeah, probably after the eighth would be a meaningful time to meet a week or two after something, whatever works in that time.

38:47 - 38:52

Selectboard Office

I don't, I mean, I wish I had more experience doing this.

38:52 - 39:02

Selectboard Office

So I knew what a reasonable kind of continuance time might be, is that do we give everyone a couple weeks to respond, or do we give people a month to respond?

39:02 - 39:12

Selectboard Office

I feel like when we chose January 8th, from November 20 to January 8th, Aaron, the Blue Wave guy, was like, oh, that's longer than one.

39:13 - 39:14

Selectboard Office

But I understand the holidays.

39:15 - 39:20

Selectboard Office

Ok, but on the other hand, we haven't actually been able to get the stuff done.

39:20 - 39:22

Selectboard Office

To, like, it still feels a little close.

39:23 - 39:26

Selectboard Office

So, I don't know what's realistic or what's reasonable.

39:29 - 39:29

Selectboard Office

Yeah.

39:29 - 39:30

Selectboard Office

Probably, probably really.

39:31 - 39:37

Selectboard Office

So, what do we see, sorry, is it Tripp or whoever's got their hand up there?

39:38 - 39:39

Selectboard Office

Go ahead.

39:41 - 39:45

Selectboard Office

You can unmute yourself if you want to speak.

39:48 - 39:50

Selectboard Office

Maybe you put your hand up by mistake.

39:55 - 39:58

Selectboard Office

Okay, well, I don't have any chat messages and I'm not hearing anything.

39:58 - 39:59

Selectboard Office

So I'll put your hand down.

40:00 - 40:01

Selectboard Office

If something comes up, you want to try again.

40:01 - 40:02

Selectboard Office

Go ahead.

40:08 - 40:09

Selectboard Office

Anything else then?

40:10 - 40:10

Selectboard Office

We'll see.

40:11 - 40:12

Selectboard Office

Whoops, wait a minute.

40:13 - 40:14

Selectboard Office

Oh, okay.

40:15 - 40:15

Selectboard Office

Go ahead.

40:17 - 40:22

Selectboard Office

Uh, so that, the, do you have the application complete and then the agreement that was the first half of the meeting?

40:23 - 40:24

Selectboard Office

First half of the agenda.

40:25 - 40:27

Selectboard Office

The second half is looking at the.

40:30 - 40:43

Selectboard Office

Um, looking at by-law changes and I can't remember what I've said to whom, but so we all know there's this citizens petition thing moving along.

40:43 - 40:49

Selectboard Office

I don't know when they're going to have their signatures or when they're going to submit it.

40:51 - 40:52

Selectboard Office

Nobody spoke to that.

40:52 - 40:57

Selectboard Office

I didn't hear anybody say anything about it, but those people, the people of Circulating were there certainly.

40:57 - 41:10

Selectboard Office

And we asked Julia if she could give us some sense and she said she wasn't, I interpreted it, she wasn't comfortable talking without the whole group talking

because it's a really fun.

41:13 - 41:29

Selectboard Office

So I think I've said this before, the language they're proposing is broad, it covers all of Worthington and it doesn't really make a case for the things that we feel the AG's office care about, which is safety, health, and welfare.

41:30 - 41:42

Selectboard Office

And so to my read, looking at the other moratoriums that have been proposed that have all been rejected by the AG's office in the last couple of years, it's very unlikely that it will pass, muster the AG's office.

41:42 - 42:07

Selectboard Office

So we're trying to develop a language to have another bylaw, another moratorium on the same hearing, same town meeting warrant that is sort of modeled on the Hadley large-scale energy storage system amendment that they passed last fall and got AG's approval this spring.

42:07 - 42:20

Selectboard Office

And it says that, so in general in Hadley, they allow solar in their residential agricultural district and their industrial district, which is most of the town.

42:20 - 42:27

Selectboard Office

They do have a commercial district along Route 9 And they have a little tiny residential district in the middle of the residential agriculture district.

42:28 - 42:33

Selectboard Office

And they have a couple other little things, but residential agriculture is the vast majority.

42:33 - 42:35

Selectboard Office

Industrial is along the Amherst line.

42:36 - 42:39

Selectboard Office

And so solar is allowed throughout that space.

42:40 - 42:47

Selectboard Office

And the amendment last fall was to define large energy storage systems.

42:47 - 42:48

Selectboard Office

That's their term.

42:48 - 42:52

Selectboard Office

And that's anything over 150 megawatts.

42:52 - 43:02

Selectboard Office

Sorry, 150 kilowatts, which is a pretty, you know, I think the point there is a residential battery isn't going to be that big.

43:02 - 43:09

Selectboard Office

150 kilowatts is small for a large solar, like the ones we're looking at are 1 to 2 megawatts.

43:09 - 43:17

Selectboard Office

So it's not a crazy big and it's not crazy small either, right?

43:17 - 43:18

Selectboard Office

It's felt like that's reasonable.

43:19 - 43:43

Selectboard Office

So anything over that is considered large energy storage, and they restrict, they prohibit such things in their water supply district, which is the two aquifers under the residential agricultural district, which are, I don't have percentages, but it's a big chunk of the middle of the town is therefore batteries are excluded.

43:44 - 43:52

Selectboard Office

They also exclude them from within 300 feet of a residential unit, and they limit them to five megawatts.

