

CHESHIRE ENERGY COMMISSION – Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 28, 2014
Regular Meeting
7:00 P.M. – Room 210, Town Hall

Commissioners Present: Chairman Rich Ogurick
David Gavin
Paul Michalowski
Phil Newton
Carol Wilson

Commissioners Absent: Walter Gayeski
Joseph Nesdale

Staff Present: Walter Gancarz

Others Present: None

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. June 30, 2014 – Regular Meeting

Chairman Ogurick and the Commissioners did not feel the minutes from the June 30, 2014 were an accurate reflection of the meeting and could not be approved as presented. Ms. Wilson suggested the minutes be amended and then approved as amended. The minutes were reviewed and amended (Appendix A attached).

Motion by Mr. Michalowski to approve the minutes as amended. Seconded by Mr. Newton and carried unanimously.

V. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications to the Energy Commission.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Energy Efficiency Projects

1) Town-wide ESPC project

Mr. Gancarz reported that as of July 23, 2014 (the last meeting between Town officials and Ameresco) work on the ESPC projects around Town buildings is about 25% complete. The current focus is on school buildings to maximize productivity while school is out of session. At the High School and Highland, the lighting is currently being updated. At Dodd, a building management system is being implemented. Central heating in the west gym at the High School is underway after remediation of an asbestos issue. This work is expected to be completed before school starts. Mr. Gancarz reported there was work over the weekend on weatherization projects at the police station, the pool, the library and a few other Town buildings. The project is going well and moving along with no major issues. Once school starts, the focus will be back on Town buildings. A new boiler for the Town Hall is slated for late September and the air conditioning system is slated for over the winter. Mr. Gancarz reported that although the final numbers for the rebates are not known, they look to be positive with the potential for extra dollars because the interest rates were lower than the original pro forma rates. One idea being kicked around is to possibly use the extra dollars for insulation at the pool. Mr. Gancarz reported the estimated completion date of all ESPC projects is September 2015.

2) Street Lighting – LED conversion project; attachment fee; CL & P rate

Mr. Gancarz reported that the streetlight conversion program proposed by CCM was originally with Siemens, but for some reason, Siemens has withdrawn. CCM went out for RFP, received responses, and is in the process of selecting new contractors. Once the new contractors are determined, the next step will be whether or not Cheshire chooses to participate. The deal won't be any different, except that Siemens will not be

the contractor. Mr. Gancarz indicated the possibility of selecting several contractors to determine who is best suited for this program.

There was a discussion regarding the attachment fee and tariff to connect to the CL&P's poles. The Commission needs to know if there is a fee to connect lights bought by the Town to CL&P's poles. Mr. Gancarz reported that the cost of electricity will definitely be lower, due to a different tariff for LED lamps.

B. Benchmarking

1) Energy Star Portfolio Manager-Ameresco to update database

Mr. Gancarz shared an email from Zach Walsh at Ameresco regarding the status of the Town's Portfolio Manager database. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding whether or not to delete the history prior to 2009 in order to increase the Town's Energy Star rating, or to only use the data from 2009 to the present. It was decided that Mr. Gancarz will obtain the scores and then the commission can make a determination as to the best course of action.

C. Publicity / Education / Outreach

1) News articles and letters to the editor

Mr. Ogurick mentioned there is an article in the current Cheshire Herald about the projects being done in the schools while school is out of session.

2) Outstanding Energy Achiever award

Last month it was decided the item to be given to the first Outstanding Energy Achiever award recipient from the Energy Commission will be a visible desk or wall item with a cost of up to \$100. Ms. Wilson had no details to present, but will reach out to Barker Specialty to get this done by the next meeting.

3) October is National Energy Awareness Month

As reported at the last meeting, the Enfield Energy Alliance will be holding an Energy Expo on Saturday, October 4th at Suffield High School. Mr. Michalowski and Ms. Wilson plan to reach out to the Board of Education and department heads to try to get a poster campaign going with the different schools. The hope is to get this coordinated and completed by mid-September, so Cheshire students can participate at the Energy Expo in October.

