

**CHESHIRE ENERGY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2016 7:00 PM
ROOM 207, TOWN HALL, 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET
MINUTES**

Commissioners Present: Chairman Rich Ogurick
Phil Newton
Walter Gayeski
Rob Brucato
Paul Michalowski
David Gavin

Commissioners Absent: Carol Wilson

Others Present: Peter Talbot, District Councilman
Walter Gancarz, Town Engineer
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. January 25, 2016 – Regular Meeting

Commissioner Gavin made a motion to accept the minutes as amended for January 25, 2016. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Michalowski and approved unanimously.

V. COMMUNICATIONS

In response to a Cheshire Herald article on electric cars and a letter to the editor from a town citizen, Commissioner Michalowski called the citizen to provide additional information about electric cars. The citizen appreciated the phone call and understands the Energy Commission's views.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Energy Efficiency Projects

1. Town-wide ESPC project – status of supplemental projects

Mr. Gancarz reported the discussion about supplemental projects is ongoing and that no decisions have been made at this time. Mr. Talbot will check on the status of these projects. There is no concern for time sensitivity. There was a brief discussion.

2. Community pool energy efficiency – heat pipe heat recovery system; possible cogeneration project

There was a discussion about the UV system in place to destroy chloramine and bacteria in the water and who is in charge of pool maintenance. Mr. Gancarz will check on the status of the maintenance schedule and report back to the Commission. There will be a formal grand opening of the pool in the spring with attention paid to publicity and marketing. Comments were made about the possibility of getting a pool cover which can generate a savings of up to \$25,000 per year.

The heat pipe system has been installed and is being used. Mr. Gancarz will be tracking it monthly.

The possibility of a cogeneration project is still being discussed. No action will be taken at this time.

3. LED streetlights – status of Cornwall Avenue trial
Mr. Gancarz reported that once the LED pre-fixtures are approved by Eversource, a letter of commitment will be written and installation will begin in April. Completion of the project will be by Memorial Day.

B. Benchmarking

1. Energy Star Portfolio Manager – database update
Mr. Gancarz said that the database is up-to-date and distributed a handout.
2. Automated energy usage downloads from Eversource

Going forward Finance will make updates on a monthly basis.

C. Publicity/Education/Outreach

1. News articles and letters to the editor

Commissioner Michalowski distributed several articles at the meeting. One of the articles from Tribune News compares electric vehicles currently available in the marketplace. Another article from www.thruway.ny.gov/travelers/travelplazas/ announced that electric vehicle charging stations are now open on the NYS Thruway.

D. Clean Energy

1. Solar on town landfill – virtual net metering status
Mr. Gancarz said that Solar City is pursuing permits and design applications. There are nine communities in the state that can benefit from net metering credits. A meeting held with the towns resulted in acting on reallocations. The Town Council thought that the savings were considerably larger than announced. The nine communities will attend a meeting on March 8, 2016 with energy companies attending to discuss these measures. The virtual net metering will go to the Legislature for resolution on May 3, 2016.
2. Solar possibilities on other town-operated buildings

Other buildings (concession stand at the high school) is among the possibilities and this will be discussed at a future meeting.

E. PBC Projects

There was nothing to report.

F. Grants, Rebates, & Utility Programs

1. Early involvement of Eversource in all town building projects – Energy Blueprint
Eversource has contacts in place to consult regarding energy efficiency.
2. Bright Idea Grant(s) – \$10K remaining; discussion with Eversource/Clean Energy Communities team
Commissioner Brucato made a suggestion that the remaining money be used for dryer duct cleaning at homes. Uncleaned ducts show an increase in at least \$25.00 in electricity each month. In addition it has become a requirement that dryer ducts in condominiums be replaced yearly.
The town can partner with the fire department on this initiative as it promotes safety and efficiency.

Allison Jackman will be contacted regarding this suggestion for feedback.
3. Cheshire has earned an additional \$18,000 on the Renewable Energy track of the Clean Energy Communities program - can be applied to any project involving Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy, or Alternative Fuel Vehicles – the Town Council approved allocating \$4,000 of this grant to subsidize the EVCS at Big Y
Commissioner Michalowski reported that installation of the EVCS will take one month and that a ribbon cutting and publicity can take place by the end of June.

G. CL&P Energy Reliability Program – update on tree trimming

Tree trimming is being done at Mayview Avenue and more will be scheduled during the coming season.

H. Electric Vehicle Charging Station (EVCS) – Big Y project status; other commercial partnerships

Commissioner Michalowski will contact Richard Chevrolet to ask for display of a Chevy Volt as part of a formal introduction of the EVCS. There will be a ribbon cutting proposed for the end of June. Big Y has paid for everything and will benefit from the EVCS and when Stop & Shop and other businesses see progress there, they should follow with similar action.

I. Concession stand renovations - energy efficiency measures

Mr. Talbot said that this is being discussed. There is no action to be taken at this time.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Municipal Resilience Grant Program

This grant has been established by a “Google” group to improve municipal reaction. No action will be taken at this time.

B. 12th Annual *eesmarts* Statewide Student Contest - deadline for entries is April 1, 2016.

This contest is geared toward elementary schools. Chairman Ogurick will send Commissioner Michalowski information which can be passed on to Norton School.

C. Election of Officers for 2016

Commissioner Gavin made a motion to elect the following:

Chairman: Mr. Ogurick

Vice-Chair: Mr. Michalowski (position relinquished by Commissioner Gayeski)

Secretary: Mr. Newton

Commissioner Brucato seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Chairman Ogurick to adjourn the meeting at 8:45pm.

Minutes typed and submitted on March 7, 2016 by Dawn Guite, Recording Secretary.