

**CHESHIRE ENERGY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, JULY 25, 2011 AT 7:00 P.M.
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL – 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET
ROOM 210**

Commissioners Present:

Chairman Rich Ogurick, David Gavin, Walter Gayeski, and Carol Wilson

Commissioners Absent:

Paul Michalowski, Joseph Nesdale and Peter Takizawa

Staff Present:

George Noewatne, Operations Manager for the Public Works/Engineering Department (arrived at 8:30 p.m.); Frank Biancur, District Maintenance Foreman for the Education Department (departed at 7:45 p.m.)

Others Present:

Crystal Nosal of Clean Energy Corp / Student Conservation Association (departed at 8:30 p.m.); Joan Szechtman of 917 Ward Lane; Steve Carroll, Town Council Liaison (arrived at 8:20 p.m.)

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. May 23, 2011 – Regular Meeting

MOTION by Rich Ogurick to accept the May 23, 2011 Energy Commission regular meeting with the corrections below. **SECONDED** by Carol Wilson.

Corrections to the May 23rd Regular Meeting minutes: Page 4, item D., 1) second sentence should read, "He stated that he would be checking with..."; Page 5, item 2) should read, "...he thought Mr. Biancur may have attended...";

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

The motion passes 4 – 0.

B. June 27, 2011 – Regular Meeting

MOTION by Rich Ogurick to accept the June 27, 2011 Energy Commission regular meeting with the corrections below. **SECONDED** by Dave Gavin.

Corrections to the June 27th Regular Meeting minutes: Page 4, item C. 2), last sentence should read, " Ms. Nosal noted that Luther Turmelle from the ..."; Page 4, item D. 1), first two sentences should read, "...30% by 2015" as the new goal. He inquired about the status..."; Page 5, second paragraph, last sentence should read, "...the weather has had a negative impact on the production..."; Page 8, item VII., A) first paragraph, last sentence should read, "...it gave her a good peace of mind, especially..."

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

The motion passes 4 – 0.

V. COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Gayeski stated that after further consideration, he would not be resigning from the Energy Commission, at this time.

Chairman Ogurick announced that Ms. Nosal will not be continuing with Americorp; her last day will be August 19th and it is not known at this time who her replacement will be.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Energy Management Projects

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

Mr. Biancur reported that the fiber optic lines have been installed at the elementary schools; Dodd and Cheshire High School already have fiber optics. Currently, this project is at a stand still. The Town needs permission to install the fiber optics on the poles outside the schools.

b) Induction parking Lot lighting - specifications

Mr. Biancur gave the induction parking lot light specifications to Chairman Ogurick at tonight’s meeting. He explained that he had 150 watt induction bulbs installed in place of the 400 watt bulbs originally used.

Mr. Biancur noted that with the lighting upgrades done in the Cheshire High School auditorium, he expects to see a savings of over \$ 10,000 each year. The expected lighting energy savings in the solar classroom at Cheshire High School is \$ 80 per year.

Mr. Biancur has a price of \$ 31,000 for 50 induction parking lot lights at Cheshire High School. He is checking with CL & P regarding potential rebates, which might be up to 30%.

c) Parking lot lighting retrofits at police station

Mr. Biancur suggested using 70 watt bulbs for the parking lot lighting retrofits at the police station.

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

Mr. Gavin stated that the ESCO Selection Committee met for 3 days in July to interview and evaluate the firms that bid on this project. The Subcommittee has recommended Ameresco for the Town-wide ESPC project after a close vote. A presentation will be made to the Town Council in August and if they approve the firm, then the next step would be for a comprehensive audit to be done for all the Town and school buildings, which Ameresco has quoted \$ 50,000 for that work. With each project that is suggested by Ameresco a pay back will be given for the Town to evaluate.

Chairman Ogurick asked how the Town will decide what projects to do, going forward? Mr. Noewatne replied that it will take approximately 6 months to complete the comprehensive audit of all Town and school buildings, then maybe a special Town Council meeting would be held to review all the recommendations. Councilman Carroll commented that most of the Town Council members are familiar with ESCOs and want to take action to help save energy around Town.

