

Minutes of the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional School Committee  
Monday, January 14, 2013

In attendance were School Committee Members Nancy Marshall, Patty Mostue, Radha Gargeya, Elena Kleifges, Scott Carpenter, Radha Gargeya, Kevin Matthews, Faculty Member Rami Alwan, South Housemaster Eleanor Burke, Kevin Batt, Legal Counsel for the Solar Contract. Gerald Quirk was available by phone for the discussion.

The meeting was called to order at 5.35pm.

Scott presented a spreadsheet that reflected the projected energy consumption and solar production at certain points in 2013/14 to address the question of whether our production from the canopy would ever exceed the consumption by the District, provoking a risk of tax due to energy being put back into the grid. The building is at its lowest potential consumption in summer; at the same time that solar energy production is at its highest, which was the reason for the concern.

Potential assessed tax on Sun Edison for the LSRHS canopy would be less than \$60k, based on the fact that LSRHS's array is slightly smaller than the Sudbury landfill and the calculated potential obligation between Sudbury and Ameresco for the landfill array. Tax would be calculated on the value of the array, which would depreciate yearly and the tax would thus be reduced yearly as well.

The maximum risk would be the tax assessed on the array in the first year. Gerald raised the question about any future tax liability being the burden of Sun Edison and the energy lobby. Kevin Batt opined that it is unlikely that there would be much change with regard to the assessment being local versus state.

Advocating for clearer understanding with regard to solar energy and potential tax issues with our legislators is important. Ensuring the District has the wherewithal to 'escape' should the District deem to terminate the contract due to tax issues before a date as specified by Sun Edison, which includes a 30-day deliberation process for the District.

A PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) is another option, an agreed-upon payment by the provider to the Town of Sudbury.

Kevin Batt suggested two separate strategy options, a PILOT of \$7,000/annum, as reflected by Sudbury with Ameresco, which could result in a small or no assessment to the District. This was not an option he felt was necessary to offer this evening at the Board of Assessors meeting and which would need to be discussed with Sun Edison.

( Kevin Batt suggested that there is likely to be shifting in legislation with regard to solar; given the District is always going to consume the energy it produces, and given those circumstances, the District should be exempted from an assessment and thus a PILOT would be for later consideration should exemption not be possible.

The consensus of the Committee was to leave discussions with regard to PILOT for later consideration

On a motion from Elena, seconded by Kevin, the meeting was adjourned at 6.12 on a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Marshall, Chair

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