

**CHESHIRE ENERGY COMMISSION  
MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON  
MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2014 AT 7:00 P.M.  
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL – 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET  
ROOM 210**

Commissioners Present:

Chairman Rich Ogurick, David Gavin (departed 9:10 p.m.), Walter Gayeski, Paul Michalowski, Joseph Nesdaile, Phil Newton, and Carol Wilson

Commissioners Absent:

None

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:

Tim White of Cheshire, CT (arrived at 8:20 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. November 25, 2013 – Regular Meeting

**MOTION** by Dave Gavin to accept the minutes of the November 25, 2013 regular meeting minutes with the following corrections: Correction of the correction to the

October 2013 minutes should “Mr. Peter Weeks”; November 2013 Minutes - Page 2, item VI. A. 1), first paragraph, first sentence should read, “...received an email today from Jim Daylor at Ameresco...”; SECONDED by Phil Newton.

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

The motion passed 7 – 0.

## **V. COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no communications to the Energy Commission.

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Energy Efficiency Projects**

- 1) Town-wide ESPC project – investment grade audit; Ameresco contract

Mr. Gavin reviewed the January 15<sup>th</sup> letter from James Daylor of Ameresco to the Town of Cheshire, which includes an Executive Summary of the proposed \$10.2M ESPC projects. He stated that the letter has been presented and approved by the Special Committee of the Town Council and has been moved on to the full Town Council for review and approval at their January 28, 2014 meeting. Mr. Gavin noted that Mr. Daylor has commended Mr. Biancur and Mr. Masciani for the work they have put together for the school projects included in the Executive Summary. It was noted that the \$10.2 M in projects has an approximate payback of 15 years with an anticipated financing of around 3% or less.

If the Town Council approves the proposed projects, than Town Manager Milone will sign the contract, which the Town Attorney has already reviewed and approved, then Ameresco will help to secure 3<sup>rd</sup> party financing for the projects. After that is complete, there will be a project kick off and the work will begin. With regards to the work at the schools, Mr. Biancur commented that any of the major work would be done over the Summer of 2014 and 2015. It was noted that there are no windows or roof projects in this program.

2) \$10K Bright Idea Grant – to be used fro energy-savings projects

After the Town of Cheshire re-pledged to be a Clean Energy Community, the Town qualified for a \$10,000 Bright Idea Grant, which will need to be used within 1 year from receipt of the funds. Mr. Gancarz noted that the funds could be used for some energy savings projects but there are some restrictions. He also noted that the Energy Commission would need to come up with the project(s) for the grant. Mr. Nesdale asked about projects that Ameresco came up with but that will not be covered under the first round of ESPC projects in Cheshire. Chairman Ogurick encouraged Commissioners to think about project ideas for discussion at the next Energy Commission meeting.

**MOTION** by Joe Nesdale that the Energy Commission asks the Town Council to authorize Town Manager Milone to execute the Agreement for the Bright Ideas Grant. **SECONED** by Dave Gavin.

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

The motion passes 7– 0.

Mr. Gavin asked if an electric vehicle charging station would qualify under the Bright Ideas Grant program and Mr. Gancarz replied that he would look into it.

B. Benchmarking

1) Energy Star Portfolio Manager-new software version; electronic data entry; Ameresco to update database if ESPC contract is signed

Mr. Gancarz stated that once Ameresco gets their performance contract signed with the Town they will bring the Energy Star Portfolio Manager program data up to date from 2009 to present.

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

There was nothing new to report from SourceOne.

C. Publicity / Education / Outreach

1) News articles and letters to the editor

Mr. Michalowski shared 3 articles with the Energy Commission: “States Unite to Bring Down Energy Rates” from the Hartford Courant December 6, 2013, “Energy Efficiency Might Reduce Your Mortgage” from EarthLink and “Lights Out for Old-Style Bulbs” from Akron Beacon Journal.

2) Outstanding Energy Achiever award presentation

Ms. Wilson has agreed to look into an item to give to the first Outstanding Energy Achiever award recipient from 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 Cheshire – advertising; workshops on January 15<sup>th</sup>, February 24<sup>th</sup>, March 25<sup>th</sup>; results to date

Ms. Wilson informed the Commissioner that she and a couple of High School students had a table at the Peabody Museum on January 20<sup>th</sup> to promote Solarize Cheshire and she receive a lot of visitors and the kids really seemed to enjoy the solar “toys” she had with her.

