



**Town of Bernardston**  
**Board of Selectmen**

MEETING MINUTES: for the meeting of November 2, 2015

Select Board Members Present:  
Robert R. Raymond, Chairman  
Stanley Garland  
Andrew Girard - absent

Others Present via Telephone:  
Brian Tracey, PowerOptions  
Meg Lusardi, PowerOptions  
Barrett LaChance, SunEdison

Chairman Bob Raymond called the meeting to order at 10.23am. The meeting was scheduled for 10:00am and experienced some delays.

The purpose of this special meeting was to speak on a telephone conference call with representatives of PowerOptions, a non-profit organization specializing in energy development opportunities for municipalities and other public entities. The Selectmen are interested in developing the Closed Landfill site on Nelson Drive as a potential site for installation of a solar array as a means of generating a stream of revenue for the Town. PowerOptions was referred to the Selectmen by Stephanie Ciccarello, Chairman of the Green Committee. The landfill has been closed since 2000, and is 8.72acres in area.

Brian Tracey asked why the Bernardston site was not chosen for development after a study by NexAmp for the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District (FCSWMD) that was commissioned in 2009. Stan said that other larger sites were considered and Bob stated there was a potential issue with the distance of the main electricity line from the site to Rt 10. Meg Lusardi asked if a post-closure permit from DEP had been secured to pursue this project. No contact with DEP has been made other than the annual well testing and inspection mandates. Brian LaChance from SunEdison stated his firm would procure all the necessary permits to develop the site. SunEdison has already been selected as the preferred vendor for solar development under the state procurement statute by PowerOptions. The Town does not need to publically RFP the project as a result. PowerOptions is a recognized energy consulting firm by the state Dept of Energy Resources (DOER.)

SunEdison would need to analyze 12-months (FY15) of electricity data from Town buildings including BES although under PVRSD maintenance jurisdiction. These records can be provided by the end of the week. Should the site prove to be feasible for development, it could take up to 18-months after a contract is signed to begin generation of energy.

*BOS Minutes*  
*November 3, 2015*  
*(cont.)*

Brain LaChance said there would be no upfront costs to the Town, but a 20-year commitment is required. The federal government is offering a 30% tax credit for solar projects through December 2016. A variety of revenue options would be considered including lease payments and or metered credits. Hugh Campbell stated the Town of Montague recently offered their closed landfill site to solar array development vendor structured on an annual lease payment only as a means of garnering additional revenue.

Adjourn With no further business to be discussed, Stan made a motion to declare the meeting adjourned at 11.02am, Bob seconded. Motion carried.

Attest: Hugh Campbell, Town Coordinator

\_\_\_\_\_, Chairman  
Robert R. Raymond

\_\_\_\_\_, Member  
Andrew I. Girard

\_\_\_\_\_, Member  
Stanley D. Garland