

CHESHIRE ENERGY COMMISSION – Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 30, 2017
Regular Meeting
7:00 P.M. – Room 210, Town Hall

Commissioners Present: Chairman Rich Ogurick
Walter Gayeski
Paul Michalowski
Rob Brucato
David Gavin
Martin Cobern

Commissioners Absent: Phil Newton

Others Present: Walter Gancarz, Town Engineer
Peter Talbot, Town Council
Vincent Masciana, Board of Education
Tim White

- 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. Gavin to approve the minutes from the October 24, 2016 meeting.

SECONDED by Mr. Michalowski and opened for discussion.

Corrections were noted:

- 1) The previously noted correction under Approval of Minutes for the September 26, 2016 meeting should be changed from Bright Idea Grants to Clean Energy Communities.
- 2) Under Community Pool Energy Efficiency, the entire paragraph should be moved to Energy Star Portfolio Manager.
- 3) Under Concession Stand Renovations, \$13,000 should be changed to \$13,500.

VOTE: In Favor – Ogurick, Brucato, Gayeski, Cobern
Opposed – None; Abstained – None; Motion passed 6-0.

MOTION by Mr. Gavin to approve the minutes from the November 21, 2016 meeting.

SECONDED by Mr. Brucato and opened for discussion.

Corrections were noted:

- 1) Under Publicity/Education/Outreach, it should be noted the 1000 LED bulbs were donated to the Cheshire Community Food Pantry,

- not the Cheshire Food Pantry or Cheshire Food Bank.
- 2) Under Clean Energy Communities Grant, the following sentence should be omitted: “No formal action was taken due to the lack of a quorum.”

VOTE: In Favor – Ogurick, Michalowski, Gayeski
Opposed – None; Abstained – Cobern; Motion passed 5-0-1.

V. COMMUNICATIONS There were no communications.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Energy Efficiency Projects

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

Mr. Gancarz stated the M&V report has still not been received. Mr. Gancarz stated George Noewatne is in the process of getting quotes for the supplemental projects. There was a brief discussion.

- 2) Community Pool Energy Efficiency

Mr. Gavin stated he is analyzing the data. Without a full year of operation, it is difficult to compare the data. The preliminary projections suggest a potential savings.

- 3) Dryer Duct Cleaning Program

Mr. Brucato stated there were two recent basement fires in Cheshire and recommended revisiting this program. There was a lengthy discussion about logistics.

MOTION by Mr. Brucato for the Energy Commission to recommend that the Town Council allocate the \$3,758.00 left over from the light bulb giveaway at the Fall Festival to provide dryer duct cleaning vouchers to those individuals who signed up at the Fall Festival.

SECONDED by Mr. Cobern.

VOTE: In Favor – Ogurick, Michalowski, Gayeski, Gavin
Opposed – None; Abstained – None; Motion passed 6-0

- 4) Concession Stand Renovations

Mr. Masciana stated this project is progressing well and expects to submit the equipment specifications to Eversource soon. Mr. Masciana stated the goal is for the concession stand to open in April. Mr. Masciana thanked the Energy Commission for the \$18,500 in grant money for this project.

- 5) Energy Storage

Mr. Gancarz stated the Town paid \$200 to Eversource in December to allow Tesla access to the data. There has been no word from Tesla since then. Mr. White stated he will follow up with Tesla.

B. Benchmarking

- 1) Energy Star Portfolio Manager
Mr. Gancarz stated there is no update on this matter.
- 2) Town Energy Use Graphs
Mr. Cobern stated he will update the spreadsheets for the February meeting.

