CHESHIRE ENERGY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2010 AT 7:00 P.M.
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL – 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET ROOM 210

Commissioners Present:
Chairman Rich Ogorick, David Gavin, Walter Gayeski, Paul Michalowski, Joseph Nesdale and Carol Wilson

Commissioners Absent:
Peter Takizawa

Staff Present:
Frank Blanchur, District Maintenance Foreman for the Education Department (departed at 7:50 p.m.)

Others Present:
Joan Szechtman of 917 Ward Lane (arrived at 7:10 p.m.); Rob Guarino of Energy Efficient Lighting; Jess Bergman of Clean Water Action (departed at 8:15 p.m.); Crystal Nosal of Clean Energy Corp / Student Conservation Association (departed at 8:15 p.m.)

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Ogorick called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

A quorum was present for this meeting.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. September 27, 2010 – Regular Meeting

MOTION by Paul Michalowski to accept the September 27, 2010 Energy Commission regular meeting minutes as submitted. SECONDED by Joe Nesdale.

VOTE: In Favor – Gavin, Gayeski, Michalowski, Nesdale, Ogorick and Wilson
Opposed – none

The motion passes 6 – 0.
Energy Commission Regular Meeting of 11/29/10

B. October 25, 2010 – Regular Meeting

A copy of these minutes was not distributed and therefore was not voted on at this meeting.

C. November 15, 2010 – Special Meeting

**MOTION** by Paul Michalowski to accept the November 15, 2010 Energy Commission special meeting minutes with Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge Representatives as submitted. **SECONDED** by Walter Gayeski.

**VOTE:** In Favor – Gavin, Gayeski, Michalowski, Nesdale, Ogurick and Wilson
Opposed – none

The motion passes 6 – 0.

V. COMMUNICATIONS

Chairman Ogurick stated that the 2011 Energy Commission meeting schedule needs to be reviewed and approved as part of this meeting. A motion was made to add this topic to the agenda as New Business, item E.

Commissioners reviewed the recent Hartford Courant article regarding sales tax errors on some home weatherization exemption items.

Rob Guarino, a member of the public who is also a manufacturers representative for vendor neutral energy efficient lighting was present at this evening’s meeting. He stated that he has worked with a lot of municipalities as a lighting professional. As a resident of Cheshire, Mr. Guarino stated that he would be happy to help point the Town in certain directions for LED, induction LED and solar lighting options that would be the best interest for the customer.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Energy Management Projects

1) Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) projects – OPM site visits

As part of the grant rules, the EECBG grant of $108,000 that was awarded to Cheshire needs to be spent by June 2012 and the Town has to “buy American”, if available, for all products related to the grant projects.

   a) Computer time management software
Mr. Biancur spoke with Mr. Masciana and was told that a possible software company, SyAm, is being tested for compatibility with the Education Department's computer network. Chairman Ojurick reminded Mr. Biancur that they should be looking into rebates that may be available for the computer time management software.

b) TV monitor controls

Mr. Biancur stated that the TV monitor timers should be coming in this week and will be installed by Education Department employees.

c) Vending machine controls

Mr. Biancur stated that the vending machine misers should be coming in tomorrow and will be installed soon after that.

d) CHS auditorium lighting

Mr. Biancur stated that the Cheshire High School auditorium lighting has been completely installed, noting that the work was finished by November 19th. He noted that all 1,500 ceiling tiles were changed in the Auditorium as well as all of the ductwork was painted, while the scaffolding was in place during this project. It is believed that the new ceiling tiles will help with heating and air-conditioning costs as well as adding an insulation value. Mr. Biancur showed the Commissioners "before", "during" and "after" photographs of the Auditorium and the amazing improvement to the facility. He is estimating that it used to cost $5,200 per year to run the lights in the Auditorium and will now cost $800 per year. In addition, the annual expense of changing the old bulbs will be saved because of the long life of the LED bulbs.

