

**AGENDA**  
**CHESHIRE ENERGY COMMISSION**  
**MONDAY, APRIL 26, 2021, 7:00 PM**  
**Via Zoom**

**(PER EXECUTIVE ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR OF CONNECTICUT)**

*Public access made available through live streaming on YouTube at  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4\\_xey3QjJmwe57R\\_6K94Dw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4_xey3QjJmwe57R_6K94Dw)*

*Public comments accepted at [Comments@cheshirect.org](mailto:Comments@cheshirect.org) and by voice mail message at 203 271-6638.  
Video will be available on Channel 14 and on demand at [www.cheshirect.org](http://www.cheshirect.org) as soon as possible.*

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

**III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. March 29, 2021 – Regular Meeting

**V. COMMUNICATIONS**

**VI. OLD BUSINESS**

A. Energy Efficiency Projects

1. MaClary Athletic Complex – status of LED lighting project
2. HES program for residential buildings – end date
3. I ♥ My Home – update
4. Year 5 Annual M&V Inspection, and Year 6 Q-1 Quarterly EMS Report

B. Benchmarking

1. Energy Star Portfolio Manager – database input and maintenance
2. Chris Smith – sub-committee to research new municipal energy efficiency/cost savings opportunities
3. Slides and recording of Energy Star webinar on 3/30/21 - "To Efficiency & Beyond! How to Benefit from Benchmarking Compliance with Strategies for Improving Energy Performance."  
[https://www.energystar.gov/buildings/training/basics\\_benchmarking\\_complying\\_ordinances](https://www.energystar.gov/buildings/training/basics_benchmarking_complying_ordinances).

C. Publicity/Education/Outreach

1. News articles and letters to the editor

D. Clean Energy

1. Opportunities for additional solar car ports or PV arrays
2. Solar Marketplace Assistance Program (MAP) - update

E. PBC Projects

1. Energy Commission review of improvements to the existing locker rooms and the HVAC system at the Cheshire Police Station

F. Grants, Rebates, & Utility Programs

1. Early involvement of Eversource in all town building projects

G. Energy Reliability Program

1. Update on tree trimming
2. Letter to PURA

H. Coalition for Sustainable Cheshire

1. Feedback to coalition

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

**CHESHIRE ENERGY COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 29, 2021 – VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Ogurick called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

**II. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

A quorum was determined to be present.

**Commission Members Present:** Richard Ogurick (Chairman), Walter Gayeski, Chris Smith, Dan Knudsen, Ryan O’Grady, George Romania, David Gavin

**Staff Present:** Daniel Bombero

**III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

All present pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A. February 22, 2021 - Meeting Minutes**

Note the following corrections:

Pg. 4, A. Solar Marketplace Assistance Program (MAP) Opportunity - Clarify that Mr. Ogurick inquired if there are any projects being developed in the absence of Net Metering Programs.

Pg. 5, B. Storm Isaias Cost Recovery Discussion – While discussing the draft letter to PURA, clarify that Mr. Smith is not stating that there was a lack of response time but rather an “alleged” lack of response time and “ask that rate payers not incur costs” only in the event that Eversource was determined to be negligent with respect to their storm response time.

**MOTION** by Mr. O’Grady to approve the meeting minutes.

**SECONDED** by Mr. Smith.

**VOTE** The motion passed unanimously.

## **V. COMMUNICATIONS**

None

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Energy Efficiency Projects**

Mr. Ogurick asked Mr. Bombero if he had any information regarding the status of the annual inspection performed by AMERESCO. Mr. Bombero will follow up with Mr. Clavet and Mr. Noewatne. Mr. Bombero stated that he is currently serving as the liaison to the Commission for both the Board of Education and the Town.

#### **1. MaClary Athletic Complex – status of LED lighting project; cost/benefit summary**

Mr. Bombero reports that the project will be substantially completed by the end of the week. The lights still need to be aimed and balanced. The Board of Education was pleased with the outcome of the project. Mr. Bombero noted that the new lights are 60 % brighter than the old ones.

