

**CHESHIRE ENERGY COMMISSION – Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, July 27, 2015**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**7:00 P.M. – Room 210, Town Hall**

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

Commissioners Absent: David Gavin

Others Present: Tim White  
Walter Gancarz

Others Absent: Peter Talbot, Town Council

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

A quorum was determined for this meeting.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*Motion by Mr. Newton to approve the May 18, 2015 minutes. Seconded by Mr. Michalowski and passed unanimously.*

*Motion by Mr. Michalowski to approve the June 29, 2015 minutes. Seconded by Mr. Newton and passed unanimously.*

## V. COMMUNICATIONS

There was a discussion about the process for replacing Mr. Nesdale. Chairman Ogurick will follow up on this matter.

Mr. Michalowski shared a page from the Norton Yearbook about the solar energy project the Energy Commission sponsored. There was a discussion about ideas for Energy Awareness month in October this year. Mr. Michalowski stated he will work with Norton again on this project. Mrs. Wilson stated she will reach out to Doolittle.

## VI. OLD BUSINESS

### A. Energy Efficiency Projects

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

Mr. Gancarz reported this project is about 92% complete. The new building management system are in the process getting fully connected and operational. Mr. Gancarz reported there have been some growing pains and everyone is working on ways to improve the transition.

Chairman Ogurick asked about possible supplemental projects. Mr. Gancarz reported there is no meeting date yet, but it is in the process of being set up.

- 2) Community Pool Energy Efficiency

Mr. Gancarz reported the building permit was issued for this project last week. Mr. Gancarz stated a smaller boiler was installed as part of the ESPC. There is a kickoff on July 28, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. Construction is expected to start soon and the best guess for the completion of this project is late November.

There was a brief discussion about the advantages and disadvantages of a cover for the pool.

Mr. Gancarz confirmed there will be LED lights at the pool.

- 3) LED streetlights

Mr. Gancarz reported the buyout number expired on 4/16/15 and he is in the process of obtaining a new buyout number from

Eversource. Mr. Gancarz stated that Eversource will not let the Town evaluate or work on the lights until the Town purchases them. Once a new buyout number is received, this matter will be brought to the Town Council for approval. Mr. Gancarz stated the potential rebate for this project is approximately \$170,000 and there is the potential to reduce the number of lights. The buyout will save the Town approximately \$127,000 per year. Siemens will do the retrofit and handle the maintenance for at least the first few years.

## B. Benchmarking

Mr. Gancarz reported he received an email from Allison Jackman, Eversource, Clean Energy Communities Energy Efficiencies and plans to have a conversation with her on Wednesday, July 29, 2015.

## C. Publicity / Education / Outreach

Mr. Michalowski shared three articles with the Commission. The first article was about the city of New Britain adding an Electric Vehicle Charging Station. The second article was about the expanding benefits of buying an electric car. The third article was about the \$131,250 in approved rebates for consumers who purchase or lease electric vehicles.

Mr. Gancarz stated there is a Workplace Charging Workshop at The Hartford on August 3, 2015 from 8:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m.

## D. Clean Energy

### 1) Solar on town-owned landfill

Mr. Gancarz reported the Town Council approved the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with Solar City on July 14, 2015. The only outstanding issue is whether or not the Town will be awarded virtual net metering. If PURA does not hand down an administrative ruling waiving the 40% limitation, then this matter will be addressed at the next legislative session in January. Mr. Gancarz explained the Town has identified seven buildings that would use virtual net metering and the Town would realize an 80% reduction in the first year; a 60% reduction in the second year; and a 40% reduction thereafter. The discount is for at least 15 years. Mr. Gancarz reported if the Town does not get awarded the virtual net metering, the Town can cancel the contract.

Solar City is in the process of applying for interconnection in order to get in the cue for virtual net metering.

E. PBC Projects – CHS Locker Room renovations

There was nothing new to report on this project.

F. Grants, Rebates & Utility Programs

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

There was nothing new to report on this matter.

- 2) Bright Idea Grants

There was a discussion about new ideas for ways to use the Bright Idea Grants. Mr. Gancarz stated he will look for more LED possibilities. After a lengthy discussion, the Commission decided to sponsor a lightbulb giveaway at the Fall Festival on September 12, 2015.

*Motion by Mr. Gayeski to appropriate \$3,000 for the purchase of LED bulbs for distribution free of charge at the Fall Festival. Seconded by Mrs. Wilson and passed unanimously.*

Mr. Gayeski stated he would like to advertise at the Fall Festival for a residential energy efficiency talk he wants to give at the Cheshire Public Library. There was a brief discussion.

- 3) Mr. Gayeski reported there is a new residential energy efficiency study from EnergizeCT/Eversource called Home Performance with energy Star (HpwES). This study is similar to the HES audit, but with more analysis and detail.
- 4) WPCP Rebate

Mr. Gancarz reported the Town has received the final commitment letter from Eversource. The total rebate was \$205,175.05 and will be put into the WPCP reserve fund. This project came in on time and under budget.

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)

After a lengthy discussion about the possibility of an EVCS in Cheshire, this matter was tabled.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

There was lengthy discussion about the possibility of converting the school buses to propane.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

*Motion to adjourn by Mr. Michalowski. Seconded by Mr. Newton and passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

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Karen M. Gill