



Item Details

File Number: 24-123

File ID:	24-123	Version:	2	Status:	Approved
File Created:	12/05/2024	Entered by:	gailey@cumberlandcounty.org		
Department:		File Type:	Order		
Assigned to:	Board of Commissioners			Final Action:	12/09/2024
Agenda Date:	12/09/2024			Enactment #:	
Related Files:					

Agenda Item Request:

Authorize the County Manager to enter into a contract with Maine Solar Solutions for a solar array at 27 Northport Drive.

Background and Purpose of Request:

Requestor: Travis Kennedy, Director of Public Affairs

Cumberland County has access to funds through the US Department of Energy (DOE)'s Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG). The County has \$79,760 rebate assigned through a formula for use in purchases or planning to reduce the County's fossil fuel consumption.

The County Commissioners have expressed an interest in installing a solar array on the roof of the new County Executive Office building at 27 Northport Drive. This project qualifies for EECBG funding, and County staff has earned approval from DOE to spend funds on a rooftop solar project.

The County launched and publicized an RFQ in October, requesting area solar installers present their qualifications and a concept proposal to install a solar array that maximizes solar energy capture within the available rooftop space for a competitive price.

Several firms engaged during the RFQ process, and one showed up for an open invitation site tour. In the end, two firms submitted proposals. The bid from Maine Solar Solutions presented a more thorough understanding of the site specifics, demonstrated stronger relationships with necessary area partners (Central Maine Power, in particular) and shared similar comps from the region to our project. Their concept bid also came in safely within the County' allotted rebate from DOE.

County staff notified Maine Solar Solutions that they were provisionally selected and held a kickoff call on November 20. Staff shared construction drawings and discussed timelines, and conducted a thorough site walk on Wednesday, December 4. Maine Solar Solutions is developing several options for the roof for County staff to consider.

There is a federal tax rebate that reimburses 30% of the cost of a solar array; so Cumberland County could spend up to \$113,942 on a solar array and collect the rebate, then pay off the balance of the project with the EECBG rebate, delivering the highest savings in energy costs without any burden on the County budget. As such, the Executive Office is seeking approval to enter discussions with Maine Solar Solutions on a solar array project at the Northport

facility with a price not to exceed 113,942.

Funding Amount and Source:

DOE Block Grant not to exceed \$79,760

Tax Credit rebate from the federal government.

HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE FILE

Date:	Acting Body:	Action:	Sent To:
12/09/2024	Board of Commissioners	APPROVED	
Action Text: A motion was made by Commissioner Witonis, seconded by Commissioner Jamieson, that the Order be APPROVED. The motion carried by the following vote:			
Yes: 5 Commissioner Jamieson, Commissioner Witonis, Vice Chair Gorden, Commissioner Smith, and Chair Cloutier			
No: 0			

Attachments: PP - Award of contract to Maine Solar Solutions, Solar Suitability & Location, Solar Proposal from Maine Solar Solutions