Commissioners Present:
Chairman Rich Ogurick, David Gavin, Walter Gayeski, Paul Michalowski, Joseph Nesdale, Peter Takizawa (arrived at 7:30 p.m.) and Carol Wilson

Commissioners Absent:
None

Staff Present:
George Noewatne, Operations Manager for the Public Works/Engineering Department; Frank Biancur, District Maintenance Foreman for the Education Department (departed at 7:50 p.m.)

Others Present:
None

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Ogurick called the meeting to order at 7:02 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. March 29, 2010 – Regular Meeting

MOTION by Dave Gavin to accept the March 29, 2010 Energy Commission regular as submitted. SECONDED by Carol Wilson.

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

The motion passes 5 – 0– 1.
V. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications to the Energy Commission.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Energy Management Projects

1) Community Pool – subcommittee update

Mr. Gavin reported that the Community Pool Subcommittee has looked at the energy consumption for the 2 enclosure options and the existing bubble and has submitted an analysis. When it comes to energy consumption, the Open Aire project is the “winner”, saving 30% compared to 17% for the KBE project. Life cycle costs were done for the 20, 30 and 40 years out projections. A presentation by the Subcommittee is planned for April 27th to the Town Council and the Town Council has set a Public Hearing for May 11th.

There was some discussion on co-generation, which will increase the energy savings from 30% to 50% and it was suggested that the Town should look into using this technology for future projects.

Chairman Ogurick commented that the Subcommittee has done what the Energy Commission has been asking to be done for years now, adding that the research needed to get done. It was noted that a Committee will be needed to market the results to the Town, if anything is going to change at the Community Pool.

2) Cheshire Public Library – status of energy upgrades

Mr. Noewatne stated that there has been no additional work done on the energy upgrades at the Cheshire Public Library; approximately 50% of the suggestions have been done to date and as the budget allows, additional items will be worked on. Ms. Wilson asked to have a list of the work that has not been done for the next Energy Commission meeting.

3) 30% by 2015 – proposal to Town Council; baseline

Chairman Ogurick stated that there was nothing new to report on the Federal Guidelines of 30% by 2015 being adopted in Cheshire; he and Councilman White need to work on a presentation together for the Town Council.

4) Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) projects

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 had no update available on the computer time management upgrades at Highland School. Mike Papa is currently gathering information for the expansion to the other schools for the computer equipment time management software that is proposed as part of the EECBG projects, of which $12,000 has been allocated.

b) TV monitor controls

Mr. Biancur commented that he was having a hard time finding a timer that was made in the USA for the TV monitor controls in the schools, but he is still doing his research otherwise they will have to buy non-USA timers.

c) Vending machine controls

Mr. Biancur noted that he is also having a problem finding a vending machine miser that is made in the USA and may have to buy a foreign product for this project, too.

d) CHS auditorium lighting – design review

Mr. Biancur stated that he has been meeting with lighting representatives regarding upgrading options for the auditorium lighting at Cheshire High School.

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

Mr. Noewatne stated that 4 LED parking lot lights were ordered and received. Today, 2 of the LED parking lot lights were installed at Town Hall. These lights were purchased as a result of a motion passed by the Energy Commission last fall.

Mr. Biancur noted that there are 70 light fixtures on poles in the parking lots and around the property at the Cheshire schools, some single and some double light poles, in addition to 92 lights on the exterior of the buildings. Mr. Biancur commented that you can’t use LED for floodlights and he added that he has been hearing that there are some problems with the retrofit LED fixtures overheating. He has been talking with representatives from LED and induction lighting companies. Chairman Ogurick asked that before any ordering takes place, that Mr. Biancur make a presentation to the Energy Commission with his findings. It was noted that there is
$22,500 allocated in the Grant for this project. Mr. Noewatne commented that the Energy Commission might be able to do more using the CL & P rebates that are available.

Chairman Ogurick commented that induction lighting may be further ahead than LED for parking lot lighting.

f) Subsidize 150 Home Energy Solutions audits

The letter from CL & P and the Town of Cheshire about the Home Energy Solutions audit offer for the first 200 sign ups to be free were received by residents on April 16th. Chairman Ogurick stated that as of the end of last week, there have been 767 sign ups from Cheshire for the Home Energy Solutions audits, making this the most successful program the contractor has worked with. As a result, CL & P has agreed to increase the number of free audits to 500, the first 200 sign ups will also receive up to $100 for additional energy saving expenses from the Energy Commission’s allocation from the Stimulus Grant for this project. All of the sign ups after the first 500 will pay a $50 fee, while CL & P contributes $25 toward the Home Energy Solutions audit. Chairman Ogurick will get weekly updates on the audits as they are completed. He noted that approximately 10% of the homes in Cheshire have signed up for an audit.

g) RFP for town-wide ESPC project

Celtic Energy has agreed to the RFP draft work for the amount that was allocated in the Federal Stimulus Grant. Currently the Town Attorney is working with Celtic Energy to finalize their contract. Celtic Energy will be preparing a RFP for the 6 town buildings the Energy Commission had selected. It will take approximately 4 months to complete the RFP draft, once the contract is signed. The RFP will then go out for approximately 4 to 6 weeks, once it is released.

