

Special Town Meeting

October 5, 2015

6:00 pm

Doon Hinderyckx, Selectboard Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He asked for nominations for Moderator Pro Tempe. Terry Severy nominated Mike Harvey, seconded by Troy Lapell. No further nominations. Voted in the affirmative, Mike Harvey elected.

Moderator Harvey read the warning:

Article 1

Will the voters of the Town of Rochester approve the purchase of a new fire truck to replace the 1994 International 4900 pumper with a new 2015 pumper, in an amount not to exceed \$350,000? \$190,000 of this amount will come from the Fire Department Equipment Fund, and the remaining \$160,000 will be financed through a lease-purchase agreement with a term of ten (10) years.

Barb Harvey moved the article, seconded by Frank Russell. Short discussion ensued. Marvin asked why the proceeds of the sale of a different truck would be voted to go to the equipment fund instead of selling that vehicle and using the proceeds toward the purchase of this one. Terry explained that there is another old truck that needs replacing as well so they would like to keep the equipment fund built up. He hopes they can get about \$25000.00 for the older truck. Short discussion. Frank Russell asked if the tanker is the truck in the worst shape, why not replace that one? Terry explained that they will lose certification on the pumper truck if it is over 20 years old. Fire insurance will increase and then the truck will need to be recertified each year. Mike Harvey spoke as a fire department member and noted that the new truck meets NFPA requirements and the old one does not. The lease agreement is at 3.29% interest on an International truck No further discussion. Voted in the affirmative, Article 1 passes. .

Article 2

Will the voters of the Town of Rochester authorize the sale of the 1994 International 4900 pumper with the proceeds to be placed in the Fire Department Equipment Fund?

Barb Harvey moved the article, seconded by Eric Belanger. No discussion. Voted in the affirmative, Article 2 passes.

Article 3

Will the voters of the Town of Rochester enter into a Twenty (20) year power purchase agreement with SunEdison of Belmont, CA to buy solar power generated in the State of Vermont at a discount rate of 16% off current Green Mountain Power rates for municipal buildings?

Barb Harvey moved the article, seconded by Terry Severy. Frank Russell asked if there is an escape clause as a twenty year contract is a long time. Larry Plesent noted that there is an escape clause for both sides. He also noted that most contracts are for 5% or 7%, but he has convinced SunEdison to give us a 16% discount on municipal building electric costs. He also noted that if we have a cloudy year, we may not get the entire 16%, but at the worst

we will never pay more than what we are paying at this moment. Discussion continued. Marv asked if anyone has searched in Rochester to find land for a solar array. Larry explained that he had looked for possible town property to use, but was not able to find enough. Marvin noted that the savings per year don't make this proposal worth the nuisance. He feels there are too many "ifs" involved to make it worth contracting with a company in California. Short discussion continued. Marvin Harvey called the question. Voice vote was not clear as to a majority. Moderator Harvey called for a paper vote.

Results of Paper Vote:

YES:	7
NO:	18
BLANK:	1

Total votes was 26.

Article 3 does not pass.

Marvin Harvey moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 pm, seconded by Troy LaPell. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne McDonnell