

**CHESHIRE ENERGY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, JUNE 27, 2011 AT 7:00 P.M.
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL – 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET
ROOM 210**

Commissioners Present:

Chairman Rich Ogurick, Paul Michalowski, Joseph Nesdale and Carol Wilson

Commissioners Absent:

David Gavin, Walter Gayeski, and Peter Takizawa

Staff Present:

George Noewatne, Operations Manager for the Public Works/Engineering Department; Frank Biancur, District Maintenance Foreman for the Education Department (departed at 8:00 p.m.)

Others Present:

Jessica Bergman of Clean Water Action (departed at 8:30 p.m.); Crystal Nosal of Clean Energy Corp / Student Conservation Association (departed at 8:30 p.m.); Joan Szechtman of 917 Ward Lane; Lenny Kolstad of 1111 Coleman Road

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Ogurick called the meeting to order at 7:01 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. May 23, 2011 – Regular Meeting

The minutes were not approved at this meeting because the members did not have the opportunity to review them. Commissioners would like the minutes e-mailed to them each month, when they are finalized.

V. COMMUNICATIONS

Chairman Ogurick stated that he still has not received official notice of Walter Gayeski resignation from the Energy Commission.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Energy Management Projects

Mr. Biancur reported that he is looking to upgrade 32 exterior lights / parking lot lights at Highland School using induction lighting. He is talking with a company that the Town could buy the lights from them and they would install them, too. The estimated cost is \$18,900 and CL & P has a \$2,200 rebate available, which would result in approximately a 3 ½ year pay back. Mr. Biancur stated that he is still finalizing the numbers before making a decision if that company would install the lights or Town maintenance staff.

Mr. Biancur also stated that he is looking at LED lighting for classrooms at Highland School and Cheshire High School.

1) 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 – status

There was no update available at this meeting regarding the computer time management software. Mr. Biancur reported that this week the fiber optic lines are being installed at the elementary schools; Dodd and Cheshire High School already have fiber optics. With this upgrade, every classroom in Cheshire will have internet access.

b) Parking Lot lighting retrofits - specifications

Mr. Biancur reported that the parking lot lighting retrofits project was completed and Cheshire received an \$8,000 refund from CL & P for this project. He noted that an \$11,000 refund was also awarded by CL & P for the auditorium project.

Chairman Ogurick asked that the parking lot light specifications be brought to the next Energy Commission meeting.

- c) Home Energy Solutions audits – complete; use balance of funds to replace parking lot lights at police station

Mr. Noewatne stated that after the State audit of the projects to date is completed; a formal request to transfer approximately \$9,000 for parking lot lights at the Cheshire Police Headquarters from completed projects will be made. Chairman Ogurick suggested getting the information from Mr. Biancur as to which parking lot lights the schools used and Mr. Noewatne replied that he did have that information already.

- d) Town-wide ESPC project – ESCO selection committee update

Chairman Ogurick stated that he received a note from Commissioner Gavin about having trouble getting the members of the ESCO Selection Committee together. Mr. Noewatne stated that they are trying to meet July 6th and July 7th to interview the 3 firms that bid, Schneider Energy, Con Ed, and Ameresco. Once the interviews are complete, the Selection Committee will work with Celtic Energy to make a recommendation to the Town Council. Once the Town Council approves a firm, it is recommended that the audit be done for all the Town buildings. This will show how serious the Town is about this project.

Chairman Ogurick commented that when a recommendation is made to the Town Council about this project, Energy Commission representative(s) should be present. He also feels it is important for the Energy Commission to endorse the Selection Committee's ESCO choice and asked that all members of the Energy Commission be invited to the Selection Committee interviews / meeting.

- 2) Big Belly solar powered trash compaction units

Mr. Biancur stated that he looked into the Big Belly solar powered trash compactors; they are \$4,000 each and are too costly right now. Ms. Nosal commented that the solar powered trash compaction units are a prize option in the Neighbor to Neighbor program.

Ms. Wilson suggested doing a calculation shortly before the contract with AJ's Waste ends to see if there would be a cost benefit for the Town to use the solar powered trash compactors.

- 3) HES audits at Hitchcock Phillips house, Lock 12, Yellow House

Mr. Noewatne stated that he believes the Home Energy Solutions audit is schedule for the Hitchcock Phillips house on Church Drive. He has spoken to the person that rents the house at Lock 12 on South Brooksvale Road and he

agrees the Home Energy Solutions audit would be a good idea. Mr. Noewatne noted that the Lassen House on Boulder Road had a Home Energy Solutions audit done within the last 2 or 3 weeks.