Mr. Gavin suggested that the Town could hire someone to be a “Manager of Energy Services” to oversee future ESCO projects and results; this person’s salary could be paid for with the energy savings created.

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

There was no status given for Home Energy Solutions audits at the Hitchcock Phillips house on Church Drive or the house at Lock 12 on South Brooksvale Road.

3) Exterior lighting improvements at Highland School

Mr. Biancur noted that the exterior lighting improvements at Highland School are on hold right now due to the air quality problems at Cheshire High School. Mr. Biancur stated that he is installing LED lights in some of the Cheshire High School classrooms for better lighting and to help control the temperature of the rooms. These 4 – 5 classrooms are located in the center of the building and have no exterior windows. Mr. Biancur noted that the mold is on the insulation in the tunnels under Cheshire High School, it needs to be removed and re-insulated with mold free insulation. This project should be starting next week. There is no steam or water leaks in the tunnels and it appears to just be a ground water issue.

B. Benchmarking

1) Energy Star Portfolio Manager

Mr. Noewatne reported that there was no change in the status of the Energy Star Portfolio Manager database. When asked, he stated that he believed that the Education Department is keeping current on their entries. Chairman Ogurick suggested that the current information be entered for the remaining Town buildings and continue going forward from this point. When there is some free time, the energy information from the gap of time that is missing from the Energy Star Portfolio Manager could then be entered.

C. Publicity / Education / Outreach

- 1) News articles and letters to the editor

There was nothing new reported about recent news articles or letters to the editor.

D. Clean Energy

- 1) 30% by 2015 Campaign – status of voluntary clean energy purchases

Chairman Ogurick asked about the status of the Town's clean energy purchases so we can determine which Town buildings should be added to meet the requirements for the 30% by 2015 goal. Mr. Noewatne stated that he believed that Chapman School, Dodd Middle School, the Town Hall and Cheshire Public Library are all signed up for clean energy. Chairman Ogurick asked to have the buildings signed up for clean energy confirmed and stated that the Commission 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.

- 2) CHS solar powered classroom project – status

Mr. Biancur reported that the solar panels are installed on the roof at Cheshire High School and everything is up and running for the solar powered classroom at Cheshire High School. The 4 solar panels are visible to the right of the auditorium; Mr. Biancur stated that he was not sure how many watts the panels can produce.

E. PBC Projects

- 1.) Roof Subcommittee – monitoring effect of white roofs

Mr. Noewatne reported that the Cheshire High School roof bid has been awarded and installation is almost complete. The selected contractor is installing a white roof over approximately 47,000 square feet of the High School (over the girls gym, cafeteria and old main office) and it should be done by Friday. Mr. Biancur commented that they are doing a nice job.

Chairman Ogurick asked how the effect of the white roof could be monitored? Mr. Biancur suggested monitoring the interior temperature of the south vs. north side of Cheshire High School. Mr. Gayeski suggested using HOBO Data Loggers to track the temperatures. He explained that they can be placed for 30 days to collect the temperatures and then collected and downloaded. Chairman Ogurick asked Mr. Biancur to get these data loggers and suggested that he could contact Mr. Noewatne for funds to pay for them. It was noted that there is no data to compare the information to, i.e. before the white roof was installed.

Mr. Gavin commented that it would be difficult to figure out; all we know is that it will be cooler in this section of Cheshire High School in the Summer.

F. Grants, Rebates & Utility Programs

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

There was no further discussion regarding 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

Mr. Noewatne reported that tree trimming projects are routinely being done in Cheshire.

H. Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge

Commissioners thanked Ms. Nosal for the great job she has done this past year to promote Cheshire's Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge, adding that it has been a pleasure to work with her and they wish her luck in the future.

When asked who her supervisor is, Ms. Nosal stated that Ms. Bergman is her direct supervisor and then Roger Smith.

- 1.) Strategic Outreach – update

Crystal Nosal of Clean Energy Corp / Student Conservation Association informed the Commission that coalition partners will be receiving their payments this month. Neighbor to Neighbor is working to promote the Food Pantry campaign as well as work with Cheshire Social Services to promote the income eligible Home Energy Solutions audits.