Mr. Biancur thanked the Energy Commission for covering the $12,000 cost of the scaffolding for this project. Commissioners praised Mr. Biancur for his work on this project.

e) Street / Parking Lot lighting retrofits – LED / Induction trial

The 46 induction bulb parking lot lights should be coming in during the next week or two according to Mr. Biancur. The pole lights will be replaced at Dodd Middle School, Doolittle School and Norton School.

Mr. Biancur talked about the additional LED exterior lighting options he is looking into, such as architectural LED wall scones at 13 watts each.
f) Subsidize 150 Home Energy Solutions audits—complete; drawing winners notified

Chairman Ogorick reviewed the winners' Energy Star appliance selections from the Home Energy Solutions audit drawings.

g) RFP for town-wide ESPC project – approval of RFP, audit of initial four buildings

Chairman Ogorick stated that the RFP for the Town – wide ESPC project should be publicized by now but he was unsure of where it actually stands.

B. Benchmarking

1) Energy Star Portfolio Manager – status of data entry

There was no update available on the status of the data entry for the Town utilities in the Energy Star Portfolio Manager database.

Web site and log-in info:
http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=evaluate_performance.bus_portfoliomanager; user name: Cheshireps; password: Cheshirect

C. Publicity / Education / Outreach

1) CEC web page (http://www.cheshireenergycommission.org) – updates

Chairman Ogorick commented that the Energy Commission web site is staying up to date as a result of Mr. Takizawa's hard work.

2) News articles and letters to the editor

It was suggested that the appliance delivery / award from the Home Energy Solutions audit drawings should be publicized when they occur.

D. Clean Energy

1) 20% by 2010 Campaign –status

Chairman Ogorick stated that Cheshire currently has 342 points in the 20% by 2010 Campaign.
2) 5 kW solar system at library – performance update

Chairman Ogurick gave an update on the energy generated over the past 23 months as a result of the solar system on the Cheshire Public Library roof.

Cheshire Public Library
Solar Electric Generation System

Environmental Benefits
(Greenhouse Gases Avoided)

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<th>Date</th>
<th>kWh Generated</th>
<th>Value (@$0.10/kWh)</th>
<th>CO₂ (lbs)</th>
<th>NOx (lbs)</th>
<th>SO₂ (lbs)</th>
<th>TV-hours</th>
<th>Computers/</th>
<th>Yr</th>
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3) “Think Green” – Cheshire Public Schools energy awareness initiative

Mr. Biancur stated that he is not aware of any changes in policy at the schools regarding individual refrigerators, coffee makers and microwaves. He noted that when the Fire Marshal’s Office did their recent school inspections there were some space heaters that were removed. Chairman Ogurick stated that he would follow up with Mr. Masciana.

Mr. Biancur talked about the status of the solar powered classroom project. He stated that Mr. Bertenshaw, the teacher, is now looking for more electricity work than originally thought and would like to have the solar panels mounted on the side of the building, near the greenhouse. Mr. Biancur stated that he is working with Mr. Bertenshaw but noted that his project will likely not be done until early next year.

4) National Sustainability Education Week (Nov. 8 – 12) – info shared with school principals

Chairman Ogurick stated that he sent information to Mr. Masciana regarding National Sustainability Education Week, who forwarded the information to the school principals.
E. PBC Projects

1. Roof Subcommittee – BOE and Police Department roof replacements; design standards

Mr. Gavin noted that the next Public Building Commission meeting is scheduled for December 1st. Ms. Wilson commented that any roof projects should recommend using an R-value of R-49, which is what is recommended for this region of the United States. Commissioners also talked about the recommendation that every Town roof have a pitch.

F. Grants, Rebates & Utility Programs

1. Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge – 54 Election Day pledges; strategic outreach; planning meeting; Home Energy Resource Sheet

Jess Bergman talked about the Strategic Outreach Plan that has been created for the Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge. She stated that she will forward the Plan to the Commissioners for their review, noting that the Plan identifies people in Town that the group need to speak with to help spread the word about the Energy Challenge. A 30 second pitch about the Energy Challenge will be heard at many of the upcoming sporting events as a way to promote this Challenge to the public.