43:52 - 43:55

Selectboard Office

So all those things pass muster with the AG's office.

43:55 - 43:59

Selectboard Office

And so we're kind of saying, well, it worked for Hadley.

44:00 - 44:04

Selectboard Office

Can we come up with a bylaw amendment?

44:05 - 44:11

Selectboard Office

I think we're all kind of struggling with what's a moratorium and what's just amended bylaws.

44:11 - 44:13

Selectboard Office

And it is vague.

44:13 - 44:22

Selectboard Office

I think the point for me, the moratorium is just something we can do really quickly, whereas the actual amendment might be a lot more nuanced.

44:22 - 44:30

Selectboard Office

So this is sort of like, let's just try to get something that we think will pass that will offer some protection in these places that we feel are delicate.

44:31 - 44:40

Selectboard Office

And so I did some mapping, looking at the watershed for the Westfield, looking at the wellhead protection areas.

44:41 - 44:51

Selectboard Office

I have this awkward thing where I can't, I've been asking PVPC for why is our water supply protection district, why is it that line?

44:51 - 44:55

Selectboard Office

Because it doesn't, I don't know what caused that line to be drawn.

44:55 - 44:57

Selectboard Office

The wellhead protection areas are much smaller.

44:59 - 45:02

Selectboard Office

So far I don't have an answer for the bigger line.

45:02 - 45:25

Selectboard Office

So I think the ultimate map should include that, should include the Westfield drainage is that's all considered as surface water, public water supply, and we put in the biomap three, which is a joint project between the State and Nature Conservancy to look at critical habitat.

45:26 - 45:30

Selectboard Office

They have two levels.

45:30 - 45:32

Selectboard Office

One is the core and one is the critical.

45:33 - 45:34

Selectboard Office

The critical is around the core.

45:34 - 45:41

Selectboard Office

The map just draft that I drew just had the core, but I think it could be reasonable to include the critical.

45:41 - 45:45

Selectboard Office

So it trying to say, these are the areas in town.

45:45 - 45:56

Selectboard Office

Oh, and then we added 300 feet around every structure because residential, I don't have that ability that easily.

45:56 - 46:10

Selectboard Office

So we made this map and the point of doing it was to do sort of an analysis of how much of the, percentage of the town does that leave available for solar or exclude solar or batteries, right?

46:11 - 46:12

Selectboard Office

We'll come to that.

46:12 - 46:31

Selectboard Office

And the whole reason for that is that no one knows how much you can limit solar specifically in towns, how much towns can limit it, but they know that only allowing it in percent of the town was rejected by the Supreme Judicial Court.

46:32 - 46:41

Selectboard Office

So you can, you can allow it in 100% of your town, you can't deny it, you know, you can't only allow it in 2%.

46:41 - 46:43

Selectboard Office

Somewhere in between is this magic number.

46:44 - 46:46

Selectboard Office

So what was the answer when you map that out?

46:46 - 46:48

Selectboard Office

How much of the town was left?

46:48 - 46:56

Selectboard Office

So just looking at the biomap and water, you get amazingly close to 50, I think it's 50.3% would be excluded from whatever.

46:57 - 47:02

Selectboard Office

When you add the structures, it's 63% is protected.

47:03 - 47:04

Selectboard Office

So there are a lot of 36% of them.

47:06 - 47:12

Selectboard Office

Did you look at how much of that 36% is actually viable for solar now?

47:14 - 47:17

Selectboard Office

So that's an interesting question.

47:18 - 47:22

Selectboard Office

So much of it is the west side of town.

47:22 - 47:35

Selectboard Office

It's that drainage, a lot of that is state land, which I don't see them putting solar on the state land, but it does protect it, but it includes you and I, right?

47:35 - 47:48

Selectboard Office

We're down, the bottom of Kinney Brook is draining down there, so that whole sort of southern part of town, not the 112 side, but whatever that we are, the southwest corner is all covered by those maps.

47:50 - 48:02

Selectboard Office

Obviously, when you add the structure setbacks, then all the roads are kind of, they have a roughly 600 foot buffer or 300 feet on each side, kind of thing.

48:04 - 48:10

Selectboard Office

So you start sort of seeing, like the Jones lot sort of stands out, right?

48:10 - 48:22

Selectboard Office

And that's an interesting, the Jones lot is APR land, solar is only allowed on APR if it's being used on site, you can do 200% of your current usage.

48:24 - 48:30

Selectboard Office

So it's kind of already protected and kind of isn't, I don't know.

48:32 - 48:33

Selectboard Office

That's a tough one.

48:34 - 48:51

Selectboard Office

I think for me, the motivator has been a reasonable case that the human health will be harmed by some sort of leakage into that water.

48:52 - 49:00

Selectboard Office

And so one of the things we talked about in the meeting today was, should we include all water bodies in all wetlands?

49:00 - 49:02

Selectboard Office

And I think that I'm going to make a map that shows it.

49:03 - 49:03

Selectboard Office

We'll see.

49:04 - 49:17

Selectboard Office

But I think as soon as you go into the critical versus core, or you go into the all wetlands, or then you start putting buffers around wetlands, at some point, you cross the line.

49:17 - 49:20

Selectboard Office

And it's not probably defensible.

