

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

Commissioners Present:

Chairman Rich Ogurick, David Gavin (departed at 8:10 p.m.), Walter Gayeski (arrived at 7:20 p.m.), Andy Maye, Paul Michalowski, Joseph Nesdale and Carol Wilson

Commissioners Absent:

None

Staff Present:

Frank Biancur, District Maintenance Foreman for the Education Department (departed at 7:50 p.m.)

Others Present:

Joan Szechtman of 917 Ward Lane; James Daylor of Ameresco (departed at 7:35 p.m.)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman 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. June 25, 2012 – Regular Meeting

MOTION by Carol Wilson to accept the June 25th regular meetings' minutes with the corrections noted below. **SECONDED** by Dave Gavin.

Corrections to June 25th Energy Commission minutes: Page 3, first sentence should read, "...has been written for the 50 thin client devices so it is all set..."; Page 3, item 3, second paragraph, 3rd sentence should read, "...subcommittee that helped to select the performance contracting firm."; Page 3, item 4, second paragraph, second sentence should read, "He reported that BL Companies is working..."; Page 4, item B. 1), first sentence should read, "...as part of the investment grade audit, Ameresco..."; Page 6, item H. 1), first sentence should read, "...Neighbor contract ends on April 30, 2013 and at the last..."; Page 8, item VII, first sentence should read, "...which is a program looking for 4 communities..."

VOTE: In Favor – Gavin, Michalowski, Ogurick and Wilson
Opposed – none
Abstained – Maye and Nesdale

The motion passes 4 – 0 - 2.

B. July 30, 2012 – Unofficial Meeting (no quorum)

MOTION by Paul Michalowski to accept the July 30th meetings' notes with the corrections noted below. **SECONDED** by Rich Ogurick.

Corrections to July 30th Energy Commission notes: Page 3, item B 1), first sentence should read, "...as part of the investment grade audit, Ameresco..."; Page 4, item D 2) first sentence should read, "...few years ago and compact florescent lamps (CFL) were purchased for the community."; Page 5, item H 1) first sentence should read, "...and the Student Conservation Corps' last day is September 5, 2012."

VOTE: In Favor –Michalowski, Ogurick and Wilson
Opposed – none
Abstained – Gavin, Maye and Nesdale

The motion passes 3 – 0 - 3.

V. COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Andy Maye introduced himself as the newest member of the Energy Commission. Mr. Maye stated that he has a HVAC background as well as a natural interest in energy. He had previously served on the Planning & Zoning Commission for 4 years. Mr. Maye's term began on August 14th and will run through January 31, 2016.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Energy Management Projects

- 1) Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) projects - Complete; partial reimbursement of \$ 64,002 received on 8/14/12

Chairman Ogurick reported that Cheshire's EECBG grant of \$108,000 was completed by June 30, 2012 and the Town has already received a partial reimbursement check of \$64,002.

- 2) Exterior lighting – metering vs. flat rate

Mr. Biancur stated that all of the schools in Town have metered exterior lighting. It was also noted that per Jim Jaskot of the Finance Department, all parking lot lights for the Town buildings are metered.

Mr. Biancur reported that he is putting up more exterior induction pole lights so that the Cheshire High School exterior lighting project will be complete. The exterior lights will be put on an Energy Management System and removed from the motion sensors. Mr. Biancur is hopeful to have the data for the energy savings calculations at the next meeting for the exterior lighting at Cheshire High School.

- 3) Town-wide ESPC project – Ameresco Energy Audit – presentation on 8/6/12; formation of subcommittee to prioritize projects; RFP for owner's representative

Chairman Ogurick introduced James Daylor of Ameresco. Mr. Daylor stated that Ameresco is fairly well along in the Energy Audit process. They have been through all of the Town buildings and have collected 3 years of utility data for all the buildings. The preliminary audit was presented to Staff about 6 weeks ago with their initial findings. The initial report included cost and savings profiles for each proposed project. There is a small group of Staff members from the Town and School side working with Ameresco to prioritize the proposed projects. This group will get some initial pricing from some contractors. Ameresco is working on a final draft of the Energy Audit now and the report should be ready around the end of September. Mr. Daylor stated that the group is working with approximately \$9 million of capital budget avoidance with the projects being self funded through energy savings over 15 years. The Town Council will form a formal review committee after the final draft is presented. Ms. Wilson commented that the Energy Commission should be represented on this proposed committee.

Mr. Nesdale asked if the projects are evenly distributed between the Town and School buildings and Mr. Daylor replied yes, based on square footage and energy usage.

Mr. Gavin asked if the Energy Audit had recommendations for the Community Pool? Mr. Daylor replied yes, there were some recommendations such as a pool cover and downsized boiler. He also noted that recommendations have been made for the Water Pollution Control Plant upgrade.

Mr. Daylor talked about how the energy savings pay for the proposed projects found as a result of the Energy Audit. He stated that no loans are needed; Ameresco is “on the hook” if the energy savings projected are not met. Ameresco is around to monitor the projects and help after the installation process.

