

**CHESHIRE ENERGY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2012 AT 7:00 P.M.
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL – 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET
ROOM 210**

Commissioners Present:

Chairman Rich Ogurick, David Gavin, Walter Gayeski and Paul Michalowski

Commissioners Absent:

Joseph Nesdale and Carol Wilson

Staff Present:

George Noewatne, Operations Manager of Public Works; Frank Biancur, District Maintenance Foreman for the Education Department (departed at 8:00 p.m.) and Vincent Masciana, Director of Management Services (departed at 8:00 p.m.)

Others Present:

Jessica Bergman of Clean Water Action (departed at 8:30 p.m.); Jeff Crawford of Clean Energy Corp / Student Conservation Association (departed at 8:30 p.m.); Pat Pardee and Connor Collins of Cheshire (departed at 7:45 p.m.); Joan Szechtman of 917 Ward Lane

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Ogurick called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

A quorum was present for this meeting.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. January 30, 2012 – Regular Meeting

MOTION by Paul Michalowski to accept the January 30, 2012 Energy Commission regular meeting minutes with the corrections noted below. **SECONDED** by Dave Gavin.

Corrections to the January 30, 2012 Energy Commission minutes: Page 7, last paragraph the correct spelling is “eesmarts”; Page 10, first paragraph, last sentence, should read “If it is not an issue of security...”

VOTE: In Favor – Gavin, Gayeski, Michalowski and Ogurick
Opposed – none

The motion passes 4 – 0.

V. COMMUNICATIONS

Chairman Ogurick welcomed Pat Pardee and Connor Collins to the Energy Commission meeting. Mr. Pardee explained that Connor and he were observing the Energy Commission meeting for Boy Scouts.

Mr. Masciani commented that he has been approached by Advanced Placement Environmental Studies students that would like to install a green roof on a school building. He stated that he has suggested that the group come to discuss the idea with the Energy Commission.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Energy Management Projects

- 1) Remaining Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) projects

As part of the grant rules, the EECBG grant of \$108,000 that was awarded to Cheshire needs to be spent by June 2012 and the Town has to “buy American”, if available, for most products related to the grant projects.

- a) Virtual desktop environment - buy 50 *thin client* devices

Mr. Masciani stated that the original computer time management software would not run on the existing network and upgrades of the schools’ network has begun. He stated that 77% of the

schools' computer equipment is over 5 years old. Mr. Masciani was at last month's Energy Commission meeting to ask that instead of purchasing the "power down" software he would like to use the \$12,000 EECBG funds to purchase at least 50 "thin client" devices to replace some desktop PC's which would get their software from the school computer network and would reduce the energy consumption at the schools.

Mr. Masciani stated that he has checked with the D.E.E.P. regarding the change of funding allocation and it has been OK'd in writing, now he is asking for the Energy Commission's permission to make this re-allocation. He noted that each "thin client" will cost \$250 and there will not be any software or equipment upgrades needed for approximately 10 years with this equipment. Mr. Masciani noted that this is a pilot program and will be a good way to try them out. He has spoken to CL & P regarding possible incentive money to help buy the "thin client devices" and is hoping for a 40% rebate / incentive. There are approximately 1600 PCs currently in the Cheshire schools.

Chairman Ogurick commented that he thought this was great for the schools. Mr. Gayeski noted that he was not objecting to the idea at last month's meeting, he would just like to see more "celeberating" energy savings in Cheshire the way you hear about it being done in West Hartford. Mr. Masciani agreed that more can be done in Cheshire but there are limited resources. He added that he is excited to work the Neighbor to Neighbor program to incorporate their ideas into the schools.

MOTION by Paul Michalowski that the Energy Commission approve the re-allocation of \$12,000 for the Education Department to purchase thin client devices instead of computer time management software with Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant funds. **SECONDED** by Walter Gayeski.

VOTE: In Favor – Gavin, Gayeski, Michalowski and Ogurick
Opposed – none

The motion passes 4 – 0.

Mr. Masciani commented that there is no "buy American" clause for this purchase. He also agreed to let the Commission know the final number of thin client devices that are purchased with these funds.