49:22 - 49:39

Selectboard Office

I do wonder if we might – so one of the things – I think the outcome of our meeting today is that we're going to actually have two proposed moratoriums, one for solar and one for energy storage, whether it's battery or whatever, because I think those two maps are different.

49:39 - 49:55

Selectboard Office

And so we might come up with a map that limits solar, like in the core biomass core areas, but limits batteries in the critical area, right, so that basically you just put a bigger setback for batteries because they're more risky.

49:56 - 50:54

Selectboard Office

I think that there are arguments, I think, for keeping solar out of, like I was pondering that whole western slope to the Westfield and like no one I've talked to, very few people I've talked to have thought that solar panels by themselves are a threat to the water supply but that whole side or much of it is forested and so going and clear-cutting 30 acres to put solar in would definitely have an impact on the water supply and so can we have the sort of the solar side of it be that we it but we don't allow tree cutting or we could allow a very small amount of tree cutting so that it is effectively prohibiting it be open that we're effectively prohibiting it but but have it grounded in this idea that it's not the solar that's the threat it's the tree cutting that's the threat.

50:54 - 50:58

Selectboard Office

Well do we prohibit tree cutting now aside from the solar?

50:58 - 51:02

Selectboard Office

Is there anything to prevent somebody from cutting 30 acres of land?

51:03 - 51:10

Selectboard Office

Unless there's a again obviously if it affects the aquifer there's a conservation commission issue but beyond that.

51:11 - 51:13

Selectboard Office

That's an interesting question.

51:13 - 51:15

Selectboard Office

I know there's you might have better answers than me.

51:17 - 51:19

Selectboard Office

And no I don't have a good answer for that.

51:19 - 51:29

Selectboard Office

I do know that the cutting that went on for these two sites I don't know if they file logging plans for that or any kind of removal plans for that.

51:29 - 51:36

Selectboard Office

I'm just not aware of the procedures that went on for these, the solar in Worthington.

51:36 - 51:37

Selectboard Office

The two existing.

51:37 - 51:38

Selectboard Office

I know I got...

51:38 - 51:39

Selectboard Office

They're not cutting any trees.

51:40 - 51:41

Selectboard Office

They did cut trees.

51:41 - 51:42

Selectboard Office

They did.

51:42 - 52:00

Selectboard Office

I got a call from the logger who did the scene, saying he wasn't really aware that

what he was doing was part of this sort of prepping, and Brisson, he's my neighbor, I witnessed him clear that whole lot.

52:00 - 52:03

Selectboard Office

Whether they had to get permits, I don't know.

52:04 - 52:17

Selectboard Office

The Brisson property, in my mind, they may actually have violated the Wetlands Protection Act because they came mighty close to the stream in that pond down in that area.

52:18 - 52:22

Selectboard Office

But I don't know if there's an exemption for agriculture.

52:22 - 52:24

Selectboard Office

He is definitely agriculture.

52:25 - 52:28

Selectboard Office

He's one of the hardest working dudes in town.

52:28 - 52:30

Selectboard Office

That guy is amazing.

52:32 - 52:34

Selectboard Office

But I don't have a good answer to that.

52:35 - 52:37

Selectboard Office

So I think the question is a good one.

52:37 - 52:41

Selectboard Office

And I think there's like layers of regulation around logging.

52:44 - 53:18

Selectboard Office

As a farmer, I can cut up to some board fee without getting a without filing a cutting plan but if I hire someone to do it they have to file a cutting plan there's a whole review.

53:20 - 53:23

Selectboard Office

So I think there are restrictions.

53:23 - 53:30

Selectboard Office

I think if, you know, I'll point to you because I know you own land that's forested in that area.

53:30 - 53:34

Selectboard Office

If you wanted to clear cut 30 acres, I don't know.

53:35 - 53:42

Selectboard Office

I think you probably could do it ultimately, but you would have to jump through a bunch of hoops.

53:42 - 53:43

Selectboard Office

Same with me.

53:43 - 53:55

Selectboard Office

I think we would have to, we'd have to show but I think if it was involved wetlands, the conservation commission would need to be looking at it, but you'd get close.

53:56 - 54:03

Selectboard Office

But, and also I think that those projects at that scale, they're really looking at water flow and erosion control.

54:04 - 54:07

Selectboard Office

So that's why you have to file the cutting plan.

54:07 - 54:12

Selectboard Office

Part of it is sort of exhaustive water management question.

54:12 - 54:15

Selectboard Office

I still think you can make an argument that you shouldn't do it.

54:16 - 54:32

Selectboard Office

You know Surface water certainly I think it's worth the try they may kick it back and say look This is already covered by all these regulations that you guys are blowing smoke and making it hard for solar and you shouldn't Discriminate a good solar because a lot of people can do it, too.

54:35 - 54:41

Selectboard Office

Personally, I feel like it's worth a try, but I think This is this is the challenge is that solar is protected.

54:41 - 55:07

Selectboard Office

It's a protected use and it's really hard to find ways to say it's not but On the other hand, towns change the law, change the state law, but it is also the case that towns have defined overlay districts where they allow solar and that excludes solar from other places and that is acceptable.

55:09 - 55:14

Selectboard Office

I would think typically it's in a town where there's where they've zoned residential versus agricultural.

