

Solar street lights are considered a bright idea in Grand Island

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Grand Island is considering owning rather than leasing its 211 municipal street lights from National Grid, and switching them to solar power.

Town Councilman Raymond Billica said it could be a money saver for the town.

"We are paying National Grid \$90,000 a year in leasing payments," Billica. "If we use their poles we pay for their poles."

He said it would cost the town approximately \$40,000 to buy out its lease with National Grid, while a private company, which also handles maintenance and warranties, could install solar poles at a cost of \$36,000 a year.

Supervisor Nathan McMurray suggested the town consider a trial run of 10 solar lights, but Billica said they would have to do at least 100.

The board asked for a breakdown of the costs before making any final decisions.