

Cheshire Energy Commission  
Monday, November 24, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.  
Room 210, Town Hall, 84 South Main Street

## MINUTES

**Commissioners Present:** Chairman Rich Ogurick  
Paul Michalowski  
Phil Newton  
Carol Wilson  
Walter Gayeski  
Joseph Nesdale  
Dave Gavin

**Staff Present:** Walter Gancarz

**Others Present:** Jeff Gebeau, *Record-Journal* reporter  
Sarah Hill, SolarCity, Tim White  
Dawn Guite, Recording Secretary

**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 the meeting.

### III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

### IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

#### A. October 27, 2014 – Regular Meeting

Ms. Wilson made a motion to accept the minutes. Motion was seconded by Mr. Gavin and approved unanimously.

While the October minutes were approved, it is noted that they expressed a tone where a relationship is confirmed with Greenskies. This is not the case. Greenskies presented at this meeting to introduce the company and explain its services. A vendor has not been selected.

## V. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Letter from Brad Stanek, CHS Journalism student, with copy of his article on car charging stations.

Chairman Ogurick received a follow up letter from Brad Stanek including the article written about the car charging stations in town.

B. Letter from Stephanie Staszewski of Norton School

Mr. Michalowski, who spearheaded this project, received a thank you letter from Stephanie Staszewski of Norton School expressing her and colleagues appreciation for the success of this project and that it offered more than anticipated. It gave students who struggle academically the confidence to research and work in a team setting. Mr. Michalowski asked for feedback as to whether a letter paraphrasing Stephanie's thank you should be sent to the local media. Comments have been captured in the November meeting minutes.

## VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Energy Efficiency Projects

1. Town-wide ESPC project – update; disposition of \$850K surplus

Mr. Gancarz reported that the project is 75% completed. A lot of work is being done in the evening at the schools on the lights. The electric heat conversion projects have been completed at Highland School and at the High School. There is complete functionality in place and assumes that everything is up and running.

There is an \$850K surplus resulting from a higher interest rate at the time of fruition. There will be discussions on how this money can be used for alternate projects. Recommendations will be made and then brought to the Town Council so that it can decide if it wants to use the money on extra projects or save it and put it toward something else. The original 300 list of projects as well as new items can be decided on. One of the new items is insulating pipes at the Firehouse Annex which houses fire equipment. The Annex is located next to the Firehouse.

2. Community pool energy efficiency – HVAC, insulation options

Jeff Gebeau article about his interview with Mike Milone and Mark Nash appears in the Citizen. Mr. Gavin, project liaison, generated a spreadsheet with a fast return on investment for pool efficiency projects totaling \$1million. This figure is determined by 5+ years of research that has been done. Perhaps surplus money can be used for this project. Mr. Gavin has not seen the proposal for design or cost. It is still in negotiations.

3. LED streetlights – CCM program; CL&P buyout amount

The buyout amount is under review by CL&P management as communicated by the town representative. A commitment date is to be determined.

B. Benchmarking

1. Energy Star Portfolio Manager  
No activity

C. Publicity/Education/Outreach

1. New articles and letters to the editor  
No activity
2. Outstanding Energy Achiever award – status  
Mr. Michalowski will have artwork for approval for the plaques during the week of December 1<sup>st</sup>. Project will be completed the week following.
3. Norton School posters – on display in Town Hall lobby  
Confirmation was made that the posters are on display.

D. Clean Energy

1. C-PACE – opt in; outreach plan; COC meeting on 12/11  
A letter of invite with flyer from Michael Milone, Town Manager, was distributed to the Energy Commission members for the meeting scheduled on December 11, 2014 at Paul's Restaurant at 8:00am. Please RSVP to Ms. Catherine Donegan in the Economic Development Office.
2. Solar on town-owned landfill – Greenskies Renewal Energy, SolarCity; next steps for small ZREC pilot program; RFP for town-wide medium tranche solar program

In conjunction with Tim White's solar energy research for Yale project and serving as a liaison, solar energy companies have been invited to Energy Commission meetings to introduce themselves and their services. Feedback that the Commission receives will be presented to the Town Council for discussion for the possibility of a small pilot program focusing on projects in town. One area for consideration is the landfill in Cheshire.

