

**CHESHIRE ENERGY COMMISSION  
MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON  
MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 2013 AT 7:00 P.M.  
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL – 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET  
ROOM 210**

Commissioners Present:

Chairman Rich Ogurick, David Gavin Walter Gayeski and Carol Wilson

Commissioners Absent:

Andy Maye, Phil Newton and Joseph Nesdale

Staff Present:

Walter Gancarz, Operations Manager/Town Engineer and Frank Biancur, District Maintenance Foreman for the Education Department (departed at 8:30 p.m.)

Others Present:

Erin O'Sullivan of SmartPower (Departed at 7:48 p.m.); Tim White of Cheshire, CT

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Ogurick called the meeting to order at 7:03 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. July 29, 2013 – Regular Meeting

A vote on the approval of the July 29<sup>th</sup> Energy Commission regular meeting was tabled until the next meeting.

## V. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications to the Energy Commission.

## VI. OLD BUSINESS

### A. Energy Management Projects

#### 1) Town-wide ESPC project – Status of Ameresco contract

Mr. Biancur informed Commissioners that the next meeting regarding the Town Wide ESPC project is scheduled for this Thursday with the Owner's Representative and Town and Education Department representatives to go over all the details of what each group wants from AMERESCO. Once the list is finalized a meeting will be set up with the Owner's Representative and AMERESCO to review the Town's "wish list".

Mr. Biancur stated that he would be recommending a hot air / gas system to replace the electric heat at Highland School using standard roof top units with electric air conditioning. He noted that AMERESCO has recommended a hot water heat system but Mr. Biancur noted that this would not address air conditioning and a hot water system is more expensive than a hot air system.

Mr. Biancur noted that while Norton School's driveway was dug up this Summer and before it was repaved 485 feet of gas line pipe was installed in the ground so that if Yankee Gas does bring gas down North Brooksvale Road, the school can be hooked up without having to dig up the driveway again. Mr. Biancur noted that the piping was done to meet Yankee Gas' specifications.

Over the Summer Mr. Biancur and his staff have been working to install LED parking lot pole lights at Highland School and they have already completed the exterior mounted building lighting. Energy efficiency improvements have been completed on all the exterior lighting at Cheshire High School as well as a classroom inside the High School. Based on the 159 florescent fixtures that were replaced with 122 LED fixtures so far, Mr. Biancur is projecting a 74% reduction in energy consumption. He noted that the 159 florescent fixtures drew approximately 19,571 watts and the new LED fixtures should draw approximately 4,880 watts. Northeast Utilities has offered a 35% incentive (approximately \$18,000) and will monitor the energy consumption for the next 3 months. Once the data collection is complete

the Town anticipates that additional incentives will be available. Currently these lighting updates had a gross cost of \$55,000 less the \$18,000 incentive brings the net cost to \$37,000. Based on the projected energy savings and these numbers, the payback for this project is 3 to 5 years.

Mr. Biancur noted that the new energy management software he is using in the schools keeps 2 years of data compared to the old system that only kept 1 week of data.

2) Community Pool –enclosure decision; co-gen options; STEAP grant possibilities

The Pool Subcommittee has recommended to the Town Council that a Tension Membrane Structure with steel trusts that will run the length of the Community Pool be the next choice for a pool enclosure. Commissioners strongly suggest that close attention be paid to the quality of the steel for the trusts and the quality of the fabric used for the enclosure. The estimated cost of the Tension Membrane Structure is \$3.2 million and will require HVAC improvements to the building as well as fire sprinklers. Mr. Gavin noted that there is an option to insulate the space between the membranes up to an R-35.

Commissioners noted that the Town Council will be voting to approve the Capital Budget tomorrow and will likely be one of four referendum questions on the November ballot.

Mr. Gavin noted that co-generation is still be evaluated for the Community Pool and could be done separately as a possible STEAP (Small Town Economic Assistance Program) grant project.

3) HES – Cheshire has completed 1,492 HES audits (15.77% of homes)

Chairman Ogurick noted that Cheshire is in the top 10 for the State of Connecticut for the HES program.

## B. Benchmarking

1) Energy Star Portfolio Manager-new software version; electronic data entry

There was no update given on the status of the data entry into the Energy Star Portfolio Manager program.

C. Publicity / Education / Outreach

- 1) News articles and letters to the editor

There were no energy related articles discussed at this meeting of the Energy Commission.

D. Clean Energy

- 1) 20% by 2020

There was no update given on the 20% by 2020 program during this meeting of the Energy Commission.