55:15 - 55:16

Selectboard Office

It's a lot easier at that point.

55:16 - 55:20

Selectboard Office

Obviously did not have industrial solar in a residential.

55:23 - 55:30

Selectboard Office

And the question, you know, the problem that Milton ran into, which is the Supreme Court case, is that, yeah, that's how they did it.

55:30 - 55:35

Selectboard Office

And they excluded it from all these places, which were really good reasons.

55:35 - 55:37

Selectboard Office

And look, they allowed it here in this district.

55:38 - 55:41

Selectboard Office

But when you do the math, that district is only 2% of the town.

55:43 - 55:46

Selectboard Office

So the court felt that was not sufficient.

55:48 - 55:54

Selectboard Office

So, in other words, they found it as a restrictive zoning policy that was not acceptable.

55:56 - 56:02

Selectboard Office

Yeah, the court said that it's effectively banning it throughout the town, and the law doesn't allow that.

56:04 - 56:09

Selectboard Office

So what we don't know is, if you allow it in 5% of the town, is that effectively prohibiting it?

56:09 - 56:11

Selectboard Office

It seems like it's not going to be tested, right?

56:11 - 56:12

Selectboard Office

Yeah.

56:12 - 56:18

Selectboard Office

And so I think we're all trying to find that way to test it, and that's probably going to be through legal action.

56:19 - 56:19

Selectboard Office

Absolutely is.

56:20 - 56:20

Selectboard Office

Yeah.

56:21 - 56:21

Selectboard Office

Yeah.

56:22 - 56:23

Selectboard Office

Yes.

56:25 - 56:28

Selectboard Office

I mean, it talks too much on this stuff.

56:29 - 56:39

Selectboard Office

But the other another approach that we talked a little bit about the meeting at the meeting today is currently solar is allowed by right in Worthington with site plan review.

56:39 - 56:43

Selectboard Office

So we could change that to require any special permit.

56:43 - 56:44

Selectboard Office

So it's allowed.

56:48 - 56:48

Selectboard Office

Hold on a second.

56:55 - 56:58

Selectboard Office

Do you know what the incentives that they're getting for this?

56:59 - 57:01

Selectboard Office

I have heard that once the incentives go away, that.

57:04 - 57:05

[speaker unknown]

It's canceled projects.

57:06 - 57:11

Selectboard Office

And it's just, I don't even know how to begin to work that up, but I was given it a warm up.

57:11 - 57:11

Selectboard Office

So.

57:13 - 57:14

Selectboard Office

We're not back yet.

57:14 - 57:15

Selectboard Office

I can speak a little bit.

57:15 - 57:17

Selectboard Office

So I think we've got sound.

57:17 - 57:19

Selectboard Office

I'm just working on trying to get the camera back.

57:19 - 57:20

Selectboard Office

I don't know that it will return.

57:20 - 57:22

Selectboard Office

Let's see.

57:26 - 57:28

[speaker unknown]

Doesn't.

57:31 - 57:33

Selectboard Office

Seem to want to, hold on a second.

57:38 - 57:40

Selectboard Office

Yeah, I have to remember what I'm seeing today.

57:40 - 57:40

Selectboard Office

I know.

57:44 - 57:46

Selectboard Office

I don't remember what we were talking about.

57:47 - 57:49

Selectboard Office

That's what you're always talking about now, Bart.

57:49 - 57:51

Selectboard Office

There we go, okay, we're back.

57:53 - 57:55

Selectboard Office

Yeah, totally lost my train of thought.

57:55 - 57:56

Selectboard Office

I'm sorry.

57:56 - 57:57

Selectboard Office

It's all right.

57:58 - 58:01

Selectboard Office

I can, so you asked about incentives.

58:01 - 58:05

Selectboard Office

As I understand it, there are two kinds of levels incentives.

58:05 - 58:17

Selectboard Office

One is a tax incentive that is not that different from what I think all of us who've got solar got, you know, you get a tax credit or whatever it's called.

58:17 - 58:33

Selectboard Office

The industrial scale ones, they get, it's different, but those have real value, and that is actually, at least my perception is, that's why private equity is interested in these projects, is that they want those tax credits.

58:34 - 58:44

Selectboard Office

And those, I believe I'm right, that the individual tax credits went away, but those commercial tax credits haven't quite yet, but they're gonna go away.

58:45 - 58:50

Selectboard Office

And so there is a real question, when those disappear, what happens?

58:53 - 59:06

Selectboard Office

One theory which is plausible but interesting is that the developers are gonna say, looked without that federal tax credit, this stuff isn't worth it to us.

59:07 - 59:11

Selectboard Office

You, state governor, feel that this stuff's really important.

59:11 - 59:19

Selectboard Office

We can't develop it without them, so we should be exempt from local taxation,

which is awesome.

59:20 - 59:20

Selectboard Office

Awesome.

59:21 - 59:26

Selectboard Office

It's an interesting argument for a pilot agreement, because that's a negotiated thing that's separate.

59:28 - 59:29

Selectboard Office

Who knows what's going to happen.

59:29 - 59:32

Selectboard Office

But so that's one level of incentive.

59:32 - 59:37

Selectboard Office

The other is the – we – I don't know what I keep saying.

