

CHESHIRE ENERGY COMMISSION – Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 27, 2014
Regular Meeting
7:00 P.M. – Room 210, Town Hall

Commissioners Present: Chairman Rich Ogurick
Paul Michalowski
Carol Wilson
Walter Gayeski

Commissioners Absent: Joseph Nesdale
David Gavin
Phil Newton

Staff Present: Walter Gancarz

Others Present: Peter Talbot, Cheshire Town Council
Tim White
James DeSantos, Greenskies
Chris Palmer, Greenskies

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Ogurick called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

II. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

A quorum was determined for this meeting.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Michalowski to approve the minutes of the September 29, 2014 regular meeting. Seconded by Ms. Wilson and carried unanimously.

V. COMMUNICATIONS

Chairman Ogurick shared an email he received from Brad Stanek, a journalism student from Cheshire High School, who had questions regarding the proposed Electric Vehicle Charging Station.

Chairman Ogurick also shared an email from Kent Ellis of ABM regarding suggestions for possible EVSE (Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment) locations in Cheshire. A brief discussion ensued and Mr. Michalowski volunteered to ask Stop and Shop, Big Y and other local businesses about the possibility of partnering on an EVCS/EVSE project.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Energy Efficiency Projects

- 1) Town-wide ESPC (Energy Saving Performance Contract) project

Mr. Gancarz reported the project is more than 61% complete and is expected to be done by next fall. Mr. Gancarz reported the Town received its commitment letter from CL&P for an energy rebate of \$1,251,851.70. Mr. Gancarz reported there is a surplus of \$850,000, and the next step is to reconvene the previous committee and identify other projects to be recommended to the Town Council. Chairman Ogurick asked Mr. Gancarz about donating the refrigerators that had been replaced, and Mr. Gancarz informed the Commission that the refrigerators are already gone.

- 2) Community Pool Energy Efficiency

Chairman Ogurick shared an email from David Gavin, who reported that Arizon has submitted a design and a proposal to act as general contractor in all phases of the project; and the project management company is Arcadis. Arcadis is evaluating the design and proposal from Arizon, and should have something to report back in the next 2-3 weeks.

- 3) LED streetlights – CCM program\

Mr. Gancarz reported the Town has requested a buyout amount from CL&P for their street lighting hardware. It is estimated to be about \$300/fixture. With the cost of retrofitting to LED technology, the project could offer a return on investment within 5-7 years. Mr. Gancarz expects to have an update by the next meeting.

Chairman Ogurick shared that he participated in a webinar on October 8, 2014 and learned that the LED streetlights can be turned into "smart" lamps which can track traffic and serve as intelligent hubs.

B. Benchmarking

1) Energy Star Portfolio Manager

Mr. Gancarz reported he wants to get educated on this issue and find a sensible solution. Mr. Gancarz reiterated the savings will be tracked by Ameresco until June 2015.

C. Publicity / Education / Outreach

1) News articles and letters to the editor

Mr. Michalowski shared two articles with the Commissioners. The first one was about the Clinton schools going solar. The second article was about the Energy Commission still trying to push for the EVCS.

Mr. Michalowski mentioned a letter to the editor written by Mr. Gayeski and printed in the Cheshire Herald wherein it indicated that Mr. Gayeski is a member of the Energy Commission. There was a brief discussion about whether this letter reflects on the Energy Commission and it was decided that it was not impactful.

2) Outstanding Energy Achiever Award

There was no report on this matter due to Mr. Newton's absence.

3) October is National Energy Awareness Month

Mr. Michalowski shared an article from the Record Journal about the celebration of National Energy Awareness Month at Norton School. Chairman Ogurick had kind words for Mr. Michalowski and his extraordinary efforts to put this together. It was agreed this is exactly the kind of outreach the Commission desires in order to get the young future leaders involved and inspired about energy.

D. Clean Energy

1) C-PACE – opt in; outreach;

Mr. Gancarz reported he is working with Jerry Sitko who has taken the lead on putting together a program and outline for this project. Mr. Gancarz reported that a mailing has been sent out and Mr. Sitko is working on other ideas for economic development. The deadline is at the end of this week.

2) Solar on town-owned landfill

In response to an invitation from Chairman Ogurick, James DeSantos (Vice President of Business Development) and Chris Palmer (Engineer) from Greenskies Renewable Energy attended tonight's meeting to discuss possible solar installations in Town. Greenskies is the preferred developer for Target and Walmart, and is currently involved in many solar installations in Connecticut. These projects vary from small tranche (up to 100 kW) roof top installations to large tranche (>250 kW) commercial installations. The biggest savings is realized with a roof or ground installation ("behind the meter"), because there are no charges for transmission and delivery. Another option is a virtual net metering installation, which could power up to five locations (10 if critical facilities are included). Greenskies owns, designs, engineers, constructs, operates, maintains, monitors and insures all of their solar installations. If the Town decided to proceed with Greenskies, a Letter of Intent would be signed until the PPA (Power Purchase Agreement) is established and the ZREC (Zero Emission Renewable Energy Credit) is secured. A lengthy discussion ensued. Mr. White suggested it may behoove the Town to do a small tranche pilot installation to see how the process works and if the program fits.

After a comprehensive presentation, a lengthy discussion, and lots of questions and answers, it was decided by the Commission that a motion should be made.

Motion by Mr. Michalowski that the Energy Commission would like Walter Gancarz, Town Engineer to approach the Town Manager and determine the next steps for enabling the Town to participate in a small tranche ZREC solar energy pilot program by the January 2015 deadline. Seconded by Ms. Wilson and carried unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Michalowski for Chairman Ogurick to turn the meeting over to Mr. Gayeski for the purpose of making a motion for an RFP. Seconded by Ms. Wilson and carried unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Ogurick for the Town of Cheshire to issue an RFP to solar design and installation firms to develop a town-wide, medium tranche ZREC solar program, which has a deadline of June 2015. Seconded by Mr. Michalowski and passed unanimously.

It was agreed by the Commission that it makes good sense to invite Sarah Hill from Solar City to give a similar presentation at the next Energy Commission meeting.

E. PBC Projects – No discussion

F. Grants, Rebates & Utility Programs

1) Energy Blueprint - Early involvement of CL&P and YGS

Chairman Ogurick reiterated that Ameresco secured \$1,251,851.70 in incentives from CL&P for the ESPC program.

2) Bright Idea Grant

Chairman Ogurick reported that the Town has already received one Bright Idea Grant and is close to getting a second one.

Mr. Gancarz reported the Town is expecting a separate rebate for the upgrades at the water treatment plant within the next few months.

G. CL&P Energy Reliability Program

Mr. Gancarz reported that all tree trimming is done except for a little bit of work on East and West Johnson Avenues and a few other random places

H. Microgrid Grant and Loan Program

Mr. Gancarz reported there is a webinar on November 10, 2014 from 10:00-12:30 pm.

I. Electric Vehicle Charging Station (EVCS)

Discussed under “Communications.”

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. CEFIA and Solar Connecticut – Cheshire received a “Solar-Friendly” rating of 2 out of 5 by CEFIA. There was a brief discussion about the criteria and possible ways that Cheshire can change and improve its rating.
- B. Clean Diesel Project Funds – Chairman Ogurick reported that RFP’s are due by Thursday, October 30, 2014.
- C. Chairman Ogurick reported that Connecticut has a national ranking of 6 out of 50 for energy efficiency by the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE)

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 8:56 by Mr. Michalowski. Seconded by Ms. Wilson and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen M. Gill