#### **2. Updated HES program for residential buildings – articles in local media; end date**

See below

#### **3. I ❤️ My Home - Update**

Mr. Knudsen reported that 130 buildings and 130 residences are enrolled in this pilot program and 17 of those are from Cheshire. Five (5) homes have been added within the last month. Commission members agreed to advertise on the Facebook Forum. The expiration date of the program is mid-year and may be extended.

### **B. Benchmarking**

#### **1. Energy Star Portfolio Manager – database maintenance**

Mr. Romania reported that he did not receive the fossil fuel data (# 2 heating oil information) that needed to be input into the system. Mr. Bombero and Mr. Romania will coordinate at a future date to get the necessary information that needs to be input into the database.

2. Portfolio Manager – Slides from Part 2 Webinar, 2/24/21 – Using Benchmarking Results to Understand your Building’s Performance:  
[https://www.energystar.gov/buildings/training/basics\\_benchmarking\\_complying\\_ordinances](https://www.energystar.gov/buildings/training/basics_benchmarking_complying_ordinances)

Mr. Ogurick has been pleased with the Webinar series and has found the information helpful. He noted that it aligns with the goals of the Commission.

3. Chris Smith – sub-committee to research new municipal energy efficiency/cost savings opportunities

Mr. Smith volunteered to form a subcommittee to research new municipal energy efficiency/cost savings opportunities. Mr. Bombero will provide Mr. Ogurick and Mr. Smith with information regarding Commission Guidelines with respect to subcommittees.

4. Portfolio Manager – Part 3 Webinar scheduled for 03/30/21 at 1:00 PM  
<https://esbuildings.webex.com/esbuildings/onstage/g.php?MTID=ef6c72f9fcea44d1433bfb2abd7b1c1ef>

Mr. Ogurick shared the sign up link to the third part of the series on how to utilize the data from the Portfolio Manager. Mr. Ogurick shared that Part 3 was free of charge and that anyone interested could sign up by clicking on the link provided on the agenda. He shared that if any member were unable to attend the program, he would be willing to share his slides with them.

C. Publicity/Education/Outreach

1. News articles and letters to the editor

Mr. Ogurick shared a 2019 email article about a Wallingford resident who benefits from low utility rates compared to other surrounding towns and how this minimizes Wallingford’s opportunity to qualify for Clean Renewable Energy projects. Members of the commission engaged in a group discussion about the contents of the article and discussed why Connecticut’s utility rates are among the highest nationally.

**D. Clean Energy**

**1. Opportunities for additional solar car ports or PV arrays**

Mr. Ogurick reiterated that the group is continuing to look for opportunities for clean energy projects. Mr. Ogurick reported that CT Greenbank may be able to identify opportunities for additional solar projects once they look at the addresses forwarded to them by the Commission. CT Greenbank can utilize a GIS application to determine if some of these locations are potential sites for future solar projects. Mr. Gayeski reported that school system hired a private consultant for Solar Mapping as part of a School Modernization Committee initiative and Mr. Bombero concurred that an analysis had been completed by a private firm, but no action was taken.

Mr. Smith reported that one of his colleagues is working on a zero emission bus project and that the Commission may want to explore this opportunity.

**E. PBC Projects**

**1. Improvements to the existing locker rooms and the HVAC system at the Cheshire Police Department**

Mr. Bombero forwarded the final drawings to the Energy Commission members for their review. He included a memo for the Commission to formally list their recommendations to the Public Building Commission for review at their April meeting. The memo needs to be sent to Mrs. McBain by the submission deadline of April 19<sup>th</sup> to be included in the April PBC meeting packet.

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

**1. Early Involvement of Eversource in all Town building project.**

Mr. Bombero reported that the Town is receiving two Eversource rebate checks; for the replaced boiler at the Fire Headquarters in the amount of \$15,984.00 and the Fire Annex Boiler in the amount \$4,000.00.

