

State of Rhode Island

County of Washington

In Hopkinton on the eighteenth day of February, 2020 A.D. the said meeting was called to order by Town Council President Frank Landolfi at 7:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 1 Town House Road, Hopkinton, RI 02833.

PRESENT: Frank Landolfi, Scott Bill Hirst, Barbara Capalbo, Sylvia Thompson, Sharon Davis; Town Solicitor Kevin McAllister; Town Manager William McGarry; Town Clerk Elizabeth Cook-Martin.

The meeting was called to order with a moment of silent meditation and a salute to the Flag.

CONSENT AGENDA

The February 3, 2020 Town Council Meeting Minutes and January 27, 2020 Special Town Council Meeting Minutes were removed from the Consent Agenda.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR CAPALBO AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR DAVIS TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS FOLLOWS: Approve the January 27, 2020 transcript as the record of the hearing re: Atlantic Solar LLC and Atlantic Control Systems, Inc. Comprehensive Plan Amendment/Zoning Ordinance Amendment and the monthly financial/activity report: Town Clerk.

IN FAVOR: Landolfi, Hirst, Capalbo, Thompson, Davis

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

Councilor Thompson noted in the February 3, 2020 Minutes, page 2, it did not list her as voting on the Consent Agenda or abstaining. The video was to be reviewed and minutes revised and presented to the Council at the next meeting.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR THOMPSON AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR CAPALBO TO APPROVE THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 27, 2020.

IN FAVOR: Landolfi, Hirst, Capalbo, Davis

ABSTAIN: Thompson

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

Mr. McGarry introduced Phillip Burdick, the new Department of Public Works employee. He noted that Mr. Burdick was a long-time Hopkinton resident who recently moved to Voluntown, Connecticut. Mr. Burdick is a Chariho graduate and holds a Class A CDL license, as well as licenses to operate heavy equipment and machinery. It was noted that he also has experience plowing snow.

PUBLIC FORUM

Joe Moreau of Old Depot Road spoke regarding the proposed Chase Hill Road solar project and the numerous continuances, noting that the Council was waiting to hear testimony from an electrical expert or an interconnector expert. He indicated that he was surprised to hear that an attorney could postpone a matter just by sending an email. Mr. Moreau went on to state that in the past he has made numerous phone calls to residents informing them of the meeting date, only to have to call them again and advise them that the matter is postponed. It was his opinion that this matter should have been closed months ago because a reasonable amount of time had passed and the applicant is not giving the town enough consideration.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT REPORT

Council President Landolfi addressed the Chariho Regional School District Budget and noted that after the last meeting, the town was approximately \$108,000 above the 4% mark; therefore, they will require some additional cuts or they will have to petition the Auditor General. In his opinion, the fund balance should be reduced from 3% to 2.5%. Council President Landolfi advised that David Stall did make a motion to reduce the fund balance by \$297,000 which would have roughly been the half percent, and his motion was seconded for discussion purposes but not approved. Councilor Hirst noted that the larger percentage of town taxes goes to the schools; however, the town also has bills to pay and because of the maintenance of effort, the schools' budget never decreases. Councilor Davis felt that after the budget is passed and since they can move money among line items, we should not have to stick with the maintenance

of effort. Council President Landolfi felt that David Stall had done a great job in asking questions, being actively engaged and well prepared for the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

PLEASE NOTE that the resumption of the public hearing scheduled for this date WILL NOT RESUME as scheduled due to the request of the attorney for the applicant regarding a request for an amendment to the Hopkinton Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map and an amendment to the Hopkinton Zoning Ordinance filed by Centrica Business Solutions, 1484 Candlewood Road – Suite T-W, Hanover, MD 21076 and Karen M. & James W. Cherenzia, Jr., 201 Chase Hill Road, Ashaway, RI 02804 for property located at Chase Hill Road identified as Plat 2, Lot 32, an RFR-80 Zone that had been continued from December 9, 2019 to January 13, 2020 which itself was cancelled at the prior request of applicant’s attorney Steven Surdut, Esq.

Councilor Thompson asked for a legal opinion as to the rescheduling of this hearing. Solicitor McAllister recommended that the Council select a date at least a month away so it would be less likely to be continued again. He suggested putting language in that motion that absent documented good cause shown and articulated, to be brought to the Council’s attention; the hearing would have to go forward. Council President Landolfi suggested rescheduling this matter to March 16, 2020. Councilor Davis questioned if the Council really needed to hear from the interconnection expert and Councilor Capalbo indicated yes, for this had to do with the road; transformers; inverters; where they are; what they are planning to do with the road; and, other things. Councilor Davis asked if the expert could come even if the lawyer could not and Solicitor McAllister indicated that Attorney Surdut would have to have another lawyer present in his place. Council President Landolfi also suggested that he would like to possibly have a site visit.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR THOMPSON AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR CAPALBO TO SET MARCH 16, 2020 FOR RESUMPTION OF A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE REQUEST FOR AN AMENDMENT TO THE HOPKINTON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FUTURE LAND USE MAP

AND AN AMENDMENT TO THE HOPKINTON ZONING ORDINANCE FILED BY CENTRICA BUSINESS SOLUTIONS AND KAREN M. & JAMES W. CHERENZIA, JR. FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT CHASE HILL ROAD IDENTIFIED AS PLAT 2, LOT 32, AN RFR-80 ZONE. NOTICE OF THIS HEARING SHALL BE PROVIDED TO ABUTTERS WITHIN TWO HUNDRED FEET OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY BY CERTIFIED MAIL AND THERE WILL BE ADVERTISING IN THE WESTERLY SUN. THE TOWN COUNCIL WILL NOT ENTERTAIN ANOTHER CONTINUANCE WITHOUT THE APPLICANT SHOWING ARTICULATED GOOD CAUSE FOR ANOTHER CONTINUANCE.

IN FAVOR: Landolfi, Hirst, Capalbo, Thompson, Davis

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

PUBLIC FORUM

No one spoke at this public forum.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR HIRST AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR CAPALBO TO ADJOURN IN MEMORY OF RICHARD N. JOHANSON.

SO VOTED

Elizabeth J. Cook-Martin

Town Clerk

Marita D. Murray

Deputy Town Clerk