59:37 - 59:45

Selectboard Office

Some of us got – put our solar systems in and we're part of the SREC program where the solar renewable energy credits and it's a whole thing.

59:47 - 59:59

Selectboard Office

That program has been sort of – I don't know – replaced something with the smart program, which is vastly more complicated, and I don't really understand it, but that's best I understand.

59:59 - 01:00:03

Selectboard Office

And so there's a whole sort of incentive structure.

01:00:05 - 01:00:17

Selectboard Office

The one I'm aware of is that this is an agrivoltaic system and they get an incentive for doing that.

01:00:18 - 01:00:20

Selectboard Office

I think it's nine cents per kilowatt hour produced.

01:00:21 - 01:00:35

Selectboard Office

They'll get as an additional, basically they're, I don't know, I'm going to say, their SREC is worth more, because the state said it was, because the state controls the marketplace, and because they're doing agrivoltaics.

01:00:35 - 01:00:42

Selectboard Office

And the reason for that, I think, from the state's perspective is ag land is really easy to put solar on.

01:00:43 - 01:00:46

Selectboard Office

And so the solar companies are happy to do that.

01:00:46 - 01:00:52

Selectboard Office

And it's not a great plan for the state to lose all of its ag land to solar.

01:00:52 - 01:01:10

Selectboard Office

And so MDR worked and came up with this set of specs that's agroaltaics, that says you can farm under the solar panels and so you get this dual use projects and they said, you know, we're basically reducing the density of panels on that piece of land to half what it would be for some standard commercial.

01:01:11 - 01:01:21

Selectboard Office

And so to encourage companies to still do it, they had to increase the payment and it kind of makes up for the reduction in density of the panels.

01:01:22 - 01:01:23

Selectboard Office

That's the goal anyway.

01:01:24 - 01:01:34

Selectboard Office

It has the rider that if they don't farm it, if they can't contract a farmer, if that piece of land isn't farmed, they lose the adder.

01:01:35 - 01:01:39

Selectboard Office

So there's incentive for them to keep someone out there mowing cutting hay.

01:01:41 - 01:01:42

Selectboard Office

I don't know.

01:01:43 - 01:01:52

Selectboard Office

I will say that people are growing stuff under solar panels, so I think it can work, whether it works in every context, I don't know.

01:01:53 - 01:01:57

Selectboard Office

I read about somebody who was doing the whole pick your own berry thing.

01:01:59 - 01:02:07

Selectboard Office

I think it's, I mean, I don't personally, I don't have any reason to say, oh, that's the end are screwed up and the specs are bad.

01:02:08 - 01:02:09

Selectboard Office

Seems like they kind of get it.

01:02:10 - 01:02:16

Selectboard Office

I'm sure it has a productivity hit to the farmer, but they're getting a lease payment.

01:02:16 - 01:02:18

Selectboard Office

So it works for them.

01:02:20 - 01:02:23

Selectboard Office

And it's not just hay and grazing people growing crops.

01:02:25 - 01:02:27

Selectboard Office

So Tripp, did you want to try again?

01:02:29 - 01:02:32

Selectboard Office

Yes, your hand went back up and you did chat me that you had a question.

01:02:37 - 01:02:40

Selectboard Office

So I will just relay your question.

01:02:42 - 01:02:47

Selectboard Office

He said his question is for Deb and Charlie.

01:02:47 - 01:02:49

Selectboard Office

Do you want to see industrial solar in our town?

01:02:50 - 01:02:54

Selectboard Office

I'll just say, I'm not sure I'm prepared to give much of an answer.

01:02:55 - 01:02:58

Selectboard Office

I'm definitely weighing what I'm hearing.

01:03:00 - 01:03:02

Selectboard Office

Steve's been asking me the same thing repeatedly.

01:03:04 - 01:03:15

Selectboard Office

And I definitely take a little bit of a libertarian view on this, that I'm hesitant to tell people what they can do with their land, any more than I want people to tell me that.

01:03:15 - 01:03:20

Selectboard Office

Or I'm sure you want people to tell you what you can do on your property.

01:03:21 - 01:03:27

Selectboard Office

So, and there's very little, I mean, there is zoning that exists that you can.

01:03:31 - 01:03:34

Selectboard Office

That you can tell me what I can do.

01:03:34 - 01:03:38

Selectboard Office

I mean, there are historic districts where you can't paint your house a certain color and so forth.

01:03:38 - 01:03:45

Selectboard Office

So those sorts of rules exist, but certainly not in our zoning or in general in this part of the country.

01:03:45 - 01:03:55

Selectboard Office

So I'm hesitant to legislate ugly basically, even though maybe I do or don't wanna be able to look at those things.

01:03:56 - 01:04:12

Selectboard Office

I'm not sure it's my place to tell you whether you can do that on your property and continue to be able to own your land as a result of being able to do that, any more than the guy who put the salt tower up on his hill there, and is getting a nice lease payment for that.

01:04:13 - 01:04:16

Selectboard Office

I don't love looking at it, but it's not the end of the world either.

01:04:17 - 01:04:19

Selectboard Office

So, but I haven't had a strong opinion yet.

01:04:19 - 01:04:20

Selectboard Office

I'm still trying to take it in.

01:04:20 - 01:04:22

Selectboard Office

I don't know if you want to answer this question or not.