B. Benchmarking

1) Energy Star Portfolio Manager

There was no change in the status of the Energy Star Portfolio Manager database.

C. Publicity / Education / Outreach

1) News articles and letters to the editor

Mr. Michalowski commented that last Thursday's Cheshire Herald front page article regarding the Neighbor to Neighbor program was well written.

2) CPTV shows "Empowering Connecticut" – premier screening on 6/16/11

The Connecticut Public Television program, Empowering Connecticut, aired in 3 segments on June 23rd from 8:30 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. It was a good show, well produced and talked highly of Cheshire.

Ms. Nosal stated that she would post on Facebook when the show will be on again. She is trying to get a copy of the program so that community showings can be planned. Ms. Nosal noted that Luther from the New Haven Register promoted the program on his blog and "The Patch" also promoted it.

D. Clean Energy

1) 30% by 2015 Campaign – status of voluntary clean energy purchases (need 13% by 6/30/11)

Chairman Ogurick commented that he received an e-mail from Roger Smith regarding the former "20% by 2010" program has been changed to "30% by 2015", as the new incentive. He asked about the status of the Town's clean energy purchases so we can determine which Town buildings should be added to meet the 13% requirement. Mr. Noewatne stated that Chapman School, Dodd Middle School, the Town Hall and Cheshire Public Library are all signed up for clean energy. Chairman Ogurick stated that they should look at the total kilowatt-hours to determine the percentage of clean energy that is being purchased compared to the 30% by 2015 goals.

Chairman Ogurick stated that according to the Clean Energy web site today, Cheshire has 353 clean energy signups, adding that this is not a reliable number because it does not appear to be kept up to date.

Chairman Ogurick reported that the Cheshire Public Library solar panels have produced 16,084.2 kilowatt hours, which has a \$2,895.16 value and is equivalent to powering 445 homes for a day. Commissioners noted that the weather has had a big impact on the production of the panels this year.

2) CHS solar powered classroom project – status

Mr. Biancur reported that the solar panels are installed on the roof at Cheshire High School; they just need the wire to the panel from the roof. Mr. Biancur noted that the students did not do much of the wiring for the project, as was originally proposed; the electrician did about 90% of the work instead. Mr. Biancur hopes the last of the wiring will be done next week, otherwise everything else is all set for the solar powered classroom at Cheshire High School.

Mr. Biancur is hoping to have 3 more classrooms at Cheshire High School switched over to LED lighting and 3 or 4 classrooms at Highland School.

E. PBC Projects

1.) Roof Subcommittee – BOE and Police Department roof replacements; design standards; white roofs; plans sent to CL & P

Mr. Noewatne reported that the Cheshire High School roof bid has been awarded and is scheduled for install starting in mid-July this year. It looks like they will be installing a white roof over approximately 47,000 square feet of the High School. Chairman Ogurick asked about the R-value of the new roof and Mr. Noewatne replied that the white roof meets the State Standards but he is unsure exactly what it is. Chairman Ogurick asked if CL & P had any rebates for the roof project and Mr. Noewatne replied that he hadn't heard of any. The State should be reimbursing Cheshire 40% for the school project. Mr. Noewatne noted that there is a 30-year warranty for the white roof adding that this will be a test case for the Town, as it's the first one on a Town building.

It was reported that nothing is happening now on a new roof at the Police Department because there are no funds available now; there are no design plans yet either.

F. Grants, Rebates & Utility Programs

- 1) Early involvement of CL & P and YGS in all upcoming energy projects – Energy Blueprint

There was no update given on having all Town projects reviewed by CL & P's Energy Blueprint program.

G. CL & P Energy Reliability Program

- 1.) Lewis Tree Service tree trimming project

There was no update given at this meeting on the tree trimming projects in Cheshire.

H. Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge

- 1.) Strategic Outreach – update; Cheshire Food Pantry – partner agreement

Crystal Nosal of Clean Energy Corp / Student Conservation Association informed the Commission that the Cheshire Food Pantry signed the partner agreement that she wrote up. She is hoping to get 30 businesses in Town to sign up to partner with the program, which could result in 300 HES visits and help raise \$7,500 for the Food Pantry by January 2012 (the Food Pantry will receive \$25 for each visit). Ms. Nosal is contacting businesses through the Cheshire Chamber of Commerce. Decals to show participation in the program as well as testimonial posters will be on display; announcements are being done on the Chamber's web page and their weekly "notes" e-mail and at Chamber meetings.

Jessica Bergman stated that she is working on "Best Practices", which has to do with other energy efficiency programs on a National level.