Mr. Daylor mentioned that Ameresco would like to know if there is going to be dramatic push back from the Town Council in moving forward with the performance contracting proposal because of the amount of work that is being done in preparation of the next step. It was noted that Dan Esty, Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection could be a great person to speak in favor of performance contracting. Chairman Ogurick commented that educating the community and the Town Council will be key to this proposal moving forward. He also noted that having Town Council and School Board members on this proposed committee would be a good idea for a better and more thorough understanding of performance contracting.

With regards to a 3rd party owner agent for the Town, Mr. Daylor stated that 6 vendors submitted proposals last week to review Ameresco’s recommendations.

4) Community Pool Dehumidification sub-committee meeting on 8/1/12

Mr. Gavin reported that the Public Building Commission Pool Subcommittee is recommending “option #2” for the Cheshire Community Pool dehumidification system. This option would “pump in” 8000 cubic feet of outside air when the bubble enclosure is up through the Fall, Winter and Spring except when the outside humidity is at 60% or more. A heat wheel has been incorporated into the proposal, which will have a 6-month payback and will be used to heat the outside air. The estimated total cost of this proposed system is \$150,000; gas usage is projected to increase 10% with this project. The final design should be finished in about 2 weeks and the work for this project will likely happen between November and January.

5) Energy audits at Hitchcock Phillips House

Mr. Gayeski stated that there has been talk about performing an Energy Audit at the Hitchcock Phillips House but it has not moved forward, as far as he is aware of. There was talk of conducting the Energy Audit and having a promotion of the service with Town Council Chairman Tim Slocum. Chairman Ogurick suggested that the Energy Commission could probably cover the cost of the Energy Audit. Mr. Gayeski suggested that the company he works for, EcoSmart could do the audit, if the Town approves. Steve Pelton is the contact person for EcoSmart.

B. Benchmarking

1) Energy Star Portfolio Manager-database update by Ameresco; need data

There was no update available at this meeting regarding the status of the database update of the Energy Star Portfolio Manager program.

C. Publicity / Education / Outreach

1) News articles and letters to the editor

Mr. Michalowski distributed copies of two 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 Community Innovations Grant report was not yet submitted.

E. PBC Projects

- 1) Roof at Police Station – R-30, ¼ inch pitch, white - approval

It was not know if the Town Council approved 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 - status

The roof replacement project at the Public Works garage is part of the Town Council's Capital Budget and will be deferred until later in the year.

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

CL & P's tree trimming work continues around Town as part of their Energy Reliability Program.

H. Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge

- 1) Personnel / Organization

Commissioners were unsure of Ms. McAvoy's status with the Neighbor to Neighbor program.

- a) N2N program – ends on 4/30/13

The Neighbor to Neighbor program will be ending on April 30, 2013.

- b) Student Conservation Corps – ends on 9/5/12; farewell celebration @ Veterans' Memorial Park, Bethany 265 Beacon Rd. Bethany, CT

The farewell celebration for the Student Conservation Corps will be held on September 5th at Noon at Veterans' Memorial Park, Bethany 265 Beacon Rd. Bethany, CT; all of the Commissioners are invited to attend the event.

2) Strategic Outreach

- a) *Energy Action Alert* – final edition (August 2012)

The final edition of the Energy Action Alert was not discussed during this meeting of the Energy Commission.

- b) N2N Monthly newsletter, Facebook page

There was no update on the Neighbor to Neighbor monthly newsletter or Facebook page.

- c) 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.

- d) Cheshire Social Services – HES-IE audits

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.

- e) Oil & propane customers – deadline extended to 12/31/12; \$0.50 / square feet rebate for wall and attic insulation

The availability of funds for oil and propane customers has been extended to December 31st for wall and attic insulation if an approved vendor is used for the installation.

- f) Neighborhood canvasses – “front yard BBQ” on 7/31/12

None of the Energy Commissioners present tonight were able to attend the “front yard BBQ” on July 31st so they were not sure if the event was held.

g) Residential outreach sub-committee - status

Mr. Michalowski stated that he has not heard from Ms. McAvoy regarding a draft of a letter regarding the proposed 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. Chairman Ogurick said that he would email Roger Smith regarding a subcommittee formation.

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

A solar workshop was held on August 9th at the Cheshire Public Library. Mr. Gayeski reported that he was at the workshop and that there was great attendance at the event.

i) Back to School Challenge – the first Clean Energy

Chairman Ogurick commented that it was not likely that Cheshire would be participating in this challenge.

3) Goals

a) New HES / HES-IE audits

Chairman Ogurick was not sure what the 3rd Quarter HES audit goal is or Cheshire’s status in reaching the goal.

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

There was no update available on the Leaderboard for the Neighbor to Neighbor program.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Standardized Energy Savings Performance Contracting program – DAS and DEEP have issued solicitation for energy service providers

Chairman Ogurick explained the Standardized Energy Savings Performance Contracting program stating that the program guarantees results with projects done under this program. The State is still working to standardize the process and Chairman Ogurick noted that the State of New York has already standardized performance contracting programs.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Paul Michalowski to adjourn the Energy Commission meeting at 8:35 p.m.;
SECONDED by Rich Ogurick.

VOTE: In Favor – Gayeski, Maye, Michalowski, Nesdale, Ogurick and Wilson
Opposed – none

The motion passes 6– 0.

Respectfully submitted:

Tracey M. Kozlowski
Recording Secretary