C. Publicity / Education / Outreach

- 1) News articles and letters to the Editor
Mr. Michalowski stated there were no articles or letters to the editor.
- 2) Energy Achiever Awards presentation
Chairman Ogurick stated the Energy Commission should be considering potential candidates to be presented with the Energy Achiever Award. Chairman Ogurick stated he will reach out to Mr. Newton regarding the remaining plaques.
- 3) 1000 LED bulbs given to the Cheshire Community Food Pantry
Mr. Cobern stated the Cheshire Community Food Pantry has the LED bulbs on the shelf accessible for free to anyone who needs them. Mr. Cobern stated he will write an article about this donation from the Energy Commission to be published.

D. Clean Energy

- 1) Solar on town-owned landfill
Mr. Gancarz stated the impact study has still not been received from Eversource. Mr. Gancarz noted it has been seven months. There was a brief discussion. Chairman Ogurick stated he will contact Winston Brown at Eversource.
- 2) Solar possibilities on other Town-operated buildings
Mr. Gancarz stated Davis Hill Development will be presenting to the WPCA at the February meeting.

E. PBC Projects

Mr. Michalowski stated he spoke with Ramona Burkey at the Cheshire Public Library and was told the proposed renovation is the second half of the previously budgeted amount. Mr. Talbot stated the Town allocated

money for this project with the stipulation that matching grant funds be secured. The proposed renovation is the second phase of this project and not likely to occur in 2017.

F. Grants, Rebates & Utility Programs

1) Early Involvement of Eversource

This matter was previously discussed during the update on the Concession Stand.

2) Bright Idea Grant(s)

This matter was previously discussed during the Dryer Duct Cleaning Program update.

3) Clean Energy Communities Grant - \$5,000 to Concession Stand

Chairman Ogurick stated Mr. Gancarz did an awesome job handling this matter.

G. CL&P Energy Reliability Program - Tree Trimming

Mr. Gancarz reported the tree trimming is still ongoing.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Proposed Meeting Dates for 2017

MOTION by Mr. Cobern to approve the proposed meeting dates for 2017.

SECONDED by Mr. Gavin.

VOTE: In Favor – Ogurick, Brucato, Gayeski, Michalowski

Opposed – None; Abstained – None; Motion passed 6-0.

B. Flexible Solar Panels

Mr. White stated flexible solar panels are a thin film solar panel that can be rolled out for easy installation, but may have a higher material cost and a shorter performance life.

C. Direct Sales by Auto Manufacturers (Tesla)

There was a brief discussion about auto manufacturers selling directly to the consumer and the impact that could have on dealerships.

D. Recycling Rewards Grants Program

There was a brief discussion about state of the art recycling rewards programs that can save energy and reduce pollution. Mr. White stated Philadelphia runs a program where recyclables are weighed and the value back is redeemable by the consumer at local retailers.

E. Community Microgrids

There was a brief discussion about microgrids and shared solar, which is currently not allowed in Connecticut.

F. Lifting the Virtual Net Metering Cap

There was no discussion on this matter.

G. Other

MOTION by Mr. Gayeski to add the proposed ice rink and the school study (Facility Master Plan) to the agenda for discussion.

SECONDED by Mr. Michalowski.

VOTE: In Favor – Ogurick, Brucato, Gavin, Cobern
Opposed – None; Abstained – None; Motion passed 6-0.

1) School Study/Facility Master Plan

Mr. Gayeski asked Mr. Masciana about the Facility Master Plan. Mr. Masciana summarized the Facility Master Plan to be accomplished over the next 15 years and stated a feasibility study still needs to be done. Mr. Masciana stated it is too soon for energy considerations.

2) Ice Rink

There was a brief discussion about the proposed ice rink and the possibility of cogeneration.

3) Cheshire Village Improvements Society

Mr. Cobern stated there is a meeting next Thursday to possibly start a grassroots group similar to the Cheshire Village Improvements Society, a group from 100 years ago responsible for installing gas lights and building the first library in Town.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Cobern to adjourn at 8:32 p.m.

SECONDED by Mr. Gayeski.

VOTE: In Favor – Ogurick, Brucato, Gavin, Cobern
Opposed – None; Abstained – None; Motion passed 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen M. Gill