

CHESHIRE ENERGY COMMISSION – Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 27, 2015
Regular Meeting
7:00 P.M. – Room 207, Town Hall

Commissioners Present: Phil Newton
Walter Gayeski
Paul Michalowski

Commissioners Absent: Chairman Rich Ogurick
Joseph Nesdale
David Gavin
Carol Wilson

Staff Absent: Walter Gancarz

Others Present: Frank Biancor
Tim White

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

A quorum was not determined for this meeting.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Energy Efficiency Projects

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

Mr. Biancor reported all schools are completed with LED lights with only a few things left to do. Mr. Biancor reported the minimum estimated savings on this project will be approximately \$100,000 per year. There was a brief discussion about other energy efficiency projects, such as installing more efficient toilet valves and sensors in all classrooms to control the temperature. It is up to the Town Council to decide whether or not to reinvest the savings into other energy efficiency projects in the schools.

Mr. Gayeski reported on behalf of Mr. Gancarz as follows: The Performance Contract working group is finalizing the recommended projects that will be presented to the Council for a decision on which projects to proceed with. It is expected that the list will be available later this week.

2) Community Pool Energy Efficiency

Mr. Gayeski reported on behalf of Mr. Gancarz as follows: Community Pool Energy compliance being evaluated as part of the Building Permit review process. It was also noted that there is a Joint Pool Committee/PBC/Town Council Pool Oversight Committee meeting next Tuesday, May 5, 2015 at 7:30 in the Town Hall, Room 207.

3) LED streetlights

Mr. Gayeski reported on behalf of Mr. Gancarz as follows: Streetlights – Town has signed a contract with Siemens to perform the Planning elements of the street light design project. This portion of the project should be completed within 90 days. Once that is completed the Town Council will need to approve the actual purchase and retrofit. The funding for this project was captured in the 2015-2016 budget. It is expected that Siemens will do a complete analysis to determine if some of the lights can be removed. An outside company will be hired for the maintenance of the lights once they are purchased by the Town.

B. Benchmarking

There was nothing to report on this matter.

C. Publicity / Education / Outreach

Mr. Michalowksi reported that Jeff Gebeau is no longer with the Record Journal.

Mr. Michalowski reported that he spoke with Stephanie Staszewski at Norton School and the \$100 given at the Energy Fair will be used for Grandparent's Bingo at Norton School.

Mr. Michalowski shared four articles the Commission. The first one was about the solar industry in the Northeast pushing for uniform policies. The second article was about the Town of Avon beginning work on installing solar panels. The third article was about SolarCity contracting with the Town of Rocky Hill for solar generation. The fourth article was about automakers doubling the driving range of affordable electric cars.

D. Clean Energy

1) C-PACE

Mr. Gayeski reported on behalf of Mr. Gancarz as follows: There have been several applications submitted for C-PACE projects.

2) Solar on town-owned landfill

Mr. Gayeski reported on behalf of Mr. Gancarz as follows: Town is moving ahead with SolarCity to submit ZREC bid for solar at town landfill and one school – either High School or Dodd. Bids due in June. Preliminary ZREC schedule is listed below:

- RFP to be released April 30th
- Webinar going over the program for those interested in early May
- Bids to be due approximately 5-6 weeks after RFP released (approximately June 11th)
- Winning bids will be notified approximately 1-2 weeks after bids due (approximately June 25th)
- Executed ZREC agreements along with performance assurance due 2 weeks from award notice (approximately July 9th)

Mr. White reported the small ZREC auction was reopened due to a lack of viable applications. This caused a delay in the medium and large ZREC auctions. Mr. White also noted he had spoken with Sarah Hill from

SolarCity regarding the likelihood of the virtual net metering process. Ms. Hill reported that only 30% of the \$8,000,000 available from CL&P has been used compared to UI who has exhausted all of its virtual net metering dollars. There was a brief discussion about this disparity. Mr. White was reassured by Ms. Hill that if approved, the Town should not have a problem getting virtual net metering. Mr. White explained the advantages of virtual net metering, the difference between net metering and virtual net metering and the cost benefits to the Town.

E. PBC Projects – CHS Locker Room renovations

Mr. Biancor reported the locker room project is on hold until the asbestos can be abated, which will be approximately June 22, 2015. There was a brief discussion about the challenges of physically removing the asbestos and the estimated time frame. Mr. Gayeski inquired about the plans. Mr. Biancor reported he has not seen them. Mr. Talbot recommended the Energy Commission put in a request to the PBC to see the plans for the locker room renovations.

F. Grants, Rebates & Utility Programs

- 1) Early involvement of Eversource in all town building projects - Energy Blueprint

Mr. Gayeski reported on behalf of Mr. Gancarz as follows: Awaiting letter from Eversource on energy rebate associated with WPCP project. Commitment letter expected within the next two weeks.

- 2) Bright Idea Grants

It was reported that the Town recently received another \$10,000 grant for a total of \$20,000. There was a brief discussion of how and when these grants can be used.

G. CL&P Energy Reliability Program - Tree Trimming

There was nothing new to report on this matter.

H. Microgrid Grant and Loan Program

There was nothing new to report on this matter.

I. Electric Vehicle Charging Station (EVCS)

Mr. Michalowski reported he spoke with Jennifer Riley at the DEEP and she suggested the Town consider the possibility of pursuing a wall-mounted electric vehicle charging station. Mr. Michalowski reported he also spoke with Pat Kelly at the Connecticut DOT and there is a clean fuel program wherein the DOT will pay the difference between an electric car and a gas powered car. There was a brief discussion about the viability of this idea and getting the proper support from the Town. Mr. Michalowski agreed to gather more information on this matter, get feedback from other towns that have installed wall-mounted charging stations and report back at next month's meeting.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. White shared that he had read an article in the Stamford Advocate about an Electric Vehicle show in Stamford. He spoke with someone at the First Congregational Church about the possibility of Cheshire hosting a similar show, perhaps commensurate with the Strawberry Festival. Mr. White plans to try to pull this together and speak with Chairman Ogurick about the possibility of the Energy Commission endorsing this event. He will report back at next month's meeting.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen M. Gill