01:04:22 - 01:04:23

Selectboard Office

Happy to answer.

01:04:24 - 01:04:32

Selectboard Office

I am so personally conflicted by this issue because the short answer is no.

01:04:32 - 01:04:40

Selectboard Office

Tripp, to your question, I don't want it, but that makes me a bit of a hypocrite

because I want my life to work when I want my life to work.

01:04:41 - 01:04:44

Selectboard Office

And so what's the right answer?

01:04:44 - 01:05:05

Selectboard Office

And then it becomes it's okay if it's in somebody else's backyard and not in mine and that doesn't, I don't know, that doesn't seem right or fair because historically the people whose backyard it's gone in are those that are underserved.

01:05:05 - 01:05:08

Selectboard Office

And so that doesn't seem right to me.

01:05:08 - 01:05:19

Selectboard Office

I'm with Charlie on the, I mean, even when Bart was saying, we could exclude your land and my land, which I'm never gonna wanna put solar up on, but I was just like, no, wait a second.

01:05:19 - 01:05:23

Selectboard Office

So, I mean, I'm totally conflicted by it.

01:05:23 - 01:05:33

Selectboard Office

And, you know, I think many of the reasons that many of us love living in this town is because of its rural character and that scares me.

01:05:34 - 01:05:38

Selectboard Office

Not scared about necessarily the health or the runoff.

01:05:38 - 01:05:44

Selectboard Office

I think that's one of the things, but one of the things that I deeply care about is

wildlife and nature.

01:05:44 - 01:05:52

Selectboard Office

And I think this is gonna have a significant impact on that, especially if we have one, two, five, seven, I don't know how many projects, right?

01:05:52 - 01:05:54

Selectboard Office

Because they're gonna put a fence around it.

01:05:55 - 01:05:58

Selectboard Office

And so that bothers me.

01:06:00 - 01:06:09

Selectboard Office

So, Tripp, the short answer is nope, but the long answer is so complicated that I haven't figured out quite where I fall on this.

01:06:10 - 01:06:20

Selectboard Office

And then I also try to look back at, you know, 250 plus years of history in this town, and it's not like it stayed the same all this time.

01:06:20 - 01:06:26

Selectboard Office

You look at those pictures from the early 20th century when there was zero trees in this place.

01:06:27 - 01:06:28

Selectboard Office

It was all fields.

01:06:28 - 01:06:34

Selectboard Office

You know, you walk around in the forest and there's stone walls, and that's because

those were all pastures at one point.

01:06:35 - 01:06:39

Selectboard Office

So it's not like this, you know, town wasn't clear cut at one point.

01:06:39 - 01:07:01

Selectboard Office

And then we survived and you know, the only difference with that is that once the sheep farmers weren't able to make money The natural vegetation came back because the natural vegetation in New England is trees Every time you clear a lot You've got to put a lot of energy to keep that thing open Sure.

01:07:01 - 01:07:08

Selectboard Office

Because the trees are going to come back the trouble with the solar is once they commission their sites.

01:07:10 - 01:07:23

Selectboard Office

They can, they only have to remove, at least in some of the towns that have been responding to this, they have to remove what's visible but they can leave what's not visible there.

01:07:23 - 01:07:24

Selectboard Office

Which is what the poles?

01:07:25 - 01:07:35

Selectboard Office

It means all the underground conduit and wiring and junction boxes and whatever it is it's below the ground that you don't see.

01:07:35 - 01:07:38

Selectboard Office

All that stuff is there.

01:07:38 - 01:07:46

Selectboard Office

Now, some towns have said that they got to remove anything that's in the top three feet or four feet of soil.

01:07:47 - 01:07:53

Selectboard Office

Sometimes I think have said that they've got to remove stuff down further, but again, it's an issue.

01:07:53 - 01:07:55

Selectboard Office

It seems to vary from town to town.

01:07:56 - 01:08:08

Selectboard Office

So the fact is that once a solar installation is decommissioned, it's going to be very difficult for the natural vegetation to reclaim itself.

01:08:08 - 01:08:10

Selectboard Office

It probably will over time, it does.

01:08:10 - 01:08:17

Selectboard Office

I mean it breaks up concrete and asphalt and all that stuff, but it's going to take a longer time.

01:08:18 - 01:08:21

Selectboard Office

The wildlife will take a longer time than that.

01:08:21 - 01:09:16

Selectboard Office

So is that kind of stuff is super helpful for for us to hear because you know we there is language in our bylaw requiring a decommissioning plan and and I don't know camera what exactly it says but I'm sure it says that you have to remove everything but we there has to be a bond right now what I'm hearing is like okay we need to dig in and make sure that we condition the out the approval there's approval to really be

that remove everything means everything absolutely so it's that kind of stuff that it's a really complicated project but we like we can address it whether whether it's enforceable and all kinds of stuff whether they read to it there's lots of complexity but we can try to address that kind of stuff yeah through the conditioning process right and they have to put up the money and bond it Yeah.

01:09:16 - 01:09:37

Selectboard Office

And that's another one where You know they say it They give us a financial breakdown of here's the here's the amount the bond should be and it's Estimated the number of these many panels and this is the cost exposed and there's trucking and other that it's very it's a full page of Costs broken out and it tallies like two hundred thousand dollars and like.

