

**CHESHIRE ENERGY COMMISSION  
MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2013 AT 7:00 P.M.  
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL – 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET  
ROOM 210**

Commissioners Present:

Chairman Rich Ogurick, Walter Gayeski (arrived at 7:27 p.m.), Phil Newton, Joseph Nesdale and Carol Wilson

Commissioners Absent:

David Gavin and Andy Maye

Staff Present:

Walter Gancarz, Operations Manager/Town Engineer

Others Present:

Tim White of Cheshire, CT

**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. July 29, 2013 – Regular Meeting

**MOTION** by Carol Wilson to accept the minutes of the July 29, 2013 regular meeting minutes with the following corrections: Page 3, Item C # 2, should read, "...which Commissioner Wilson commented was a great turnout."; Page 6, New Business section the motion was made by Phil Newton. **SECONDED** by Phil Newton.

VOTE: In Favor – Nesdale, Newton, Ogurick and Wilson  
Opposed – None

The motion passed 4 – 0.

B. August 26, 2013 – Regular Meeting

**MOTION** by Carol Wilson to accept the minutes of the August 26, 2013 regular meeting minutes with the following corrections: Page 2, Item A heading should read “Energy Efficiency Projects”; Page 3, item # 2, the correct spelling is “steel truss” throughout the paragraph. **SECONDED** by Phil Newton.

VOTE: In Favor – Nesdale, Newton, Ogurick and Wilson  
Opposed – None

The motion passed 4 – 0.

**V. COMMUNICATIONS**

Chairman Ogurick stated that Commissioner Maye has notified him that he will be will resigning from the Energy Commission.

**VI. OLD BUSINESS**

A. Energy Efficiency Projects

- 1) Town-wide ESPC project –meeting with ECG; scope of work; Ameresco contract

Mr. Gancarz stated that there are phone conference meetings on Thursday mornings on a weekly basis with Ameresco, ECG, Education Department representatives, Mr. Noewatne and himself, to go through the Town’s wish list of projects as Ameresco’s project list is reviewed. There is no deadline or major time frame set up at this point. The Education Department is looking at HVAC at Highland School, possibly using split system units with heat and air conditioning.

Chairman Ogurick commented that the Energy Commission is not recommending or endorsing air conditioning in the schools but if it is going to be done, it should be done efficiently, maybe by using chillers.

Chairman Ogurick also commented that he has been told the Cheshire High School library was recently air conditioned and is being kept uncomfortably cold for students and faculty.

The signing of Ameresco's ESPC contract is still pending with the Town of Cheshire.

- 2) Community Pool –enclosure decision going to referendum; lighting options

The Pool Subcommittee has recommended to the Town Council that a Tension Membrane Structure with steel truss' that will run the length of the Community Pool be the next choice for a pool enclosure. Per an email from Commissioner Gavin, the 1<sup>st</sup> draft of the RFP for this proposal is done and will be going out in about 1 week with responses due back by November 7<sup>th</sup>. No co-generation is included in the project at this time. The proposed pool enclosure will be on the November 5<sup>th</sup> referendum. Mr. Gavin has asked Mr. Biancur, from the Education Department, for lighting suggestions for the proposed enclosure.

#### B. Benchmarking

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

Commissioners expressed concern with the lack of data entry into the Energy Star Portfolio Manager program. They know that Ameresco will do some of the data entry, once their contract begins. Chairman Ogurick mentioned that with the new software upgrade, data entry into the Energy Star Portfolio Manager should be more user friendly.

- 2) Energy Data / Information Meeting – SourceOne to discuss PA 11-80 (electronic feeds of energy usage); Bill 6360 (EnergyStar scoring requirements)

Mr. Gancarz stated that the Energy Data / Information Meeting with SourceOne has not been scheduled yet but he will follow up with Mr. Noewatne to see if he has heard of a meeting date.

#### 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.

2) Fall Festival – post mortem

Chairman Ogurick noted that he, Ms. Wilson and Mr. Gayeski worked the Energy Commission booth at the Fall Festival, which was shared with the Environment Commission. He also thanked Mr. White for his help at the booth throughout the Festival. Commissioners agreed that there was a lot of interest in solar power, including lease and purchase options, from those people they spoke to at the Fall Festival.

