

**CHESHIRE ENERGY COMMISSION
MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2013 AT 7:00 P.M.
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL – 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET
ROOM 210**

Commissioners Present:

Chairman Rich Ogurick, David Gavin, Walter Gayeski, Andy Maye and Carol Wilson

Commissioners Absent:

Joseph Nesdale

Staff Present:

George Noewatne, Director of Public Works; Frank Biancur, District Maintenance Foreman for the Education Department

Others Present:

Joan Szechtman of 917 Ward Lane

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Ogurick called the meeting to order at 7:01 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. November 8, 2012 – October Meeting (postponed due to Storm Sandy)

MOTION by Dave Gavin to accept the minutes of the November 8, 2012 meeting minutes as submitted. **SECONDED** by Carol Wilson.

VOTE: In Favor – Gavin, Gayeski, Maye, Ogurick and Wilson
Opposed – None

The motion passed 5 – 0.

V. COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Noewatne informed the Commissioners that Walter Gancarz has been selected as the new Town Engineer, noting that he had been a Water Pollution Control Authority Member for the Town for the past 3 years.

MOTION by Dave Gavin to add “Election of Officers” to this agenda as New Business item G. **SECONDED** by Rich Ogurick.

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

The motion passes 5– 0.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Energy Management Projects

- 1) Town-wide ESPC project – Scope of Work – selection of owner’s representative

Mr. Noewatne reported that the Town Council’s appointed committee met last week, which includes Mr. Gavin and selected ECG Engineering as the owner’s representative. A sample of their contract has been sent to the Cheshire Town Attorney for review and the Town Council will take up the appointment after the contract is finalized. ECG Engineering will be paid \$233,000 for their services, which include verify energy savings for the next 15 years. Mr. Gavin noted that ECG Engineering is based in Long Island and have done a lot of work in schools. They have a dedicated engineering staff that will help most by looking over the list of about 300 possible projects suggested by Ameresco and helping to prioritize / rule out projects to bring the number down around 100.

Chairman Ogurick noted that the contract has not yet been signed with Ameresco to move forward. Mr. Gavin commented that he didn’t think either Ameresco or ECG Engineering’s contracts would be signed for a couple of months, based on conversations at the ESPC Committee meetings.

2) Community Pool – energy efficient enclosure

Commissioners noted that the Cheshire Community Pool bubble enclosure collapsed again earlier this month during the blizzard due to the heavy snow that fell on it and that insurance should cover this loss. Mr. Gavin noted that currently the Town is minimally heating the pool water to keep it from freezing and doing more damage. The bubble enclosure is still lying over the pool.

Commissioners agreed that the Energy Commission would be available to offer the Town Council any assistance they could in developing an energy efficient pool. Mr. Gavin noted that the \$50,000 dehumidification equipment for the Community Pool is in the Town Public Works Department garage with the installation and contract to remain outstanding indefinitely at this point.

Ms. Wilson commented that there was a recent editorial in the Record Journal regarding the Cheshire Community Pool and the need for a permanent structure over the pool. Ms. Szechtman suggested that the Cheshire Patch.com would be a great place for energy discussions and input from the public. Mr. Gavin noted that 2 years ago a proposal was put before the Cheshire Community for an enclosed structure for the pool and it was defeated at referendum. Ms. Szechtman questioned if a permanent structure could be part of the ESCO projects and it was noted that most of the ESCO projects are of a smaller scope, not a 30 year payback.

B. Benchmarking

- 1) Energy Star Portfolio Manager-database to be updated by Ameresco

Mr. Noewatne stated that Ameresco is still working on entering the data into the Energy Star Portfolio Manager database for Cheshire.

C. Publicity / Education / Outreach

- 1) News articles and letters to the editor

Mr. Maye stated that he would look for energy related articles that the Commission might find interesting.

D. Clean Energy

- 1) 30% by 2018

Chairman Ogurick commented that the former 20% by 2010 program seems to be getting pushed out further and further, adding that he believes it is now 30% by 2018.

E. PBC Projects

- 1) Roof at PW Garage - status

Mr. Noewatne stated that the Public Works garage roof project was going to go out to bid last Fall but they got too far into Winter so it was postponed and will now go out to bid in March.

Mr. Noewatne noted that the work on the Police Department roof has been completed.

- 2) Field House / Locker room upgrades

Mr. Noewatne noted that the Town Council has voted to upgrade the current boys locker room instead of a new separate locker room facility. These upgrades will likely not take place this Summer as a new ramp or elevator will be needed to make the current boys locker room handicap accessible. Mr. Biancur noted that no matter how much money is spent to upgrade the boys locker room, they still are in a very limited space.