01:09:40 - 01:09:58

Selectboard Office

Low So that's where I both Beth Greenblatt and also the engineering firms like let's actually dig into this and make it can we make that a big more more robust number that is feels better.

01:09:59 - 01:10:07

Selectboard Office

Yeah and you know I get it they're going to propose a low ball we're going to try to propose a high ball and it's probably going to be compromised.

01:10:09 - 01:10:10

Selectboard Office

That's what it is but.

01:10:17 - 01:10:20

Selectboard Office

I'm not sure we need to go on a whole lot further here.

01:10:20 - 01:10:21

Selectboard Office

Yeah.

01:10:22 - 01:10:23

Selectboard Office

You've updated us on what's going on.

01:10:24 - 01:10:25

Selectboard Office

That's certainly my goal.

01:10:25 - 01:10:26

Selectboard Office

Okay.

01:10:26 - 01:10:26

Selectboard Office

Yeah.

01:10:26 - 01:10:27

Selectboard Office

All right.

01:10:27 - 01:10:27

Selectboard Office

Thank you.

01:10:28 - 01:10:28

Selectboard Office

Yeah.

01:10:31 - 01:10:34

Selectboard Office

So before we before we break up this party.

01:10:36 - 01:10:38

Selectboard Office

I don't know if this is something you've got to look at.

01:10:38 - 01:10:39

Selectboard Office

It was in front of my.

01:10:39 - 01:10:42

Selectboard Office

Let's see, no, I just need to get that to Katrin.

01:10:43 - 01:10:44

Selectboard Office

So let's say, thank you though.

01:10:47 - 01:10:49

Selectboard Office

So we need to talk about our next meeting.

01:10:49 - 01:10:54

Selectboard Office

And before that, there was a brief discussion about Polly and Patterson.

01:10:54 - 01:10:58

Selectboard Office

Do you want to discuss that in a meeting or it's not really necessary unless you want to.

01:10:58 - 01:11:00

Selectboard Office

I don't need to discuss it in a meeting, but thank you.

01:11:00 - 01:11:03

Selectboard Office

So we do need to talk about when we're going to meet next.

01:11:03 - 01:11:06

Selectboard Office

Our next regularly scheduled meeting would be on the 30th.

01:11:07 - 01:11:10

Selectboard Office

I'm not aware of any agenda items at this point.

01:11:11 - 01:11:31

Selectboard Office

And the school committee is asking if we can please, if they'd like to talk about the Hampshire regional negotiation that's going on with us and the finance committee, as we've already talked about to a certain degree, that they're asking for a substantial increase.

01:11:32 - 01:11:34

Selectboard Office

So unfortunately, apparently the 30th isn't good.

01:11:34 - 01:11:36

Selectboard Office

And Allison has a conflict.

01:11:36 - 01:11:47

Selectboard Office

So she's asking if they can do that on the 6th before their next meeting, which I think is on the 8th, which is followed shortly by the next day with a Hampshire regional negotiation.

01:11:48 - 01:11:52

Selectboard Office

So you guys wanna skip the 30th and meet on the 6th?

01:11:53 - 01:11:57

Selectboard Office

I don't see any reason not to take a Christmas break unless I'm missing something.

01:11:58 - 01:12:03

Selectboard Office

I guess I would double check with Peggy tomorrow that we don't have something we have to deal with before the end of the year.

01:12:03 - 01:12:14

Selectboard Office

I mean, I'm okay for the sixth even if we had to meet the 30th and the sixth, but if we took the 30th off, yeah What she said So let's shoot for that.

01:12:15 - 01:12:23

Selectboard Office

I'll confirm everything after I talk to Peggy tomorrow and Did she also want finance committee in this?

01:12:24 - 01:12:24

Selectboard Office

Yes.

01:12:24 - 01:12:25

Selectboard Office

Yeah, and Joe's been copied on this.

01:12:26 - 01:12:29

Selectboard Office

He hasn't responded to Whether that works for him.

01:12:29 - 01:12:40

Selectboard Office

Hopefully it does I mentioned that to Jean when I got here tonight Other item on the agenda is, Lindsay is here at Town Hall tomorrow night to talk about ice.

01:12:42 - 01:12:44

Selectboard Office

We'll see whether solar maybe comes up.

01:12:45 - 01:12:47

Selectboard Office

God help her.

01:12:53 - 01:12:59

Selectboard Office

I did email Lindsay and Paul Mark about the Municipal Empowerment Act.

01:12:59 - 01:13:01

Selectboard Office

I think I copied you guys.

01:13:01 - 01:13:15

Selectboard Office

But the State Municipal Organization is urging the legislature to pass these.

01:13:16 - 01:13:17

Selectboard Office

Have you guys seen any of that?

01:13:17 - 01:13:25

Selectboard Office

It's about changing a lot of the rules around procurement, making it easier for us, basically.

01:13:25 - 01:13:28

Selectboard Office

And so Paul said he's definitely supportive.

01:13:28 - 01:13:40

Selectboard Office

And Lindsay said she's actually on the committee that's dealing with a lot of this, but she said some of it looks like it may not do well, and she wanted to know which things in particular were supportive of.

01:13:40 - 01:13:49

Selectboard Office

So I don't have a good answer, but maybe if you could look at that and see if anything strikes you, and I'll talk to Peggy about it since she's our procurement expert.

