

Milford Selectmen approve solar power agreement

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MILFORD —

About a quarter of Milford's electricity will now come from solar panels thanks to the Board of Selectmen approving an agreement with DG Clean Power on Monday night.

The agreement is set to result in a \$93,000 savings in the first year and about \$3.3 million over the 20-year term with the company that has a site in Northbridge.

"I don't see how we lose," said Town Administrator Louis Celozzi. "I can't tell you there won't be a better proposal in 10 or 15 years, but I can't see any negative reasons for leaving that \$93,000 on the table."

Selectmen signed a five-year agreement based on a 2.3-million kilowatt hours at a rate of 9.5 cents, with a 3 percent annual escalator. DG Clean Power agreed to forgo the 20-year commitment, which would have required a special Town Meeting convening this winter with the situation that Selectmen bring an additional 15-year contract to the annual meeting in the spring.

Included in the plan is also a make-whole provision that ensures the town next pay more than the metered cost, essentially ensuring a savings for the town.

DG Clean Power was selected over Prince Lobel Renewables after months of meetings between the companies and town officials because that savings is set to be higher.

Celozzi noted several other benefits to the agreement, including that the town wouldn't have to develop, construct or maintain the solar farm. Selectmen were supportive of the plan, despite possible concerns over the 20-year commitment, which may prevent the town from taking future deals.

“I have no doubt that technology will allow for better deals down the road, but that doesn’t mean we should leave \$93,000 in the first year on the table,” said Selectman William Buckley.

Celozzi noted that this is only 23 percent of the town’s load and they would still have a “sizable chunk” in case there’s a better deal in the future.

“Future boards can make decisions at that time, I think at this time this is the best way to move forward,” said Selectman Dino DeBartolomeis. DG Clean Power should be able to pick up the load starting in the summer, resulting in a savings on electric bills.

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