Mr. White informed the Commission that Cheshire has just over \$4,000 remaining on a CEFIA grant and suggested that the funds could be used to help publicize Solarize Cheshire. Chairman Ogurick commented that he wouldn't recommend us all \$4,000 for the publicizing of the Solarize Cheshire program but maybe allocating \$1,000 to \$1,500. Mr. Gancarz noted that a mailing to Cheshire residents would cost approximately \$1,100 and perhaps part of the CEFIA Grant funds could be used for that to publicize Solarize Cheshire. Mr. Newton suggested that another way to promote the Solarize Cheshire program would be to run an advertisement or article in the local newspapers.

It was also noted that currently 8 residents have signed contracts to add solar arrays to their property. Mr. Gayeski also noted that approximately 20 residents attended the January 15<sup>th</sup> Solarize Cheshire workshop.

**MOTION** by Walter Gayeski that the Energy Commission earmark \$1,100 of the CEFIA Grant funds to be spent on a Solarize Cheshire mailing to Cheshire residents. **SECONDED** by Dave Gavin.

VOTE: In Favor – Gavin, Gayeski, and Wilson  
Opposed – Michalowski, Nesdale Newton and Ogurick

The motion fails 3– 4.

Mr. Newton asked about the target audience for solar power and Commissioners suggested that a mailing would be more valuable sent to those residents.

**MOTION** by Joe Nesdale that the Energy Commission would like to authorize the allocation of \$1,100 of grant funds to be spent on further promotion in a targeted fashion for the Solarize Cheshire program. **SECONCED** by Walt Gayeski.

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

The motion passes 7– 0.

Solarize Cheshire's website is [www.solarizect.com/Cheshire](http://www.solarizect.com/Cheshire) for those that would like more information on the program.

3) Community innovations Grant Reporting

Mr. Gancarz stated that the quarterly report for the Community Innovations Grant has been filed for Cheshire. The current balance of the CEFIA Grant is \$4,023.60.

E. PBC Projects

There were no new PBC Projects referred to the Energy Commission to review at this time, according to Mr. Gavin.

F. Grants, Rebates & Utility Programs

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

Commissioners have agreed that this program at CL & P should be used for CL& P to review all construction / major renovation Town projects and determine the most energy efficient alternatives for a specific project. Commissioners also recommended that Ameresco take advantage of this program with CL & P. It was noted that J.K. Muir is reviewing the WPCA's Waste Water Treatment Plant upgrade plans for CL & P.

G. CL & P Energy Reliability Program

- 1) Tree Trimming plan for 2014

Mr. Gancarz stated that the Town web site has a map showing CL & P's proposed routes / streets for 2014 tree trimming in Cheshire.

H. Next Step Living

There was nothing new to report on the Next Step Living program.

I. Microgrid Grant and Loan Program – Round 2; Public Act 12-148 Section 7

Mr. Gancarz reported that a new grant for microgrids will be kicking off soon, if the Energy Commission wants to move forward on a microgrid project for Cheshire. The estimated town contribution is 10% of the installation costs, based on Fairfield Connecticut's approved microgrid project.

J. Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations – new municipal incentive program

Mr. Gancarz noted that a new round of grants for municipalities for the installation of electric vehicle charging stations will likely be coming up soon. Commissioners noted that they made a motion at their November 2013 meeting to ask the Town Council to investigate applying for a grant of this nature for Cheshire to take advantage of. Commissioners would also like to determine if the Town could use Bright Idea Grant funds toward an electric vehicle charging station, which Mr. Gancarz stated that he would confirm would be acceptable.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

MOTION by Paul Michalowski that the Energy Commission add New Business item H "Election of Officers for 2014" to the January 27, 2014 agenda. **SECONDED** by Joe Nesdale.

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

The motion passed 7 – 0.

### **A. Meeting Dates for 2014**

Chairman Ogurick reviewed the proposed meeting dates for 2014, noting that the Energy Commission would meet the last Monday of each month except there would be no meeting in December and the meeting in May would be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday due to the Memorial Day holiday.

**MOTION** by Paul Michalowski that the Energy Commission approves the 2014 Meeting Dates as presented. **SECONDED** by Joe Nesdale.

