**Finances for Solar Array on Town Office Roof**

**Costs and Payments**

* The ARPA Committee has received three estimates for an array on the Town Office roof:
* Integrated Solar –17,500 kWh/yr - $52,098 – with 30% off $36,489 ($2.09/kWh)
* Grassroots Solar –15,922 kWh/yr - $43,800 – with 30% off $30,660 ($1.93/kWh)
* Southern VT Solar – 20,760 kWh/yr - $45,396 – with 30% off $31,777 ($1.53/kWh)

We consider the estimate from Southern Vermont Solar to be the most accurate, as their site visit was very thorough, including two men climbing onto the roof to take measurements and examine the roof. They were there for nearly an hour. The other two estimates were made from the ground using a smartphone app, and those two site visits each lasted about 10 minutes.

* Between June 2021 and May 2022, the three town buildings (Town Office, Meeting House, and Town Garage) used a total of 9,759 kWh, costing the town $2,884. The usage in the Town Office has already increased with the installation of the electrical air exchange system, and usage of all three buildings will increase as we switch to electric equipment and away from fossil fuels.
* We can pay for the solar array as follows:
* Estimated cost is $45,500 (based on Southern Vermont Solar’s estimate)
* 70% (estimated $31,850) from ARPA funds
* 30% (estimated $13.650) from Energy ITC
* 70% is paid by the town from ARPA funds
* 30% is paid by the town from unrestricted funds, with 30% received back from the ITC and returned to those unrestricted funds.

**Additional Information from Southern Vermont Solar**

* The only possible additional charge for installation, but one that does not apply to an array of our size, would be an upgrade to connect to GMP.
* Their installation fee includes the permitting process with the PUC.
* They anticipate that the array on the T.O. roof will generate enough electricity in six or seven years that would be equal to the cost of the installation.
* They consider our site to be excellent. Poorer sites take 10 years.
* Their solar panels are expected to last 20 to 25 years.

**Action Needed**

* A net metering group can be established for our designated GMP accounts to receive financial credit for the clean energy the solar array generates.
* Our GMP electric usage charges can be eliminated with the installation of the solar array. The array will cost Windham tax payers nothing and will decrease their property tax payments.
* The ARPA Committee seeks the Energy Committee’s support before recommending the solar array’s installation to the selectboard.