

**AGENDA
WILLIAMSTOWN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SPECIAL MEETING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 2011
5:00 P.M.**

- 1. BEAVER WOOD ENERGY – DOCKET 7678:**
- 2. ADJOURN:**

Next Selectmen meeting – Monday, January 24, 2011

**MINUTES
WILLIAMSTOWN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SPECIAL MEETING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 2011
5:00 P.M.**

Present: Ronald Turbin, Chairman, Jane B. Allen, Thomas E. Sheldon, David A. Rempell

Absent: Tom Costley

Others Present: Peter Fohlin, Kathy Poirot

Chairman Turbin opened the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

- 1. BEAVER WOOD ENERGY – DOCKET 7678:** Mr. Turbin said that Beaver Wood Energy has filed a brief requesting that the Vermont Public Service Board assume jurisdiction over the permitting process for its proposed biomass power plan and wood pellet manufacturing facility under Section 248 of the Vermont statutes even though the permitting of the pellet plant falls under Section 250. Their brief states that the activities are so intertwined that permitting should fall under Section 248. Mr. Turbin said that Attorney Tarrant, who represents the town in this matter, suggested it would be in the town's best interest to file opposition to Beaver Wood's brief. Mr. Turbin added that, in filing the opposition, the town would have a better chance preventing this from happening. He said if the wood pellet plant facility goes under Act 250 and the environmental commission approves it, there are a number of opportunities to appeal in terms of litigation strategy. Mr. Turbin said it would cost the town about \$500 for Attorney Tarrant to file our brief to oppose Beaver Wood Energy's request. To date the town still has \$1000 left of the \$5000 allocated for legal expenses related to the biomass facilities. Mr. Turbin recommended selectmen file the opposition and stated that the Public Service Board, in considering its decision, needs to know that there is opposition. Mr. Sheldon and Mr. Rempell agreed with Mr. Turbin but expressed concerns about how far the town should go in this process. Mr. Rempell reminded the board that Beaver Wood has not responded to the Selectmen's request for additional information about the two facilities making it difficult for the board to make informed decisions. He said he thought selectmen should file the brief because of the unanswered questions. Mr. Sheldon said he was reassured some by the fact that the cost isn't going to be great for attorney fees. Ms. Allen said that she sees the action as assuring that Beaver Wood "jumps through all the necessary hoops" before the project is allowed to move forward.

Mr. Rempell moved to instruct our attorney to file, on the town's behalf, opposition to Beaver Wood Energy's application to combine the permitting process of their biomass plant and wood pellet plant under Section 248. Ms. Allen seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Turbin said he would contact Attorney Tarrant with this information.

- 2. ADJOURN:** Ms. Allen moved to adjourn at 5:30 p.m. Mr. Sheldon seconded and the motion carried unanimously. The next Selectmen meeting is Monday, January 24, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane B. Allen, Secretary