Energy Commission members talked about the time line and the upcoming November referendum; they would like to have this item as a question on the November ballots but are unsure if it would work out, with the timing.

B. Benchmarking

1) Energy Star Portfolio Manager – status of data entry

Mr. Noewatne stated that there has been no change to the Town’s Energy Star Portfolio Manager site. He added that the Finance Department would be taking over the data entry for the web site in the near future.
2) Web site and log-in info:
   
   http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=evaluate_performance.bus_portfoliomanager; user name: Cheshireps; password: Cheshirect

   Chairman Ogurick encouraged Commission members to check out the Energy Star Portfolio Manager web site when they have a moment.

C. Publicity / Education / Outreach

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

   Mr. Takizawa noted that he has added live news feeds from energy specific news web sites to the Energy Commission’s site.

2) News articles and letters to the editor

   Commissioners talked about the recent Cheshire Herald article about Home Energy Solutions audits and the write up about the Energy Commission’s Earth Day event at Cheshire Public Library.

   Mr. Gayeski stated that he would do a press release about the LED lights in the Town Hall parking lot.

3) Earth Day events – 4/17/10 at the Cheshire Public Library

   Ms. Wilson stated that the Earth Day event held at the Cheshire Public Library on April 17th from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. was a lot of fun and was well received by those that attended. There were some sign ups for the Home Energy Solutions audits, demonstrations about winterization and insulation by Mr. Gayeski and some exciting hands on experiments for kids.

   Chairman Ogurick stated that Ms. Wilson did a great job with the event, adding how much he appreciated all her work. Ms. Wilson stated that she would like to have the event again next year, adding that there was a good mix of things for everyone. She would like to see about promoting the event at the schools next year, too. Ms. Wilson added that Ms. Ramona Harten, Director of the Cheshire Public Library has been very good to work with and she is always very enthusiastic.

D. Clean Energy

1) 20% by 2010 Campaign – report status to CCEF; additional clean energy purchases to reach goal (Cheshire Public Library, Norton School)
Ms. Wilson did not have an update on the number of clean energy sign ups for Cheshire. Mr. Noewatne stated that the Cheshire Public Library has been signed up for clean energy but he will have to check with Greg Gibbons, of the Education Department, about the status of signing up Norton School. There was some discussion about signing up additional Town buildings to come closer to the 20% by 2010 goals for Cheshire.

**MOTION** by Carol Wilson that the Energy Commission recommend that the Cheshire Police Department and Highland School be signed up by the Town for Clean Energy purchasing to bring Cheshire closer to its 20% by 2010 goal. SECONDED by Peter Takizawa.

**Discussion:** Commissioners expressed some concern about moving ahead with additional Town buildings for clean energy purchasing, especially the Education Department’s buildings, which may not be budgeted for. Mr. Nesdale offered to look the Education Department’s electricity budget for 2010 and 2011.

**THIS MOTION WAS TABLED UNTIL NEXT MONTH.**

2) 5 kW solar system at library – performance update

Chairman Ogurick gave an update on the energy generated over the past 16 months as a result of the solar system on the Cheshire Public Library roof.

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**E. PBC Projects**

Mr. Noewatne reported that the Dodd Middle School Food Service upgrade project was re-bid with cuts to the project and the new bids are still over by at least $30,000. Mr.
Noewatne noted that the architect for the project is talking to CL & P about rebate opportunities.

F. Grants, Rebates & Utility Programs

1. Community Energy Savings Project (a.k.a. Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge) – Cheshire commitment; grant submitted to DOE on 12/14/09 – approval delayed

Chairman Ogurick reported that a response for the Community Energy Savings Project grant application has been delayed.

G. CL & P Energy Reliability Program

CL & P tree trimming crews continue to work sporadically around Town in an effort to enhance the energy reliability in Cheshire.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. WRAP Program

Chairman Ogurick noted that he has not seen any feedback yet on the WRAP Program information that was recently sent out to qualifying Cheshire residents. The WRAP Program is a free Home Energy Solutions audit for low or no income residents; approximately 500 Cheshire names were given to CL & P for their mailing.

B. Senate Bill 484 – bill would create a hidden tax on CL & P customers; average CL & P customer using 700 kWh per month would pay an additional $5.27 per month or $63 per year beginning in 2011

Mr. Nesdale talked about the proposed Senate Bill #484, which would tax only CL & P customers. This fee is currently paid each month from the CL & P bill under the line item “CTE Fee”. CL & P has started an advertising campaign against the proposed Senate Bill, noting that if it were approved, this tax would be in effect for 10 years.

C. Other

Chairman Ogurick welcomed the newest member of the Energy Commission, Joseph Nesdale. Mr. Nesdale commented that he is a 16 year resident of Cheshire. He talked about his work experience, which included positions with United Illuminating, Johnson Controls and he is currently working for Northeast Utilities.
Mr. Noewatne reminded Commissioners that the next Energy Commission meeting is scheduled for May 24th due to the Memorial Day holiday.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Dave Gavin to adjourn the Energy Commission meeting at 8:51 p.m.; SECONDED by Carol Wilson.

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

The motion passes 7–0.

Respectfully submitted:

Tracey M. Kozlowski
Recording Secretary