01:13:50 - 01:13:51

Selectboard Office

Yeah, she would have good input.

01:13:51 - 01:14:01

Selectboard Office

So it has to do with, you know, changing the ceilings and making it easier to and to being able to avoid putting some stuff out to bid and that kind of thing.

01:14:01 - 01:14:03

Selectboard Office

Most of it all seemed like a good idea.

01:14:04 - 01:14:22

Selectboard Office

Yeah, some of their procedures are fairly clumsy and everybody, so at one of those po-mark events, the Beacon Hill and the Berkshire Hills, at one of those, everybody complained about how clumsy it was to have to go through these.

01:14:24 - 01:14:39

Selectboard Office

Websites and applications that were meant for larger towns, but as a small town, you have to jump through all those same hoops when you reach a, like some of the, one of the complaints had to do.

01:14:41 - 01:15:02

Selectboard Office

With the ceiling for, the lowness of the ceiling for when you have to go out in certain bids, such as using prevailing wage, that as a result of that, Nobody can hire local contractors to do the work because the local contractor cannot pay a prevailing wage so therefore you wind up with somebody coming from Springfield or you know.

01:15:03 - 01:15:18

Selectboard Office

Palmer, you know but our local people can't do it because there's no way that they're gonna be able to meet that and that's part of what they're trying to amend and I think that actually makes a lot of sense because Everybody has complained about combine.

01:15:18 - 01:15:20

Selectboard Office

I Peggy complains about it.

01:15:20 - 01:15:24

Selectboard Office

Every single town complains about it because we're little towns.

01:15:24 - 01:15:33

Selectboard Office

We're not big places So, you know, it does make sense, but I Peggy would be the one that I would ask Part of it do a snow hauling too.

01:15:33 - 01:15:33

Selectboard Office

We don't do that.

01:15:33 - 01:15:38

Selectboard Office

Yeah, we don't yeah No, it's one side of the road to the other.

01:15:45 - 01:15:49

Selectboard Office

Okay, can I go back to the finance committee just for a moment?

01:15:50 - 01:16:19

Selectboard Office

Joe sent out those budget request forms yes I don't know what I feel like you sent them out last year I did I don't know what the right procedure well I think we should talk about it he seemed to be upset that with the way we did it last year I didn't quite get it because what he sent out all I did was take the spreadsheet and sent the individual tabs essence out to each group so I don't what the problem is.

01:16:19 - 01:16:20

Selectboard Office

But we'll talk.

01:16:20 - 01:16:21

Selectboard Office

Maybe he just went out too late.

01:16:23 - 01:16:26

Selectboard Office

No, he had some objection about how it was done last year.

01:16:26 - 01:16:29

Selectboard Office

He says, I did it this way this year.

01:16:31 - 01:16:35

Selectboard Office

I think it would be great to get those out ASAP.

01:16:36 - 01:16:42

Selectboard Office

So when you say we talk about it, I don't know if that means offline or in the meeting on the 6th.

01:16:42 - 01:16:49

Selectboard Office

Well, why don't I try to talk to Joe about it and then let's then facilitate it and if I can get it out sooner rather than later and not wait for the 6th.

01:16:49 - 01:16:56

Selectboard Office

I think even you know, but if we got it out shortly after the six that would that would be still better your way.

01:16:58 - 01:17:02

Selectboard Office

I mean nobody's gonna deal with this before New Year's anyway.

01:17:04 - 01:17:12

Selectboard Office

Yeah He said that I think that email that somebody should write a cover letter and if you that's something that needs to happen I'm happy to write a cover letter.

01:17:12 - 01:17:28

Selectboard Office

I don't know so in your conversation with them if it feels like a letter needs to be written feel free to Well I think we need to talk about whether we want to again ask departments to come up with potential cuts like we did last year.

01:17:29 - 01:17:31

Selectboard Office

Okay well then that's a bigger conversation.

01:17:31 - 01:17:44

Selectboard Office

Yeah so we're going to ask if we're sending it out and asking them to fill out their budget request then I think if we're going to ask them to potentially consider cuts again we need to do that now and not go through it twice.

01:17:44 - 01:17:48

Selectboard Office

All right then I guess we should put it on the yeah.

01:17:48 - 01:17:54

Selectboard Office

So if we're all going to try to meet together in the sixth anyway, let's, I'll definitely get it on the agenda for that, but thank you.

01:17:55 - 01:17:55

Selectboard Office

That's good suggestion.

01:18:02 - 01:18:03

Selectboard Office

Also, I.

01:18:09 - 01:18:14

Selectboard Office

Forget the terminology, but everything's reconciled as far as the tax rates concerned.

01:18:14 - 01:18:16

Selectboard Office

Right, it was approved.

01:18:17 - 01:18:18

Selectboard Office

Okay.

01:18:19 - 01:18:20

Selectboard Office

Yeah, I know.

01:18:21 - 01:18:24

Selectboard Office

So before we adjourn, does anybody else have a comment they want to make?

01:18:29 - 01:18:31

Selectboard Office

We're not going to adjourn.

01:18:31 - 01:18:41

Selectboard Office

Thank you everyone and I will we'll get the notice out as to whether we're meeting on the 30th or not and we'll most likely be meeting on the 6th.