2) Exterior lighting improvements at police station, CHS and Highland School

Mr. Biancur stated that the 16 exterior induction pole lights for the High School have been installed. He is looking into options for a light for the flag pole. Mr. Biancur noted that the pole lights that were taken down used 1,000 watt bulbs and the new induction bulbs are 250 watts and are expected to last 66 years.

Mr. Noewatne stated the Cheshire Police Department exterior induction lighting has been purchased and a contractor has been selected but they have not been installed yet. There will be 5 induction lights and 23 LED exterior lights installed between the Police Department and the Cheshire Public Library.

Exterior lighting at Highland School has been put on hold for now due to the work being done for mold remediation at Cheshire High School.

3) Town-wide ESPC project – Ameresco authorized to proceed with the Energy Audit / Performance Contracting project; status of IGA contract; Farmington to go ahead with 94 projects for \$3.4 million

Chairman Ogurick stated that the town wide Investment Grade Audit contracts are being finalized by the Attorneys. The town wide audit will cost the Town approximately \$49,000 and will take approximately 6 months to complete. Chairman Ogurick stated that there is no need to drag this process out because it is only wasting time. He would like to see the dehumidification system for the Cheshire Community Pool addressed with the audit, noting that it should be a priority and that life cycle cost should be used for deciding on the dehumidification system for the pool.

Chairman Ogurick also mentioned that the town of Farmington is going ahead with 94 projects, worth \$3.4 million, under a performance contract with Ameresco.

4) HVAC zones at Cheshire Senior Center

With regards to the heating issues at the Cheshire Senior Center, Mr. Noewatne stated that the management there is dealing with the issue as there is no technical solution at this time. Chairman Ogurick suggested that this topic could be removed from upcoming agendas.

5) Redwood environmental control system (lighting, temperature)

Mr. Biancur talked to the Commission about the “Redwood” system which is a new LED system. It is web based and monitors the room temperatures via a server. There are also sensors for natural lighting attached to the system which adjusts the LED classroom lights as needed by “harvesting” the light. Mr. Biancur stated that he is interested in trying this system out in a classroom at Highland School as part of a pilot program and is hoping to get CL & P on board for an incentive for this product. Mr. Biancur stated that there is an estimated 6 year pay back, before any rebate money, just in energy use.

B. Benchmarking

1) Energy Star Portfolio Manager-database maintenance

Mr. Noewatne stated that as part of the performance grade audit, Ameresco will be entering at least 1 year work of data for the Town buildings.

C. Publicity / Education / Outreach

1) News articles and letters to the editor

There were no recent news articles discussed at this meeting.

D. Clean Energy

The Connecticut Clean Energy Fund is now known as the Connecticut Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority, which is a result of the State restructuring implemented by Governor Malloy, effective July 1, 2011.

1) 30% by 2015– status

Chairman Ogurick stated that Cheshire currently has 374 points in the 30% by 2015 program.

2) Semi-annual report on the Community Innovations Grant Program

Chairman Ogurick stated that he thought that Mr. Noewatne had done the semi-annual report for the Community Innovations Grant Program but Mr. Noewatne didn't recall doing it in the past. Chairman Ogurick stated that he would look to find the previous report.

E. PBC Projects

Mr. Gavin stated that the Public Building Commission is working on 2 roofing projects; the Cheshire Police Department and the Public Works Garage. There has been discussion of using a poly-iso foam with white roofing materials that has a R-value of 23. Chairman Ogurick commented that Ameresco could analyze to see if additional insulation should be added to the roofs. Mr. Gayeski suggested that the Town look into adding a solar feature to the new roofs during their installation.

F. Grants, Rebates & Utility Programs

- 1) Early involvement of CL & P and YGS in all upcoming energy projects – Energy Blueprint

Chairman Ogurick stated that the upcoming roof projects as well as all Town projects should be reviewed by CL & P's Energy Blueprint program. Mr. Gavin stated that he would bring this up to the Public Building Commission.