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 Cheshire – 20 week pilot; choice of vendors delayed; core meeting on 9/23; banner; launch date delayed to 10/24

The new launch date for Solarize Cheshire has been moved to October 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in Town Council Chambers. CEFIA had issued an RFP for several towns, looking for solar panel installers. The selection process was started today in Rocky Hill with the help of Jon Fischer, Carol Wilson and Walt Gancarz. The Cheshire group has narrowed down the possible installers to 5 from the 7 that submitted proposals. Ms. Wilson commented that the group looked at the contractor's installation experience, marketing experience, what services were included in their proposal, the source of their solar panels and installation price per watt.

Mr. White mentioned that he has spoken with Cheshire Fire Chief Jack Casner regarding solar panels on a roof where a fire exists. Chief Casner is looking into this situation and will be speaking with Fire Chief's in other states to as well.

Mr. Nesdale commented that he has seen a lot of solar panels on roofs in Massachusetts and New Jersey and wonders what is being done to promote and encourage solar panel installations, that can be done in Connecticut, too.

Mr. White noted that on October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm at Town Hall a meeting of the Solar Ambassadors will be held. Solar Ambassadors are solar energy use residents in Cheshire that come together to share thoughts and ideas on what solar power means to them.

On October 5<sup>th</sup> a Nationwide Solar Tour is planned where people across the nation open their houses for people to come and see and discuss their solar power systems.

On October 9<sup>th</sup> solar installer interviews will be done to narrow down the options to 3 solar installers for Cheshire. On October 15<sup>th</sup> Solarize Choice will announce the 3 solar installer matches for Cheshire. The launch of Solarize Cheshire is planned for October 24<sup>th</sup>.

3) Next Step Living – solar pilot for N2N participants

Next Step Living will be doing a limited marketing of their solar program to Neighbor to Neighbor participants. Commissioners expressed some concern that this program will be a conflict for the Solarize Cheshire program.

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

Mr. White stated that he spoke with Councilman Jim Sima, who is the Chairman of the Planning Committee and Town Manager Milone regarding renewing Cheshire's pledge to be a Clean Energy Community, He also noted that if the pledge is renewed by the Town Council that Cheshire will get a \$10,000 grant and 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 and as a means of protecting residents from unsafe limbs.

#### H. Next Step Living

##### 1) Impact Report

Chairman Ogurick stated that an Impact Report from Next Step Living should be coming out soon with information on the status of the marketing after the July 2013 meeting at the Cheshire Public Library.

### **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

#### A. New England Grassroots Environment Fund (NEGEF) 2013 Grant Programs

Ms. Wilson stated that the purpose of these grants is to develop and support community groups interested in protecting the environment. She has worked with the group sponsoring the grant and will forward Chairman Ogurick a brochure on the program.

#### B. EV Charging stations

Commissioners talked about the costs of installing an electronic vehicle charging station, which many communities in Connecticut are doing. It was noted that recently Torrington had the charging equipment donated to the town and it cost around \$3,000 for the installation of the equipment. It was also noted that Torrington is not planning to charge for the use of the charging station as of right now, it is expected to cost Torrington approximately \$250 a year for the energy to charge vehicles. Mr. Gancarz mentioned that he has talked to Town Manager Milone about a charging station for Cheshire, and Mr. Milone was interested in the idea.

There are currently approximately 90 charging sites in Connecticut; most sites do not charge to plug their vehicle in and charge it.

- C. Community efficiency competition - \$5 million prize – sponsored by Georgetown University (<http://www.guep.org>)

Chairman Ogurick encouraged Commissioners to go to the link listed above regarding a community efficiency competition that is being sponsored by Georgetown University.

### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Carol Wilson to adjourn the Energy Commission meeting at 8:41 p.m.;  
**SECONDED** by Joseph Nesdale.

**VOTE:** In Favor – Gayeski, Nesdale, Newton, Ogurick and Wilson  
Opposed – none

The motion passes 5– 0.

Respectfully submitted:

Tracey M. Kozlowski  
Recording Secretary