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

The motion passes 7– 0.

### **B. Power of Change Energy Efficiency Award 2014 – application due by March 3rd**

There was no discussion about the Power of Change Energy Efficiency Award 2014 at this meeting.

C. Clean Water Action Offering one-on-one messaging and marketing consulting support through a grant from the Tremaine Foundation

It was noted that the Energy Commission / Town would have to submit a proposal for consideration if they wanted to be part of this grant program.

D. Woodie Weiss, Chair of Madison's Energy and Efficiency Committee, is assembling a Technical Team to serve as a peer support resource. Chairman Ogurick mentioned that Woodie Weiss, Chairman of the Madison Energy and Efficiency Committee is putting together a Technical Team to serve as a peer support resource for Connecticut communities.

E. Yankee Gas presentation to the EDC

Chairman Ogurick and Mr. Gancarz attended the January 2014 Economic Development Commission meeting where representatives of Yankee Gas were present to talk about their plans of expanding their gas service to customers throughout Connecticut and specifically in Cheshire. Chairman Ogurick invited the Yankee Gas representatives to attend a future Energy Commission meeting.

F. DEEP Commissioner Dan Esty returning to Yale; Gov. Malloy names Robert Klee Commissioner

Chairman Ogurick noted that DEEP Commissioner Dan Esty recently announced that he would be returning to work at Yale after a 3 year leave of absence to serve the State. Governor has named Robert Klee as Commissioner Esty's replacement. Chairman Ogurick noted that Commissioner Esty spoke at the December 2013 Economic Development Commission meeting, which he and Mr. Gancarz attended.

G. Street Lighting – LED conversion project

Mr. Gancarz talked about CCM's program for LED Street Light retrofit conversion through Siemens Industry Inc. He explained that as part of this program, a free cost analysis is done but Cheshire would have to agree to only negotiate with Siemens for 1 year from the date the contract is signed. There is no cost to the Town if they decide to not go forward with Siemens for this street light program. If the Town moves forward with Siemens to purchase and retrofit the street lights, it would enter into a maintenance agreement with Siemens that would be paid for by the savings of switching the lights to LEDs.



Mr. Gancarz noted that Cheshire currently is charged \$0.14269 / kWh to lease the street lights from CL & P compared to \$0.02633 if Cheshire owned the street lights. Approximately \$265,000 is paid to CL & P annually for the 1,744 street lights Cheshire leases. Mr. Nesdale suggested that the Town look into if there is an attachment fee to rent the poles from CL & P and AT & T, which the street lights are mounted to, as Cheshire considers purchasing the street lights.

Chairman Ogurick mentioned that the Energy Commission had looked at doing this in the past but would need to look back in the old records to determine what information they found back then when they decided not to pursue the purchase of the street lights.

**MOTION** by Joe Nesdale that the Energy Commission asks the Cheshire Town Council to authorize Town Manager Milone to execute the free "CCM Energy LED Street Light Retro-fit Program" Participation Agreement. **SECONDED** by Phil Newton.

Discussion:

Chairman Ogurick expressed concern that the participation agreement for this program does not specifically say that the Town does not have to pay anything if it is decided not to go forward with the purchase of the street lights. He was also concerned that this agreement could effect other outdoor lighting projects.

VOTE: In Favor –Gayeski, Michalowski, Nesdale, Newton and Wilson  
Opposed – Ogurick

The motion passes 5– 1.

H. **\*\*NEW** – Election of Officers for 2014

**MOTION** by Dave Gavin to nominate and re-elect Rich Ogurick as the Chairman of the Cheshire Energy Commission. **SECONDED** by Joe Nesdale.

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

The motion passes 7– 0.

**MOTION** by Joe Nesdale to nominate and re-elect Walt Gayeski as the Vice Chairman of the Cheshire Energy Commission. **SECONDED** by Joe Nesdale.

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

The motion passes 7– 0.

**MOTION** by Phil Newton to nominate and elect Paul Michalowski as the Secretary of the Cheshire Energy Commission. **SECONDED** by Dave Gavin.

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

The motion passes 7– 0.

#### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Joe Nesdale to adjourn the Energy Commission meeting at 9:25 p.m.; **SECONDED** by Paul Michalowski.

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

The motion passes 6– 0.

Respectfully submitted:

Tracey M. Kozlowski  
Recording Secretary