

MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE ENERGY COMMISSION

MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2019 7:00 PM

ROOM 210, TOWN HALL, 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET

Commissioners Present:

Richard Ogurick, Chairman
Paul Michalowski, Vice Chairman
Timothy White, Secretary
Walter Orr, Commissioner
David Gavin, Commissioner

Others Present:

Dan Knudsen, Cheshire Resident

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Roll was called and a quorum was determined to be present.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Mr. Michalowski to approve the minutes from the February 25, 2019 meeting.

SECONDED by Mr. Orr and opened for discussion. No corrections were noted.

The motion was returned to a vote and passed unanimously by all those present and voting.

V. COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Ogurick passed around the table a printout from the solar farm website that enumerated the projected gigawatt hours produced by the system and what these hours save in trees, water, gas and methane. More than 1.5 gigawatt hours were produced in the past year.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Energy Efficiency Projects

1. Community Pool – CHP project

The update provided by Mr. Gavin detailed work completed to date including installation of the concrete pad, design drawing completion, electrical and mechanical contractors selected, electrical permit application completed, delivery of the cogeneration unit, control panel and load module built, tested and delivered, Lochinvar approved their boiler exhaust flue plan, and Eversource installed the gas manifold. Work still in progress includes the projected relocation of the Siamese fitting approved by the Fire Marshal is scheduled for 3/26/2019-3/27/2019. Then a pressure test will be performed by the building department which when passed, will release the mechanical and electrical permits and commence installation of equipment. Start date approximately April 15, 2019. There was discussion regarding the viability of cogeneration units for high energy usage buildings. Inquiries were made as to the possibility of feeding the grid from any excess energy produced. Mr. Gavin advised he would find requested data. Mr. Gavin estimated a savings of 250-300 thousand kW hours per year which would be offset by 5-10 upswing in therm usage.

2. Bus Depot – LED exterior lighting, Dattco investment.

Nothing to report.

B. Benchmarking

1. Energy Star Portfolio Manager – ENERGY STAR rating for all Cheshire Buildings

Mr. Gavin provided five separate comparisons between the town buildings. He noted that some buildings needed updated meters which changed the values of the findings. The first report was a ranking by energy cost, the second report ranked sites by energy cost per square foot in descending order and the third report enumerated the 75 ENERGY STAR designation eligible scores in descending order. There was discussion regarding dates of input, validity of numbers due to square footage and other factors, specifically at the pump stations. The fourth report sorted the buildings that consume gas in descending

order and the fifth report detailed electricity usage in descending order. There was discussion regarding buildings still using oil and the viability of natural gas being run to various locations.

C. Clean Energy

1. Greenskies 100 kW solar carports at Cheshire Police Station – status of project

This project was currently under vote for planning and zoning approval at the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting. The assistant engineer estimated the completion date midway through May.

D. Publicity/Education/Outreach

1. News articles and letter to the editor

Nothing to report

2. Fall Festival – plans for 2019; theme, banner

Nothing to report

3. Best Net Zero Houses – concept: subcommittee report

Nothing to report

4. Community Choice Aggregation (CCA)

Mr. Ogurick advised Mr. Knudsen that the resolution required extensive revision before it could be endorsed by the Energy Commission and recommended for ratification by Town Council. Mr. Knudsen clarified that the numbers showing the current third party options were proving predatory and with a CCA each person could decide whether to opt in or not. Mr. Knudsen explained price, reliability of billing and quality of service were superior with a CCA. Mr. White inquired as to the control of CCA. Mr. Knudsen explained that those decisions would be up to Town Council and would be a taking back of control by the localities. He advised the commission that the bill (HB6241), was shelved until the next legislation session. Mr. Michalowski requested information from Mr. Knudsen on source material and a simplified resolution. Mr. Michalowski suggested this version be assigned to Walter Gancarz who would present it to Sean

Kimball for Town Council consumption. Mr. Knudsen was invited to attend future Energy Commission meetings to further discussion on this item.

E. PBC Projects

Nothing to report

F. Grants, Rebates & Utility Programs

1. Early involvement of Eversource in all town building projects

Nothing to report

G. Energy Reliability Program – update on tree trimming

Nothing to report

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Northeast Collaborative for High Performance Schools (NE-CHPS):

<https://neep.org/northeast-collaborative-performance-schools-criteria-ne-chps-version-31>

Mr. Ogurick explained how in the webinar NEEP discussed strategic increase over time in home energy consumption at the expense of less fossil fuels. Transportation will also become electrified. Technology will allow a better distribution of energy consumption.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Michalowski to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

SECONDED by Mr. White and passed unanimously by all those present and voting.

Attest,

Michelle Anastasio

Clerk