**G. Energy Reliability Program – Update on tree trimming**

Mr. Bombero reported that Eversource will be completing customer focused trimming along Reservoir Road and Broad Swamp, Williamsburg Drive and Surrey Drive, and 4 spans east of South Meriden Road.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

**MOTION** by Mr. O’Grady to add PURA draft letter discussion under “New Business.”

**SECONDED** by Mr. Knudsen.

**VOTE** The motion passed unanimously.

**A. Draft Letter on behalf of the Energy Commission to PURA**

Mr. Smith provided a summary of the letter he drafted to the Public Utilities Regulatory Administration (PURA) on behalf of the Energy Commission. The group reviewed the draft letter and shared their comments, ideas and revisions to be included in the final letter to PURA. The letter expressed concerns over possible cost-recovery requests by Eversource being passed to ratepayers, should they be found negligent in their response to Tropical Storm Isaias. (copy attached). Mr. Smith volunteered to revise his draft to include the revisions by the Commission members. Chairman Ogurick requested that Mrs. McBain put the final copy on letter-head and forward it to PURA.

**MOTION** by Dan Knudsen to amend the draft letter to PURA to include the comments and revisions by the members of the Commission.

**SECONDED** by Mr. O’Grady.

**VOTE** The motion passed unanimously

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Gayeski and the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 PM.

**ATTEST**



Anne McBain, Acting secretary

(attachments)

March 31, 2021

Mr. Jeffrey R. Gaudiosi, Esq.  
Executive Secretary  
Public Utilities Regulatory Authority  
10 Franklin Square  
New Britain, CT 06051

**DRAFT**

Dear Commissioners of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority:

On behalf of the residents and ratepayers of the Town of Cheshire, the Cheshire Energy Commission would like to express its deep concern over comments reportedly made by Eversource CEO Jim Judge regarding his apparent expectation that regulators will eventually permit the utility to recover tens of millions of dollars from ratepayers for costs related to Tropical Storm Isaias. As reported in the Hartford Courant last month, the article stated "... *'We expect, as we have in the past, that cost recovery would be allowed for these costs, as they were prudent.'* (Eversource CEO Jim) Judge said in response to an analyst's question on a conference call discussing Eversource's fourth-quarter and 2020 financial results..."

There has been an already troubling track record of poor performance by Eversource in their preparation and response to other storms in our recent past. There have been multiple weather events over the last decade resulting in multiple-day prolonged outages to our residents, poor communication from Eversource to customers and local governments on restoration efforts, and interventions put in place several times by the state legislature as a result.

The Town of Cheshire was among the most severely impacted municipalities as a result of Tropical Storm Isaias. Ratepayers in Cheshire and across the state already pay among the highest rates in the continental United States for our energy, while Eversource shareholders enjoyed a nearly one-third increase in net profits during 2020. The Cheshire Energy Commission fully appreciates and supports reasonable cost-recovery from ratepayers for purposes of maintaining a reliable grid to deliver power to its customers, including the reasonable and necessary costs associated with repair/upkeep, storm preparation/response, and infrastructure improvements. However, the ratepayers should NOT be held responsible for costs that in any way are attributable to the utility's continued alleged poor preparation, supervision of storm response and planning for forecasted severe weather events like Tropical Storm Isaias. Should PURA concur that Eversource was ill-prepared, the Cheshire Energy Commission urges a unanimous rejection of any cost-recovery requests by Eversource on the backs of ratepayers.

Respectfully submitted,

The Cheshire Energy Commission

Richard Ogurick, *Chairman*  
David Gavin, *Commissioner*  
Walter Gayeski, *Commissioner*  
George Romania, *Commissioner*

Christopher Smith, *Vice Chairman*  
Daniel Knudsen, *Commissioner*  
Ryan O'Grady, *Commissioner*



*'The Bedding Plant Capital of Connecticut'*

## ENERGY COMMISSION TOWN OF CHESHIRE

84 South Main Street, Cheshire, Connecticut 06410

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Executive Secretary  
Public Utilities Regulatory Authority  
10 Franklin Square  
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Christopher Smith, *Vice Chairman*

Daniel Knudsen, *Commissioner*

Ryan O'Grady, *Commissioner*



# Desktop Review

## Discussion

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25 / 22  
Sites Passed

Next Steps:

- ☒ CSW Desktop Review
- ☒ Utility Bills\*
- ☐ Third-party Supply
- ☐ Introductions

