

**MINUTES - CHESHIRE ENERGY COMMISSION**  
**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2017, 7:00 PM**  
**ROOM 210, TOWN HALL, 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET**

**Commissioners Present:** Rich Ogurick, Chairperson  
Paul Michalowski  
David Gavin  
Walter Gayeski  
Rob Brucato

**Commissioners Absent:** Tim White

**Others Present:** Walter Gancarz, Town Engineer  
Richard Clavet, Cheshire Public Schools Facilities Manager

- I. Call to Order** Chairperson Ogurick called the meeting to order.
- II. Determination of a Quorum** A quorum was determined to be present.
- III. Pledge of Allegiance** Those present pledged allegiance to the flag.
- IV. Approval of Minutes**

MOTION by Paul Michalowski to approve the Minutes from the August 28, 2107 meeting.  
SECONDED by David Gavin and opened for discussion.  
The following correction was noted:  
Under IV. 4) The date for expected in-service of the solar farm should be February 16, 2018.  
The MOTION passed unanimously with the noted correction by all those present and voting.

- V. Communication** There was no official communication to the Commission.
- VI. Old Business**

**A. Energy Efficiency Projects**

- 1. Town-wide ESPC project – supplemental projects
  - a) ESPC: Peter Combs of Ameresco has proposed designs for BMS software updates for the Public Library, Town Hall, and specific areas of Cheshire High School to replace the legacy systems (not replaced as part of the Performance Contract). The software is no longer supported by the platform in use. These upgrades are expected within the next two months.

- b) Emergency Lighting at Dodd Middle School: A converter is needed for the 137 fixtures, including some in the basement. This would be a safety issue only if electricity goes out while the school is in use after daylight. The conversion will be completed by the beginning of 2018.
- c) CHS Concession Stand: Rebates amounting to approximately \$2400-2600 have been received for the energy saving devices installed at this facility: on-demand hot water heater and some light fixtures.
- d) Performance Contract Report showed 5% more savings than had been projected based on consumption.
- e) Potential solar projects at Cheshire Public Schools: Through Google Group "Sustainable CT Energy Network," Peter Millman requested information regarding schools with solar on their roofs. There were impressive responses from around the state, including the following communities: Greenwich, Ridgefield, Avon, Bloomfield, Fairfield, Darien, Wilton, Woodstock, Pomfret, Windham, Middlefield, and Portland. Rich Ogurick raised the question, "Is it time for Cheshire to reconsider solar on school buildings?" Walter Gancarz offered to forward a report that was compiled during the "Solarize Cheshire" initiative, which analyzed all Cheshire Public Schools and provided proposals for the two feasible candidates, Dodd and CHS.

2. Community Pool – cogeneration, other energy savings projects

David Gavin reported that two companies (Controlled Air of Branford and Aegis Energy Systems of Holyoke MA) have visited the site and offered to provide evaluations for a Power Purchase Agreement for co-generation systems. The proposed systems range from 35-75 kW.

An RFP would be required for this project. After receiving and reviewing the reports, the Commission may decide to recommend the Town issue an RFP. The goal is to reduce the rate to less than \$ .08/kWh.

Walter Gayeski observed that there's no real incentive for the pool staff to pursue energy-saving goals. The Commission will try to promote increased understanding of the importance of this to garner more support.

3. Dryer duct cleaning program – Fall Festival feedback

There was a mix-up with the procurement of a tent, but one was obtained. The booth was staffed by Rob Brucato and Walter Gayeski along with Dan of Breathe Easy, the dryer duct cleaning company. There were no sign-up opportunities for residents. There was no interest in the demonstrations designed to illustrate the importance of dryer duct cleaning.

The dryer duct program will involve mailing numbered vouchers to those residents who indicated interest at the 2016 Fall Festival. Eversource Energy's Alison Jackman has offered to underwrite the envelopes, printing, and postage for the mailing; Walter Gancarz suggested it would be easiest to use the \$3,000 already received by the Town for this purpose.

Dan of Breathe Easy will bill the Town at regular intervals during the 6-month program period. He will also have access to the names and addresses of those who receive vouchers so that he can contact anyone who has not used the voucher after 3 months. Regular price for the cleaning is \$122; Dan will offer a discount to every Cheshire resident during the program period.

The Commission may also staff a table on 10/22 at Fire Headquarters in conjunction with Fire Safety Day to provide additional promotion of dryer duct safety.