- 2) Solarize Choice – 20 week pilot; choice of vendors delayed to September

Mr. White noted that up until last Thursday he had been with CEFIA but because he is going back to school this week he will now be a volunteer helping to oversee the Solarize Choice program.

Erin O'Sullivan from SmartPower was present to talk to the Energy Commission about Solarize Choice. She explained that they are looking for 10 towns to be part of this 20 week pilot program; currently Cheshire is one of 3 towns that have signed up for Solarize Choice.

Ms. O'Sullivan explained that there are 3 different "Solarize" programs: Classic, Choice and Express. The Town Representatives for Cheshire will be Carol Wilson and Walter Gayeski from the Energy Commission, Keith Goldberg from the Public Building Commission and Walter Gancarz, Town Engineer. This group will make the selection of solar installers for Cheshire.

Ms. O'Sullivan stated that a signed letter selecting Solarize Choice for Cheshire will be needed from Town Manager Milone by September 7<sup>th</sup> to formalize Cheshire's involvement in this program. Once that is received a kick off meeting can be held the week of September 9<sup>th</sup> with the core group; installer bids will all be received by September 16<sup>th</sup> and interviews with potential solar installers can be done around September 19<sup>th</sup>. A brainstorming session will then be held on October 5<sup>th</sup> with a potential Cheshire Launch of Solarize Choice being held on October 10<sup>th</sup> at the Cheshire Public Library.

The Launch of Solarize Choice should include a few elected officials, SmartPower representatives and representatives from the solar installers that will be selected. CEFIA representatives will also be at the event to talk about solar power incentives and purchase vs. lease options. Going forward a bi-weekly call (every other week) with Cheshire's coordinators, Mr. Gancarz, and Mr. White will be set up.

Ms. O'Sullivan stated that she would create a flyer for hand out at the Fall Festival with information about Solarize Choice, which Mr. White or Chairman Ogurick will review and approve. Mr. Gancarz will check on the funds available for printing the flyers for the Festival.

Mr. White commented that the local Indian community will be holding a large event in November and he was told that a table could be reserved to promote this program, which could be a great opportunity.

3) CEFIA grant – status report filed 8/8/13

Chairman Ogurick stated that the CEFIA grant status report was filed earlier this month by George Noewatne, Director of Public Works.

4) Clean Energy Communities Program – pledge to be reviewed by Council's Planning Committee

Mr. White commented that he spoke with Town Council Chairman, Tim Slocum last week about this program and the need for the Town Council to re-new its pledge to be a Clean Energy Community, which will allow Cheshire to be eligible for additional funding through this program.

#### E. PBC Projects

There were no new PBC Projects for the Energy Commission to review at this time.

#### 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; Commissioners agree that this program at CL & P should review all Town projects.

G. CL & P Energy Reliability Program

Tree trimming work continues around Town as part of Cheshire's Energy Reliability Program.

H. Next Step Living

1) Impact Report

Chairman Ogurick stated that he shared via email a workshop from the Next Step Living program and encouraged Commissioners to view the workshop with Mr. Weeks.

2) Solar campaign / partnership

Chairman Ogurick stated that Mr. Weeks is promoting the Next Step Living solar campaign / partnership.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Energy Data / Information Meeting – SourceOne to discuss PA 11-80 (electronic feeds of energy usage); Bill 6360

Mr. Gancarz will check to see the status of being able to have an electronic feed of energy data into the Energy Star Portfolio Manager program.

B. Virtual net metering – excess power produced can be shared with any other town accounts, with no physical connection at all to the generator

Commissioners talked about net metering and how it can be done with co-generation. Excess power can go back to the grid and can off set imports of energy on other Town energy accounts.

C. Cozy Home Loan – <http://hdf-ct.org/cozyhome>

Chairman Ogurick encouraged Commissioners to go to the link listed above regarding funding available for home energy improvements. Mr. White suggested Commissioners look at the Energize CT website for information on Smart E loans, which provides low interest loans to Connecticut homeowners investing in energy upgrades for their homes.

D. Fall Festival

A booth has been reserved for the Fall Festival on Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. Commissioners and Mr. White will be available at the booth throughout the day.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Dave Gavin to adjourn the Energy Commission meeting at 8:59 p.m.;  
**SECONDED** by Rich Ogurick.

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

The motion passes 4– 0.

Respectfully submitted:

Tracey M. Kozlowski  
Recording Secretary