Per an invite from Chairman Ogurick, Sarah Hill from SolarCity gave a presentation introducing the company. SolarCity is the national leader in clean energy services. It has 141,000+ customers, 1,700+ commercial solar projects and serves 17 states. It has raised funds to finance more than \$5 billion in solar projects. In Connecticut, SolarCity has over 20 commercial and 1,200 residential projects. It is a proven leader in the CT ZREC market.

SolarCity's customized service agreements provide flexibility so that maintenance timelines are met and performance complies with the needs and expectations of its customers. Its monitoring services record downloadable data accessible to online accounts. Data shows energy consumption by day/week/year. It recognizes opportunities for reduction and modification in use of energy to save money. Safety is key for SolarCity and its best practices exceed requirements for OSHA, NFPA, EPA and their state counterparts.

Because SolarCity installs and maintains systems at sites, customers pay only for electricity that the system produces. It can leverage government incentives that customers may not be able to get on their own. This, in conjunction with ZRECs lowers the overall PPA price. The PPA also protects against rising utility rates. CT ZREC contracts are for 15-20 years. Projects are bid on a first come first serve basis and lowest bid projects are awarded first. The next auction is scheduled in April 2015. SolarCity was awarded all contracts that were bid in 2014 and had a higher than average win rate in the first auctions in 2012 and 2013.

SolarCity has a step by step process to determine energy needs. It conducts a site analysis within 30 days free of charge. An RFP/RFQ is then drafted in 30 days. Mr. Gancarz will draft the RFP/RFQ for the Energy Commission based on boilerplates which have already been established. The timeline for activity is as follows:

- (1) Draft RFP/RFQ – January 2015
- (2) RFP/RFQ goes out to bid (legal notice goes to media) – Vendors have 30 days to respond
- (3) Additional research by vendors – 30 days for additional research
- (4) Approval by Town Council (Agenda and meeting scheduled)

#### E. PBC Projects

There is an RFP established for renovation of the locker room for \$300,000. The interest is for a field house structure with recommendations to be made by CL&P. Mr. Ogurick made a request that the Energy Commission see the plans for the project especially where heating is concerned.

#### F. Grants, Rebates, & Utility Programs

1. Early involvement of CL&P and YGS in all town building projects – Energy Blueprint

There has been communication back and forth on the rebate for improvements to the treatment plant. A letter of commitment is pending and should be received soon.

2. Bright Idea Grant(s)  
No activity
3. Community Innovations Grant – demonstrate a need for the balance of funding; budget submitted on 10/29.

The budget that was submitted demonstrates the need to keep the balance of funding and is in agreement with the Grant process.

- G. CL&P Energy Reliability Program – update on tree trimming.  
The final areas are being worked on now by Asplundh. These include East/West Johnson Street and Cheshire Street. The plan for 2015 has yet to be determined statewide.
- H. Microgrid Grant and Loan Program – Round 2; webinar on 11/10  
The webinar is online so that it can be reviewed.
- I. Electric Vehicle Charging Station (EVCS) – options; Round 2 Municipal and State Agency EV Charging Station Incentive; commercial partnerships

Mr. Michalowski contacted Stop and Shop and Big Y to inquire about interest for EVCS options. Because neither store owns the parking lots. They are owned by multiple conglomerates who are only interested in the money that they receive from their tenants. While Mr. Michalowski encouraged the possibility of tax exempt abatement, there is still no interest. He is asking the Commission for ideas to go forward. What is needed is an interested partner that owns land located in a high traffic area so that there is no multiple party involvement. Mr. Newton will reach out to the YMCA to ask if there is interest. Another thought is to reach out to other town facilities such as the Firehouse. The Commission will continue to brainstorm and come back with ideas at the next meeting.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Gathering of Clean Energy Task Forces – December 6, 2014 – location TBD in New Haven

Chairman Ogurick stated that a location in New Haven will be determined for the meeting on December 6<sup>th</sup>. He invited the Commission members to attend the meeting and refer to Google Group for additional information.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Ogurick motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:45pm. Ms. Wilson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, Dawn Guite, Recording Secretary