F. Grants, Rebates & Utility Programs

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

Mr. Biancur stated that he attended a seminar last week related to the Energy Blueprint program and will be meeting next week with CL & P representatives at Highland School regarding rebates for heat and lighting projects.

- 2) Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) - update

Chairman Ogurick commented that Tim White is very excited about the Property Assess Clean Energy program. Mr. Noewatne noted that there has been some discussion at the Town Council level by Town Manager Milone but he is not sure of the exact status. Chairman Ogurick

questioned if Cheshire would have to apply to this program or sign up for it somehow and if there was a deadline.

G. CL & P Energy Reliability Program

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

H. Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge

1) Personnel / Organization

The Neighbor to Neighbor program ends on April 30, 2013.

2) Strategic Outreach

a) Cheshire Social Services – HES-IE audits

No update was available at this meeting of the Energy Commission.

b) Residential outreach sub-committee – status

No update was available at this meeting of the Energy Commission.

3) Goal

a) Help 1,000 Cheshire households reduce their energy consumption 20% by April 2013

No update was available at this meeting of the Energy Commission.

4) Financing

a) Co-pay is now \$99 for oil/propane customers and \$75 for electric / gas

This is an ongoing program for residents.

- b) Post – HES upgrades can be financed starting at 2.99% - high efficiency insulation and ENERGY STAR ® approved ductless heat pumps, electric heat pump water heaters, tankless natural gas hot water heaters, indirect / combination water heaters

This is an ongoing program for residents.

- c) The 0% interest insulation loan pilot was extended to 6/30/13

This is an ongoing program for residents, which was recently extended through June 30, 2013.

- d) The insulation rebate doubled to \$1.00/ft. (open to oil/propane customers until money runs out)

This is an ongoing program for residents.

- 5) Redeeming N2N Points – Cheshire has \$9,553 redeemable dollars as of the end of December

Chairman Ogurick asked Commissioners for options on how to spend Cheshire's redeemable dollars from the Neighbor to Neighbor program. There was a question of if there is a deadline that the money has to be spent by and "who's money" it was to spend. Mr. Gavin asked if the funds could be donated to the Cheshire Fuel Bank? Chairman Ogurick stated that he would look into the options.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Expiring commissioner terms (Ogurick, Michalowski, Gavin)

Chairman Ogurick stated that he and Mr. Gavin had their terms renewed by the Town Council but Mr. Michalowski did not. Phil Newton was appointed to the Energy Commission by the Town Council to replace Mr. Michalowski.

- B. Energy Commission meeting dates for 2013

MOTION by Dave Gavin that the Energy Commission accept the following dates, which are the last Monday of each month with the exception of May and no meeting in December, for the 2013 Regular Meeting Dates of the Energy Commission: March 25, April 29, May 20th (due to Memorial Day Holiday), June 24th, July 29th, August

26th, September 30th, October 28th, November 25th and January 27, 2014.
SECONDED by Carol Wilson.

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

The motion passes 5– 0.

C. Conflict of Interest

A copy of Cheshire's Conflict of Interest Ordinance was sent out to all members for their review. If anyone has a possible conflict they should declare it in writing to the Town.

D. New online permitting system for towns – webinar on Thursday January 31, 2013 – 1:00 PM EST

This webinar discussed standardizing P. V. solar installations town by town in Connecticut.

E. EnergizeCT website

Chairman Ogurick stated that EnergizeCT is a way to collect energy efficiency information and encouraged Commissioners to check out the website.

F. Advising and support available for town groups from Clean Water Action

Chairman Ogurick stated that Justin Hayhym from Clean Water Action has offered to help / consult in Town on projects; Members were unsure where he could be used right now though.

G. Election of Officers ***ADDED TO AGENDA**

MOTION by Dave Gavin to nominate Rich Ogurick as Chairman of the Energy Commission. SECONDED by Carol Wilson.

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

The motion passes 5– 0.

MOTION by Rich Ogurick to nominate Walter Gayeski as Vice Chairman of the Energy Commission. **SECONDED** by Dave Gavin.

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

The motion passes 5– 0.

MOTION by Rich Ogurick to nominate Andy Maye as Secretary of the Energy Commission. **SECONDED** by Dave Gavin.

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

The motion passes 5– 0.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Carol Wilson to adjourn the Energy Commission meeting at 8:37 p.m.; **SECONDED** by Dave Gavin.

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

The motion passes 5– 0.

Respectfully submitted:

Tracey M. Kozlowski
Recording Secretary