

**CHESHIRE ENERGY COMMISSION
NOTES FROM THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, JULY 30, 2012 AT 7:00 P.M.
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL – 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET
ROOM 210**

Commissioners Present:

Chairman Rich Ogurick, Paul Michalowski and Carol Wilson

Commissioners Absent:

David Gavin, Walter Gayeski and Joseph Nesdale

Staff Present:

George Noewatne, Operations Manager of Public Works (arrived at 7:20 p.m.)

Others Present:

Shannon McAvoy of Clean Water Action (arrived at 7:50 p.m.)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Ogurick called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

II. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

A quorum was not present for this meeting.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. June 25, 2012 – Regular Meeting

Due to lack of quorum no vote was taken on the approval of the June 25, 2012 Energy Commission minutes.

V. COMMUNICATIONS

Chairman Ogurick played a telephone message he received a few months ago from a local resident who was upset about CL & P's energy reliability.

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 needed to be spent by June 30, 2012 and the Town has to "buy American", if available, for most products related to the grant projects.

- a) Virtual desktop environment - thin client devices

Mr. Noewatne reported that Mr. Masciana purchased 36 thin client devices for the schools with the grant funding. An additional 14 were purchased by the Education Department, for a total of 50 thin client devices.

- b) Exhibit A & Exhibit B Quarterly Reports

Chairman Ogurick stated that the Quarterly Reports were submitted for the Grant program. Mr. Noewatne stated that he is working on the final accounting for the program, which will be submitted tomorrow, July 31st.

- 2) Exterior lighting – metering; Rate 116 vs. Rate 117

Chairman Ogurick talked about two different electricity rates that CL & P uses, CL & P owned vs. municipal owned based on the lighting fixture owners. Mr. Noewatne agreed to see which rate the Town is paying, especially on the exterior lighting fixtures at Town Hall and Cheshire High School. He will also check to see if the Town is billed on a metered or flat rate for these fixtures.

- 3) Town-wide ESPC project – Ameresco Energy Audit – presentation on 7/2/12

Chairman Ogurick stated he attend the first meeting with Ameresco where they presented their findings from the audits to Town staff on July 2nd. Mr. Noewatne stated that another meeting was held on July 23rd and the next meeting is scheduled for August 6th. The group is working to prioritize the identified projects and rank their relevance. A meeting will be scheduled with the Energy Commission and Town Council to present the findings in the upcoming months. Mr. Noewatne believes that the Town Council will have a Subcommittee put together for the next steps of this process.

- 4) Community Pool – dehumidification design; sub-committee meeting on 7/10/12

Chairman Ogurick stated that Mr. Gavin reported to him that not a lot has changed with the Public Building Commission Pool Subcommittee related to the Cheshire Community Pool dehumidification system. The group will be meeting again on August 1st to review some design possibilities for the project.

- 5) Energy audits at Hitchcock Phillips House

Mr. Noewatne stated that he was not sure if the energy audit had been done yet at the Hitchcock Phillips House.

B. Benchmarking

- 1) Energy Star Portfolio Manager-database update by Ameresco

Mr. Noewatne stated that as part of the performance grade audit, Ameresco will be entering data for the Town buildings in the Energy Star Portfolio Manager program, but it has not yet been entered. Ameresco does have the data that will be entered in the database.

C. Publicity / Education / Outreach

- 1) News articles and letters to the editor

Mr. Michalowski did not have any recent energy related news articles to share with the Commissioners during 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 he was not able to find an update on Cheshire's points in the 30% by 2015 program, as there seems to have been some changes made to the web site.

2) Community Innovations Grant – activity report due 7/31/12

Chairman Ogurick stated that the Energy Commission had received a \$ 5,000 grant of which \$ 500 had been awarded to a program a few years ago and incandescent bulbs were purchased for the community. He noted that an activity report was due tomorrow for this program and asked Mr. Noewatne if he had found the previously submitted report? Mr. Noewatne replied that he did not recall any previous reports for this grant program.

E. PBC Projects

1) Roof at Police Station

Mr. Noewatne reported that the Town Council will be voting tomorrow night to take action regarding the recommendation from the Public Building Commission for an R-30, ¼ inch pitch, white replacement roof at the Cheshire Police Station and the recommended contractor, Quality Roofing, which was bid at \$90,000.

2) Roof at PW Garage

Mr. Noewatne stated that the roof replacement project at the Public Works garage will likely go forward this Fall after the Town Council completes the Capital Budget this Summer. This project has not gone out to bid yet.

F. Grants, Rebates & Utility Programs

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

There was nothing new to report on CL & P and Yankee Gas' Energy Blueprint programs.

G. CL & P Energy Reliability Program

There was no new update given during this meeting regarding CL & P's tree trimming work around Town.

H. Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge

- 1) Personnel / Organization

Ms. McAvoy noted that the Neighbor to Neighbor contract ends on April 30, 2013 and the Student Conservation Association's last day is September 5, 2012. There will be a celebration at Noon on that day in Bethany and Ms. McAvoy has asked members of the Energy Commission to write thank you notes to Jeff and Stacy for their help with the Neighbor to Neighbor program.

Ms. McAvoy informed the Commission that this coming Monday could be her last day, as her contract has not been renewed yet.

- 2) Strategic Outreach – update

- a) *Home Energy Basics* workshops

Commissioners are not aware of any upcoming Home Energy Basics workshops.

- b) giveHES – Realtor update

Ms. McAvoy is hoping to continue the giveHES program with local realtors if she is brought back to the Neighbor to Neighbor program.

- c) Cheshire Social Services

Ms. McAvoy has provided the Cheshire Social Services Department with all the paper work they need for the Income Eligible program and notices will be sent out at the end of the month to all income eligible Cheshire residents.

d) Oil & propane customers – deadline extended to 12/31/12

The availability of funds for oil and propane customers has been extended to December 31st.

e) Neighborhood canvasses – “front yard BBQ”

Ms. McAvoy stated that the last neighborhood canvass for the Neighbor to Neighbor program will take place tomorrow near the center of town.

f) Formation of residential outreach sub-committee

Ms. McAvoy talked about the idea of forming a residential outreach subcommittee to continue the efforts of the Student Conservation Association for the Neighbor to Neighbor program, with a member of the Energy Commission overseeing the group’s work. It was suggested that the High School or Middle School Environmental Clubs could be a good fit for this project. Ms. McAvoy stated that if her contract is not renewed, she would still be willing to come as a volunteer to help out with the subcommittee’s efforts.

Chairman Ogurick suggested that he and Mr. Michalowski work on an article or letter to the editor regarding a search for an organization to help with residential outreach for energy efficiency and renewable energy as an “Energy Ambassador” for the Town and would report to the Energy Commission.

g) Solar workshop @ Cheshire Public Library – 8/9/12

A solar workshop will be held on August 9th at the Cheshire Public Library, starting at 7pm.

3) Goals

a) New HES / HES-IE audits

Ms. McAvoy stated that Cheshire was very close to meeting its 2nd Quarter HES audit goal. The 3rd Quarter goals have been set very low because it is Summer time.

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

There was no update available on post-HES work for the Neighbor to Neighbor program.

4) Score

a) Leaderboard

Ms. McAvoy stated that she believes the Leaderboard for the Neighbor to Neighbor program shows Cheshire around 8th or 9th place.

b) Community Group Cash Incentive Program

Ms. McAvoy stated that the Community Group Cash Incentive Program ended on June 30th.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business discussed during this meeting of the Energy Commission.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Ogurick adjourned the Energy Commission meeting at 8:20 p.m.;

Respectfully submitted:

Tracey M. Kozlowski
Recording Secretary