D. Clean Energy

- 1) C-PACE – opt in; outreach; presentation by CEFIA

Chairman Ogurick reported on a presentation from CEFIA last month geared toward small commercial up to large industrial businesses. The Town needs to decide whether to opt in or not. A motion to present this idea to the Planning Committee has already been made and approved. There was a lengthy discussion about how to get this moving and who needed to be involved to make that happen. It was decided that Mr. Gancarz would nudge the Planning Committee and revisit this at the next meeting.

- 2) Landfill solar farm proposal

Chairman Ogurick informed the Commissioners that no update was available on the landfill solar farm proposal.

- 3) Solar PV Permitting – Earn Clean Energy Communities BONUS POINTS

Chairman Ogurick reported there are regulatory changes being made designed to simplify and standardize the permitting process so that every PV install doesn't need to reinvent the wheel. If the Town can get solar points, it can get additional Bright Idea Grants faster.

E. PBC Projects

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

F. Grants, Rebates & Utility Programs

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

There was a brief discussion about the early involvement of CL & P and Yankee Gas to review all construction/major renovation projects. Chairman Ogurick explained the Energy Blueprint program is an incentive program to get people to use more energy efficient technologies. The utility companies pay the incremental cost for customers to use more efficient technology.

Mr. Gancarz reported that Water Pollution Control plant data has all been sent in and is being reviewed by CL&P and at some point there will be a rebate.

2) Bright Idea Grant

Chairman Ogurick reported that this issue has already been voted on and approved by the Commission. There was a brief discussion on a webinar that Chairman Ogurick had seen on the details of the Bright Idea Grant program. Mr. Gancarz will nudge the appropriate people to get this moving forward.

4) Community Innovations Grant

Chairman Ogurick received a voicemail from Stephen Tracey indicating that if the Town does not use the remaining \$4,000 allocation, the Town will lose it. The deadline is October 10, 2014, although it is not clear whether that deadline is for making a decision how the grant will be used, or actual use of the grant. Mr. Gancarz will find out and report back at the next meeting.

G. CL & P Energy Reliability Program

Mr. Gancarz reported that Trees, Inc., one of two contractors working on tree trimming, was terminated due to a recent accident. Lewis Tree and Asplundh are now the contractors, but the project has taken a step back due to approvals, which Trees, Inc. had already obtained and now must be converted to the new contractors. Once the approvals are converted, the remaining ten miles will be completed.

H. Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations.

Mr. Gancarz inquired as to whether or not the commuter lot would need an easement from the CT DOT. The State plows the lot but it is not clear who owns it. Mr. Gancarz expressed concern about the cost if an attorney had to be retained to get an easement from the DOT. It was agreed that Mr. Gancarz will find out who owns the lot, nudge the planning committee to meet on this issue, talk to the Madison engineers and make a call to DOT regarding the process for an Electric Vehicle charging station in Cheshire.

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VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Net-Metering

Chairman Ogurick reported that the net metering rules are changing in favor of municipalities. The landfill solar farm proposal is a good example of how these changes can benefit municipalities by using solar power to offset imported power at other town facilities.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Michalowski to adjourn. Seconded by Ms. Wilson and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen M. Gill

APPENDIX A

**CHESHIRE ENERGY COMMISSION
REVISED MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, JUNE 30, 2014 AT 7:00 P.M.
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL – 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Commissioners Present:

Chairman Rich Ogurick, David Gavin, Walter Gayeski, Paul Michalowski, Joseph Nesdale, Phil Newton, and Carol Wilson

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present: None

Others Present:

Tim White of 1682 Orchard Hill Road Cheshire (arrived at 7:05 p.m.); Will McAlpin, Project Assistant at CEFIA (arrived at 7:15 p.m. and departed at 8:05 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. April 28, 2014 – Regular Meeting

MOTION by Walter Gayeski to accept the minutes of the April 28, 2014 regular meeting minutes as submitted. **SECONDED** by Carol Wilson.

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

The motion passed 7 – 0.

B. May 19, 2014 – No Quorum

No action was required.

V. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications to the Energy Commission.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Energy Efficiency Projects

1) Town-wide ESPC project – update

Mr. Gancarz reported that work has continued on the ESPC projects around Town buildings with a specific focus on the school buildings while they are not in session. Installation of LED lights is complete at Norton School and about 50% complete at the High School.