- 2) Gas boiler rebates

Mr. Biancur talked about gas boiler rebates, that could be used to convert the electric heat at Highland School and a section of Cheshire High School, which were recently discussed at a CL & P workshop he attended.

G. CL & P Energy Reliability Program

- 1) Lewis Tree Service tree trimming project

Mr. Noewatne stated that Mr. DeFelice of 170 Wallingford Road had contacted the Town recently regarding recent power outages and asking that there be more publicity regarding areas that will be having tree trimming, before it happens. Mr. Noewatne commented that CL & P would be looking into the Wallingford Road power outages.

H. Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge

- 1) Personnel / Organizational changes

Ms. Bergman introduced Jeff Crawford to the Energy Commission. She stated that he would be replacing Shannon McAvoy and he would be working with Stacy Stone in Cheshire, going forward.

2) Strategic Outreach – update

a) *Home Energy Basics* workshops

On March 3rd there will be a kids energy program at Cheshire Public Library in conjunction with a Dr. Seuss birthday celebration and on March 11th there will be a kids activity at Artsday, connected to the Neighbor to Neighbor program.

b) Energy Workshop for children – Cheshire Public Library

The energy workshop for kids that was planned for October 29th at Cheshire Public Library was snowed out. The workshop was to target Kindergarten through 5th graders. All involved are trying to re-schedule the kids workshop.

c) User testimonials – Tim Slocum

Mr. Crawford stated that he has spoken with Tim Slocum regarding a testimonial about his HES Audit experience and he had nothing but positive things to say, agreeing to do a testimonial for the audits for the Neighbor to Neighbor “Lead by Example” campaign. Commissioners suggested asking Town Manager Milone to do a testimonial, if he has had a HES audit done of his home.

d) eesmarts – free energy efficiency and clean, renewable learning program for grades PreK – 9

Ms. Bergman talked about the competitive program that is being developed for Cheshire High School and Dodd Middle School students to help get more Neighbor to Neighbor sign ups.

e) Home & Garden Expo

Mr. Crawford stated that representatives for the Neighbor to Neighbor program will be at the Chamber of Commerce’s Home & Garden Expo on Saturday, April 14th at Cheshire High School. Chairman Ogurick stated that the Energy Commission would pay the cost of the booth for this event.

3) Goals

a) New HES / HES-IE audits

Mr. Crawford noted that 13 audits have been done in Cheshire during the 1st Quarter of 2012.

b) Post-HES work (insulation, water heating, etc.) – “deeper energy savings”

Mr. Crawford talked about an upcoming Coalition Partnership meeting he is trying to schedule for mid March to work on developing ideas with the Coalition Partners of Cheshire to promote the Neighbor to Neighbor program.

4) Score

a) Leaderboard

The updated Leaderboard for the Neighbor to Neighbor program shows Cheshire in 5th or 6th place , according to Mr. Crawford.

b) Community Group Points – status

The second round started November 1st and runs until April 30th.

5) Personal Energy Dashboard – Snugg Home

With regards to the Personal Energy Dashboard for those that have had a HES audit done, Chairman Ogurick stated that he has been able to activate his “dashboard”.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Community Pool – dehumidification; CHP

Mr. Gavin stated that the Pool Committee is working on finding a dehumidification system for the Community Pool as well as looking at other possible cost savings for the pool. The group’s next meeting will be March 7th at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Gavin noted that the dehumidification system will be necessary in order to re-open in September after the bubble enclosure is put back up, per State Building Code Regulations. Chairman Ogurick commented that the Committee should not rush into a system without fully researching it because it needs to be done right. Mr. Noewatne stated that he distributed gas and electrical usage information to the Energy Commission members earlier today for the Community Pool for 2011, noting that the bubble enclosure had been down since January 2011.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Rich Ogurick to adjourn the Energy Commission meeting at 9:05 p.m.;
SECONDED by Paul Michalowski.

VOTE: In Favor – Gavin, Gayeski, Michalowski and Ogurick
Opposed – none

The motion passes 4 – 0.

Respectfully submitted:

Tracey M. Kozlowski
Recording Secretary