Ms. Nosal will be meeting on July 6th with Cheshire's Social Services Department about the low income Home Energy Solution Income Eligible program, which she hopes to get going right away. According to Social Services, there are 300 potential clients in Cheshire. Mr. Michalowski noted that when he worked with the Tax Assessor last year, he had 500 limited income eligible households on his list for the Town. He added that Mr. Panagrosso was very helpful with last year's mailing.

The personal energy advisor is being launched with heating and electricity use information for residents. It will suggest ways to reduce energy. Currently 10 Cheshire residents are testing the program. Forms to sign up were distributed

by Ms. Nosal to the members of the Energy Commission, they can be returned to her so that they can request the information from CL & P.

October is Energy Awareness month and Ms. Nosal is planning to have a big presence at the school. It was suggested to have the kids turn off the lights in their classrooms for 1 hour a day during the month and then have the kids calculate the energy savings. Ms. Nosal noted that Wilson Education Services will be holding an event on October 29th at the Cheshire Public Library.

2.) Weekly updates – leader / scoreboard

Ms. Nosal stated that the web site will soon have the scoreboard up for the Neighbor to Neighbor program. At last report, Cheshire had 151,250 points, which was second place overall for the Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge to Wethersfield.

3.) *Home Energy Basics* workshops

There will be 3 Home Energy workshops held at the Cheshire Public Library in July. Ms. Nosal stated that there will be representatives from the Neighbor to Neighbor program at all 4 showings of the Willy Wonka play in July. She is hoping that at each show a drawing for a free Home Energy Solution audit can be done, using Community Innovations Grant funds. Ms. Nosal stated that a workshop is also scheduled for July 20th at Temple Beth David.

MOTION by Joe Nesdale that Energy Commission would like to allocate \$75 for 4 Home Energy Solution audit drawings at the Willy Wonka plays in July, to be paid out of the Community Innovations Grant that Cheshire received from the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund. **SECONDED** by Paul Michalowski.

VOTE: In Favor – Michalowski, Nesdale and Ogurick
Opposed – Wilson

The motion passes 3 – 1.

4.) Post – HES work (insulation, water heating, etc.) – “deeper energy savings” that count towards the N2N challenge

Ms. Nosal stated that a marketing meeting is scheduled for this Wednesday to discuss ideas for post – Home Energy Solution work.

5.) Rewards Program – status; 100 points = \$2

Ms. Nosal stated that Ms. Szechtman submitted her energy release form this evening so that she will be counted in the Program. The Home Energy Solutions audit report card from her visit should now go to Ms. Szechtman's solar panel installer and then the Department of Energy reporting sheet will be completed and will mean that Cheshire will receive 1,000 points. Solar Installations going back to October 2010 can be counted in Cheshire's points, if the homeowners submit the paperwork.

I. Waste Water Treatment Plant upgrade – energy savings opportunities

There was nothing new reported on the design for the Waste Water Treatment Plant upgrade at the Water Pollution Control Authority.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Befree Solar – request to streamline permitting process

Chairman Ogurick explained that Befree Solar would like the Energy Commission's help to make solar panel installation permits more streamlined with regards to the Building Officials. Ms. Szechtman commented that she is finalizing her solar panel installations at her house and she was glad to do a load calculation before the installation. She added that it gave her a good piece of mind, especially with the snow loads that were on the roofs this past winter; it protects the installation company and homeowner.

Mr. Noewatne noted that the Building Officials follow State Statutes with regards to building permit requirements and he feels it is within his right to require the evaluation before allowing a solar panel installation on a roof. Commissioners commented that not all roofs are the same and it is a good idea for individual inspections of a roof before additional weight is added to each.

B. Arizon Buildings – <http://arizonstructures.com/air-structure-air-dome/sports-dome/swimming-pool-domes/>

Chairman Ogurick noted that Commissioner Gavin had distributed an e-mail with a link to Arizon Buildings to all the Energy Commission members. He also noted that the Public Building Commission has a Subcommittee looking at a new bubble enclosure for the Community Pool as an option, mostly due to insurance restrictions. The Town will receive \$284,000 towards a replacement bubble but will only receive \$154,000 if the Town does not purchase a replacement bubble.

Ms. Szechtman asked if a permanent pool enclosure could be rolled in an ESCO project and Chairman Ogurick replied that it could be.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Paul Michalowski to adjourn the Energy Commission meeting at 9:10 p.m.;
SECONDED by Joe Nesdale.

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

The motion passes 4 – 0.

Respectfully submitted:

Tracey M. Kozlowski
Recording Secretary