Site Name	Site Address	Roof Size	Roof Obstructions	Shading	Ground or Carport	CSW Desk Review	CSW Usage Review
Artists Performing & Fine Arts	1220 Waterbury Road, Cheshire, CT 06410	✓	✓	✓	✓	Pass	Pass*
The Vedout House	534 South Main Street, Cheshire, CT 06410	✓	✓	✓	✓	Pass	Pass*
Cheshire Parks and Recreation Department	339 South Main Street, Cheshire, CT 06410	✓	✓	✓	✓	Pass	Pass*
Cheshire Parks and Recreation Garage	1204 Waterbury Road, Cheshire, CT 06410	✓	✓	✓	✓	Pass	Pass*
Berkson of David Middle School	100 Park Place, Cheshire, CT 06410	✓	✓	✓	✓	Pass	Pass
Cheshire High School	525 South Main Street, Cheshire, CT 06410	✓	✓	✓	✓	Pass	Pass
Cheshire Elementary School	38 Country Club Road, Cheshire, CT 06410	✓	✓	✓	✓	Pass	Pass
DeLuca School	735 Cornwall Avenue, Cheshire, CT 06410	✓	✓	✓	✓	Pass	Pass
Harmon School	414 North Brookside Road, Cheshire, CT 06410	✓	✓	✓	✓	Pass	Pass
Hightland Elementary School	400 Hightland Avenue, Cheshire, CT 06410	✓	✓	✓	✓	Pass	Pass
Berkley School	1448 Waterbury Road, Cheshire, CT 06410	✓	✓	✓	✓	Pass	Pass
Hamden School	30 Spring Street, Cheshire, CT 06410	✓	✓	✓	✓	Pass	Pass
Cheshire Community Pool	520 South Main Street, Cheshire, CT 06410	✓	✓	✓	✓	Pass	Pass
Scuder House & Public Works Garage	1288 Waterbury Road, Cheshire, CT 06410	✓	✓	✓	✓	Pass	Pass
Cheshire Fire Department	230 Maple Avenue, Cheshire, CT 06410	✓	✓	✓	✓	Pass	Pass
Cheshire Fire Engine	264 Maple Avenue, Cheshire, CT 06410	✓	✓	✓	✓	Pass	Pass
Cheshire Senior Center	300 Maple Avenue, Cheshire, CT 06410	✓	✓	✓	✓	Pass	Pass
Cheshire Public Library	104 Main Street, Cheshire, CT 06410	✓	✓	✓	✓	Pass	Pass
Cheshire Town Hall	89 South Main Street, Cheshire, CT 06410	✓	✓	✓	✓	Pass	Pass
Cheshire WPCP	1323 Cheshire Street, Cheshire, CT 06410	✓	✓	✓	✓	Pass	Pass
Cheshire Student Transportation Offices	157 Sandown Road, Cheshire, CT 06410	✓	✓	✓	✓	Fail	N/A
Cheshire Municipal Animal Control	406 Hightland Avenue, Cheshire, CT 06410	✓	✓	✓	✓	Fail	N/A
Cheshire Fire Station #2	1571 Byram Road, Cheshire, CT 06410	✓	✓	✓	✓	Fail	N/A
Cheshire Fire Station Three	1123 South Main Street, Cheshire, CT 06410	✓	✓	✓	✓	Fail	N/A
Cheshire Police Department	500 Hightland Avenue, Cheshire, CT 06410	✓	✓	✓	✓	Fail	N/A

No ☐  
Yes ☒

# MEMO

**FROM: The Energy Commission**  
**TO: The Public Building Commission**



## DESIGN REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS

DESIGN REVIEW DATE	PROJECT NAME	PROJECT #/BID #
Date 4/19/21	Renovations To Cheshire Police Department	

### LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS:

- The architect recommends review by the utility be sought, it is recommended that this document be shared with Eversource for their comment
- it is recommended that a 3<sup>rd</sup> party independent A&E firm with extensive project oversight experience and sole allegiance to Cheshire be hired to act as project manager.
- The control system design is restricted to one company in Glastonbury, it seems to be a "Cadillac" system and probably very good but will require extensive training on the towns part, or relegation of control to the design company.
- Page 815-816 of tech spec. references "Tolland School district graphic and programming standards already in place" It is suggested that this language be removed.