

Public Hearing, October 21, 2015, 6:00 p.m.
Fuller Town Hall
Streetlights and LED Lights

Selectmen Present: Ladd, Davis and Macdonald

Public Present: S. Goulet, B. Ladd, D. C. Goulet, Marcel Goulet, Chuck Stinson, Ben Blodgett, Jenny Routhier
Rene Routhier, Wendy Covill, Shawn Covill Bill Zanes, Sonia Zanes, Dan Goodrum and Sarah Kennett.

Jamie Davis called the Public Hearing, on Streetlights and LED Lights, to order at 6:02 pm.

Jamie said that the first decision that he was faced with when he became a Selectmen was removing streetlights.

Jamie said that he started checking into options and what would be cost effective. Jamie said that he spoke with Wendy Covill, from Bloomfield, who had changed their streetlights over to LED Lights, about the incentives that Vermont was giving and the savings. On further investigation Jamie said that he checked into LED Lighting and was told by Eversource that he needed to have a vendor. Jamie said that he would like to hear what the town's people think about switching to LED Lighting. Jamie said that the "Cost" is the most important. The town has 49 fixtures and we have two vendor proposals. One of the vendors is Tanko and we have a handout of their proposal showing Energy costs of \$4,326.00/year, the estimated rebate from Eversource incentive will be \$100.00 per fixture and we would need to get on the list before January or we will lose this incentive. Jamie said that is why we are having this Public Hearing so that we can move on this now if this is what everyone wants. Our energy costs now are \$7,969.00, LED Lights would be \$3,643.00, that would be a \$4,326.00 savings per year and with the rebate of \$100.00. Each light would be \$306.00 per fixture turnkey. The total cost is estimated at \$15,000.00. Eversource will charge \$95.00 per visit after the lights are installed, there is no yearly maintenance fee and LED lights last 23-25 years or 100,000 hours. Jamie said I know you are wondering where the money is going to come from and Suzanne will explain all of that.

Suzanne said that this year we had \$8,500.00 in the budget for streetlights, we have paid \$6,602.00 so far and we have \$1,900.00 left over in the Streetlight line item. If we have left over money in other line items we can move it to the streetlight line item. This way we would be able to pay for the project since we can't wait until January if we want to get the incentive from Eversource. In order to finance this project we would have to wait until Town Meeting and we don't have that time. Right now we have two vendors that we have proposals from and the proposal from Tanko is the one that has been most helpful and the least expensive. We need a contract now so that we don't lose the incentive.

Jamie said that tonight we have Ron Gadouas, a representative from Gray Bar that works with Tanko, who has been very helpful, has given us the most information and is the most inexpensive. We also have Wendy Covill, the Administrative Assistant from Bloomfield, Vt. who has already gone through this process. The first step will be to work with Tanko and get an Inventory List. Jamie asked Wendy Covill to give some statistics from her experience.

Wendy said that prior to changing to LED Lights, the Town of Bloomfield received an inventory list. They were able to eliminate 10 streetlights. Prior to changing and eliminating streetlight they were paying \$364.00/month and now they are paying \$159.00/month. Wendy said that Vermont paid \$75.00 per pole and the fixture has a book value. Wendy also said that there have been no complaints and when you're driving the light is not as yellow and the light is more direct.

Jamie said that we have a lot of light pollution since the light goes in every direction which is a lot of wasted light. The LED light is more direct.

Wendy said that at their Town Meeting people were asking why they were spending so much money on electricity so that is when they checked into LED lights. Wendy also said that the savings will continue after the four years.

Jamie said that we currently have the funds so we would see the saving immediately.

Ron, from Gray Bar who works with Tanko, said that the savings is tremendous. Ron said that he agrees with Wendy and that changing a 50/70/100 watt pressure sodium light to a 19/39/70 watt LED would be a huge savings over 20 year period would save the town \$95,000.00. He said that the LED light has an oval spread.

Ron said that Tanko will do the mapping of lights, make recommendations and that the \$306.00 includes this service. Ron also said that the cost per fixture will be the same no matter which bulb strength you use and in the future you can add lights and they will honor this agreement.

Wendy said that 2-24 Lumens lights took 12,649 KW and 2 -LED lights is going to be 795 KW.

Ben asked if there aren't any lights taken out, is it going to be too bright where there are a lot of lights together?

Ron said that part of their service that Tanko provides is mapping of the lights, the distribution to see what is Applicable, turn this data over to the town and make recommendations for removing, moving or adding lights. Then the town makes the decisions on that. Manchester has gone with LED lights and it has made a huge difference. Ron also said that if you want to add lights in the future they will honor their agreement.

Charles asked if all the lights would be 120's?

Jamie said that there is a spec sheet on Volts.

Suzanne said that presently we have 35 47's = 50 watts, 12 151's = 100 watts and 2 153's = 250 watts.

Chuck asked if this meant we can add lights that have already been removed?

Suzanne said that this is the time to find out if someone wants lights added or removed.

Charles said like the one at the Upper Mill Houses where the 4-Wheelers go.

Chuck said the one at the end of his road. (Hollow Rd.)

Sonia said at the end of Chucks road (Hollow) where the Fire Trucks go in and out of is a bad spot.

Suzanne said that adding lights is going to add cost. Remember too that we will need extra lights for inventory.

Jenny Routhier said that when she looks over here from her house in Vermont she can see 12 streetlights and thinks that is too many. Jenny said that her street went from 3 lights to 1 and she said that having the old light at the end of her road she found it to be a distraction.

Jamie said that what looks like overkill now, with the new lights we may not have overkill since it is more direct light.

Wendy said that you should probably concentrate on the people who live near them.

Charles asked if someone could explain the \$15,000.00.

Suzanne said that from Tanko the cost/savings. The \$15,000.00 would come out of this year's Budget. We can only do this because we have a streetlight line item in our Budget. We can't wait until January to do this. We need to get on the list now.

Jamie said we need to get on this list for January. If we wait by January the money will be gone.

Suzanne said we can't spend 2016 money since it hasn't been approved yet. The money would need to be encumbered from this year's budget to carry it over to 2016. Other towns will be jumping on this too.

Wendy said that Morgan Vt. eliminated a lot of lights because it was much better lighting.

Ron said last night he met with the Town of Derry and that they have @930 fixtures and are paying \$330,000.00. Their savings will be \$70,000.00 a year and they are just waiting to get their Board's approval.

Ron also said that there is a 10 year Warranty through Tanko.

Jamie said that he switched his house over and his electric bill was cut in half.

Marcel asked if the old fixtures would be taken by Tanko?

Suzanne said that the lights are made by GE and they need to be DLE Approved through Eversource. The Warranty includes Parts & Labor unless there is a natural disaster. The eyes last 10 years with a 7-10% failure rate and the cost is \$7.00-\$10.00 per eye.

Bona asked what happens after the 10 years are up?

Ron said that after the Warranty runs out you are on your own. There is a 23 1/2 year life of LED light.

Davis/Ladd (3/0 approved) motion to go ahead with changing to LED Lighting.

Jamie – All in Favor say I- Everyone

All those opposed – there was no one against.

Davis/Ladd (3/0 approved) to adjourn the Public Hearing at 6:40 pm.

Recorded by B. Ladd