2) \$10K Bright Idea Grant – contract; best use of funds

Ideas for the Bright Idea Grant were discussed, and after a lengthy discussion, the Commission decided to put to vote an Electric Vehicle Charging Station (EVCS) at the I-84 commuter lot by Exit 26.

A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously by the Commission.

3) Street Lighting – LED conversion project; attachment fee; CL & P rate

Chairman Ogurick noted that the Energy Commission passed a motion at the January meeting to recommend that the Town participate in the CCM / Siemens street light evaluation program. He noted that an update on the status of this project was not available from Mr. Gancarz before this meeting.

B. Benchmarking

1) Energy Star Portfolio Manager-Ameresco to update database

There was no update on when Ameresco will begin to bring the Energy Star Portfolio Manager program data up to date from 2009 to present.

C. Publicity / Education / Outreach

- 1) News articles and letters to the editor

Mr. Michalowski shared a recent article regarding geothermal projects with the Energy Commission.

- 2) Outstanding Energy Achiever award

The Commission had a detailed discussion about an appropriate item to give to the first Outstanding Energy Achiever award recipient from the Energy Commission. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided the item can be a visible desk or wall item with a cost of up to \$100. Ms. Wilson will look into and choose the item and bill it to the Town.

D. Clean Energy

- 1) Solarize Cheshire – final results

Mr. White was present to discuss the final results of the Solarize Cheshire program.

- 2) C-PACE – opt in; outreach; presentation by CEFIA

Mr. McAlpin of CEFIA attended the Energy Commission meeting to give a presentation about the C-PACE program. It was noted that the Town's business community would have to express an interest or demand for the program before the Town could consider opting-in.

- 3) Landfill solar farm proposal

Chairman Ogurick informed the Commissioners that no update was available on the landfill solar farm proposal.

- 4) Solar PV Permitting – Earn Clean Energy Communities BONUS POINTS

No update was given on the Solar PV Permitting regarding earning Clean Energy Community Bonus Points.

E. PBC Projects

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

F. Grants, Rebates & Utility Programs

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

Commissioners agreed that design assistance, available through CL & P and Yankee Gas should be used to review all construction / major renovation Town projects to determine the most energy efficient alternatives for a specific project.

G. CL & P Energy Reliability Program

Mr. Nesdale noted that tree trimming was on hold and will be resuming with a new tree vendor in some locations.

H. Microgrid Grant and Loan Program – Round 2

Chairman Ogurick noted that the Commission is waiting to hear from the Town Council with regards to this program.

- I. Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (EVCS) – Town of Madison installed a dual-port ChargePoint CT4000 charger with a Smartphone app to see if the charger is available (both ports), get info on it, and reserve a port. It will be free to use for at least 3 years.

Chairman Ogurick reported that Mr. Gancarz is looking into funding options for an Electric Vehicle charging station for Cheshire.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. October is National Energy Awareness Month – The Enfield Energy Alliance will be holding an Energy Expo on Saturday, October 4th at Suffield High School

Chairman Ogurick reminded Commissioners that National Energy Awareness Month is in October and if the Commission would like to organize an event locally it should start work on planning it soon. Mr. Michalowski and Ms. Wilson will collaborate and report back on this at the next meeting.

- B. Congratulations to **Frank Biancur, Maintenance Supervisor**, for being awarded First Honors and receiving the Difference Maker Leadership Award at the State Capitol; Frank was honored at the Power of Change ceremony in recognition of his ongoing efforts to find energy savings in our school buildings

Commissioners were very happy to hear that Mr. Biancur was recognized recently for all his ongoing efforts to find energy savings in the Cheshire school buildings.

- C. Discussion with Pool Subcommittee Representative regarding changes for Cheshire Community Pool Enclosure

Mr. Gavin updated the Energy Commission on the status of the replacement enclosure for the Community Pool and reported that the insulation for the pool enclosure was an option that some members of the Pool Committee did not feel was affordable. A lengthy discussion ensued about the unacceptability of this caveat. Mr. Gavin will report back to the Commission on this issue.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Paul Michalowski to adjourn the Energy Commission meeting at 8:50 p.m.;
SECONDED by Joseph Nesdale.

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

The motion passed 7 – 0.

Respectfully submitted:

Tracey M. Kozlowski
Recording Secretary