The Commission congratulated Rob Brucato on his efforts to promote the program.

4. Energy storage – interval demand data

There was nothing to report on this project.

5. Microgrid feasibility – Ameresco site visit

Three representatives from Ameresco evaluated two potential sites for a Cheshire microgrid. CHS and the Community Pool might be another possible location, but it was not evaluated during this visit.

- 1) Center of Town including Fire Headquarters, Stop & Shop, R. W. Hine Hardware, the Waverly Plaza, and the Senior Center, which meets the State's priorities of gas, grocery, and ATM accessibility during an emergency. However, because many of these facilities are privately owned, it is not feasible to broker and agreement before the current grant application deadline in December 2017.
- 2) Police Headquarters and Highland School, however, because Highland is not a designated emergency shelter for the Town, it does not meet the State's priorities. There was discussion around the current designated emergency shelter of Cheshire High School, for which a back-up generator has recently been installed. The Police HQ has both a generator and a back-up generator for emergency power.

B. Benchmarking

There was discussion around the following topics:

The Commission expressed concern that TransCanada data is not included in the report. Eversource provides automatic downloads to the Town; this is not available from TransCanada. In addition, the two utilities do not follow the same billing cycle, although annual costs comparisons could be made.

Energy reports in the Portfolio Manager Program are for consumption, not cost.

Cheshire Public Schools pay a different energy rate than the other Town buildings. The Town's higher costs may be due in part to the high demand rate for the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

C. Publicity/Education/Outreach

1. News Articles/Letters to the Editor

Paul Michalowski brought several news articles to the attention of the Commission:

- The approval of 6 electric vehicle charging stations in North Haven, CT
- The record 2016 growth of solar in the U.S. and possible threats to its continued increase
- A debate over the merits of a solar farm in Simsbury, CT

He reminded the Commission that the Town Council acknowledged the efforts of the Energy Commission while reviewing the Clean Energy Community report last month, which showed that Cheshire has achieved a goal of 32% energy reduction and savings.

2. Energy Achiever Awards – no report

3. *Energize Cheshire*

Paul Michalowski reported that the Energy table had lots of foot traffic at various Open House nights during September. Eversource provided handouts to be distributed.

4. National Energy Month – October 2017

The program which happened in 2014 and 2015 may not be possible to repeat this year due to the stringent requirements of the new “Summit” curriculum. However, the principal of Norton School expressed great interest in the program; Paul Michalowski will resume conversation with her and her teaching staff.

#### D. Clean Energy

1. Solar on Town landfill: Walter Gancarz reported that the in-service date of 2/16/18 has not changed. The kick off meeting was last week and a detailed schedule was reviewed. Mobilization at the site started today. Solar City’s construction portion should conclude around the end of the calendar year and then Eversource’s interconnection will take another 3-4 weeks.

2. Solar possibilities at other Town facilities

In light of the discussion which occurred around the topic earlier in the meeting (VI. A. 1.), Walter Gancarz will provide the Commission with the proposal for solar at Dodd and CHS.

The Town Council considered adding solar to other Town buildings during the Public Works Department presentation of its Capital Budget recommendations. Walter Gancarz reminded the Commission that the Capital Budget is a 5-year plan and, in most cases, initiatives are presented for future years rather than Year 1.

#### E. PBC Projects

The Concession Stand was discussed earlier (VI. A. 1. c.).

Richard Clavet reported that the PBC is beginning its ADA Compliance work for the interior of Cheshire High School. The work, with a \$1,300,000 appropriation, will have an RFP to set priorities and plan designs. The scope will encompass gender equality between facilities, egress, sightlines, as well as ADA features such as ramps and accessible science lab workstations.

F. Grants/Rebates/Utility Programs: The receipt of rebates for energy-saving construction at the CHS Concession Stand was discussed earlier (VI. A. 1. c.).

G. Energy Reliability Program: Eversource is still actively trimming trees around Cheshire to provide additional clearance for overhead electric wires.

## **VII. New Business**

### **A. Sustainable Community**

Cheshire is already a GOLD COMMUNITY, one of 5 in CT, having met the benchmarks required for that status.

The highest rank is "Sustainable Community." Rich Ogurick will provide more information about this to the Commission at the next meeting.

MOTION by Dave Gavin to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.
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Submitted and attested to by:

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Janet Ray