Chairman Ogurick suggested comparing the Social Services list to the Tax Assessors list of eligible residents. Ms. Nosal stated that in August the Social Services Department will issue a press release regarding utility assistance. When residents come in to sign up for assistance, the income eligible Home Energy Solutions audit information will be presented. There is no cost for this audit, if a resident qualifies for the program. Chairman Ogurick stated that he would like to require a H.E.S. audit if a resident qualifies for getting utility assistance. Ms. Nosal stated that she would suggest it at her next meeting with Cheshire's Social Services Department.

Mr. Gavin commented that there might be some hesitation to have “strangers” into their home by some of the residents seeking assistance. Ms. Nosal informed the Commission that there are approximately 300 households that are Social Service clients. Commissioners commented that they didn’t think the Town could require a Social Services client to have a Home Energy Solution audit done but it may be able to strongly encourage it.

Ms. Nosal has sent out announcement links for the Chamber of Commerce members regarding the Food Pantry partner agreement. A press release will go out soon and then businesses will be canvassed for support. Ms. Nosal has been attending the Chamber of Commerce After Hours programs to promote the Neighbor to Neighbor program with local businesses. Her goal for Cheshire is to have 300 visits completed by January 1st.

She stated that Lenny Kolstad is interested in holding solar / thermal workshops after he returns from his current project. Neighbor to Neighbor will be at the Fall Festival on September 10th and may hold mini workshops.

2.) Personal Energy Advisor – energy dashboard

E-mail invitations will go out monthly for everyone that signs up for the Neighbor to Neighbor program so they can participate in the personal energy advisor online program. The program will give suggestions on how homeowners can save energy at their home.

3.) Leaderboard – Cheshire is in 3rd place; points for Kim Wantroba’s solar panels?

Ms. Nosal stated that Cheshire is in third place for the Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Outreach Challenge; Ridgefield is in second place and Westport is in first place.

4.) *Home Energy Basics* workshops

Ms. Nosal stated that the workshop scheduled for July 20th at Temple Beth David was canceled due to low interest. Commissioners commented that Summertime is a tough time to get people to events like this. She is hopeful it can be rescheduled for September 12th.

5.) Post – HES work (insulation, water heating, etc.) – “deeper energy savings”

Mr. Gayeski commented that he was called for 2 jobs to make repairs after people had Home Energy Solution work done with questionable insulation work done resulting in problems for the homeowners.

Chairman Ogurick talked about the need to help homeowners find “deeper energy savings” after a Home Energy Solution audit. Ms. Nosal commented that it is an end goal of the group although there hasn’t been much focus on it yet.

6.) DIY – home energy upgrade assessment tool

Chairman Ogurick stated that he did the home energy upgrade assessment tool online for his house.

7.) Willy Wonka Winners – free HES audits for 3 Cheshire residents

Ms. Nosal stated that there were 3 winners selected during the showings of Willy Wonka for a free Home Energy Solution visit. They are: Howard Sparks of 59 Trout Brook Road, Janet Ray of 189 Patton Drive and Valerie Joyce of 376 Academy Road. Ms. Nosal stated that she had 16 sign ups at the 3 showings she attended but she “spoke to” over 1,200 people at the 3 intermissions and there was an advertisement in the playbill.

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. New bubble enclosure at Cheshire Community Pool

Mr. Gavin reported that the Pool Subcommittee has selected a company to purchase a replacement bubble for the Community Pool. The company has also made suggestions on how to improve the energy efficiency at the pool, including a lighting upgrade. The Subcommittee is recommending that the Town hire a qualified Engineer to evaluate the enclosure design plan.

B. TransCanada – new rate 9.145 cents / kWh from Sept. 1, 2011 to Dec. 1, 2015, vs. old rate of 9.485 cents / kWh; estimated savings is \$1,846 per month, \$22,152 annually or about \$94,146 over the 51 months of the blended rate

Chairman Ogurick commented that a contract extension was recently negotiated for the Town with TransCanada.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Dave Gavin to adjourn the Energy Commission meeting at 8:55 p.m.; **SECONDED** by Rich Ogurick.

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

The motion passes 4 – 0.

Respectfully submitted:

Tracey M. Kozlowski
Recording Secretary