Ms. Bergman stated that launch plans in the works for one big event and then smaller events in each community. Work continues on the web platform, with the help of a RFP with other states. Cheshire has been selected for surveys and focus groups as a result of the 11% penetration of Home Energy Solution audits in Town. The surveys will be done online and then focus groups can be created to get more research about Cheshire. Ms. Bergman hopes to increase the HES penetration and talked about having some weatherization workshops in Town. She also noted that a Facebook page has been created for Cheshire and work is currently being done to create a Twitter account.

Ms. Bergman is ready to start contacting the Faith community as part of the next steps in the Strategic Plan.

Ms. Bergman and Chairman Ogurick will distribute the Home Energy Resource Sheet to the Commissioners.

Chairman Ogurick noted that the Training Corp is looking for 3 home in Cheshire to be part of their in-home training program; signups are due by December 1st.

G. CL & P Energy Reliability Program

1. Lewis Tree Service tree trimming project – status
Chairman Ogurick commented that he saw the CL & P tree trimming crews working on his street, Alyssa Drive last week, as they continue working around Town in an effort to enhance the energy reliability in Cheshire.

H. Energy / Environment Collaborative – committee members wanted

Chairman Ogurick stated that there has been no change regarding the forming of a joint committee of the Energy Commission and Environment Commission to discuss related issues such as renewable technology job growth.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Waste Water Treatment Plant upgrade – energy savings opportunities

The Water Pollution Control Authority is in the process of planning for a $30 million plant upgrade at the Town’s wastewater treatment plant. Chairman Ogurick forwarded an e-mail he received from Don Chelton of AECOM, regarding this project and possibly meeting with him to review. Mr. Gavin commented that the Energy Commission is just looking to make sure the replacement and upgrades to the Plant are the highest in energy efficiency.

B. Energy Star TV Rebate Program - $50 mail-in rebates available at participating dealers

There is a $50 rebate available to residents for Energy Star televisions that are purchased.

C. CL & P rate for residential “Rate 1” customers is expected to go down to 9.48 cents per kilowatt hour, from the current 11.05 cents per kilowatt hour – a decrease of about 14 percent in the GSC rate

Chairman Ogurick talked about the 14% rate decrease that will be going into effect for residential customers of CL & P.

Mr. Gayeski noted that he had seen an article in the Cheshire Herald that talked about setting the Town Manager’s Goals & Objectives but did not talk about energy conservation as a goal, which was something that former Town Councilor Tim White had been fighting for.

D. Home Energy Solutions “Energy Challenge” contest – 12/10/10 deadline

People who participated in the Home Energy Solutions audits can write an essay about their experience with the audit for a Home Energy Solutions Energy Challenge contest. The deadline for submission is December 10th and there will be 3 prizes awarded.
E. Approval of 2011 Meeting Dates

After reviewing the proposed Energy Commission meeting dates for 2011, it was agreed that the October 2011 meeting would be scheduled for October 24, 2011 to avoid a conflict with Halloween.

**MOTION** by Carol Wilson to approve the 2011 Energy Commission meeting dates as submitted with the exception of the October meeting date, which will now be set for October 24, 2011 and noting that the May meeting is scheduled for May 23, 2011 due to the Memorial Day Holiday. **SECONDED** by Dave Gavin.

VOTE: In Favor – Gavin, Gayeski, Michalowski, Nesdale, Oguirk and Wilson
Opposed – none

The motion passes 6 – 0.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION** by Rich Oguirk to adjourn the Energy Commission meeting at 8:40 p.m.; **SECONDED** by Joe Nesdale.

VOTE: In Favor – Gavin, Gayeski, Michalowski, Nesdale, Oguirk and Wilson
Opposed – none

The motion passes 6– 0.

Respectfully submitted:

Tracey M. Kozlowski
Recording Secretary