

**CHESHIRE ENERGY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, JULY 29, 2019 AT 7:00 P.M.
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL – 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET
ROOM 210**

Commissioners Present:

Chairman Rich Ogurick, Paul Michalowski, Walt Gayeski, Don Nidoh, Tim White, Dave Gavin, Dan Knudsen

Commissioners Absent:

None

Staff Present:

None

Others Present:

None

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Ogurick called the meeting to order at 7:05 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. June 24, 2019 – Regular Meeting

MOTION by Dan Knudsen to accept the minutes of the June 24, 2019 regular meeting as submitted; **SECONDED** by Paul Michalowski.

VOTE: In Favor – Michalowski, Gayeski, Nidoh, White, Gavin, Knudsen, Ogurick
Opposed – none

The motion passes 7 – 0.

V. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications.

VI. OLD BUSINESS**A. Energy Management Projects**

- 1) Community Pool – status of CHP project; access to monitoring system

Mr. Gavin reported that the 35-kW generator at Cheshire Community Pool has been online since June 21, 2019, and no major problems have been reported. Mr. Gancarz will be asked to arrange access to the monitoring system for the energy commissioners.

Mr. Gavin is reviewing the energy consumption (electricity and natural gas) of the pool facility before and after the CHP installation, and he will report the results at the next meeting.

- 2) Bus Depot – energy efficiency opportunities for new trailer and equipment

Mr. Ogurick read from notes submitted by Mr. Clavet prior to the meeting that the prefabbed office building is in the design phase and is currently being evaluated by the PBC. Mr. Clavet will make sure the contractor specifies an energy efficient building and equipment, since the town will be paying for the energy bills.

- 3) New energy projects at CHS – LED lighting, steam pipe insulation, refrigeration upgrades

Mr. Ogurick read from notes supplied by Mr. Clavet that Energy Resources USA/JK Energy Solutions is waiting for the LED fixtures, and they should be starting the lighting portion of the project in a few weeks. Custom-fitted insulation blankets for the steam pipes are currently being fabricated.

- 4) Government Freezer at Highland School – heat recovery options

Mr. Ogurick read from notes supplied by Mr. Clavet that there have been no responses to the town's RFP for a replacement "Government Freezer."

B. Benchmarking

- 1) Energy Star Portfolio Manager

Mr. Ogurick stated that most of the town's buildings in the Portfolio Manager database have a dismal score. Mr. White questioned the basis for the score, i.e., what represents a comparable building, since the age and location of so-called similar buildings throughout the country can make a big difference in their energy consumption.

Mr. Gavin reported that the building comparisons were probably pretty close, but the database itself is the problem, because of data input errors and obsolete energy consumption. He is working with Rick Mascoli of Eversource to get the database updated, so the program can serve as a useful tool to direct energy efficiency projects to the facilities that need the most attention.

C. Publicity / Education / Outreach

1) News articles and letters to the editor

Mr. Michalowski mentioned that there was a front-page article in the July 5, 2019 edition of The Cheshire Herald that Mr. Knudsen and Mr. Ogurick contributed to regarding Community Choice Aggregation (CCA).

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

Mr. Ogurick asked for volunteers for the Energy Commission booth at the Fall Festival. Several commissioners indicated that they would be available. The schedule will be finalized at the next meeting.

Mr. Ogurick will contact Mr. Gancarz regarding a tent for the Energy Commission and a banner for the table. Also, pin wheels are a good way to attract attention.

The theme for this year will be Community Choice Aggregation (CCA). Mr. Knudsen will finalize the informational brochure he had prepared, and develop a petition for residents to sign, indicating their support for such a program.

3) Community Choice Aggregation

Mr. Knudsen led a discussion about how to present the CCA concept to Cheshire residents. Commissioners offered input to the draft brochure, indicating that it should be more relevant to Cheshire, and it should explain more clearly how CCA's can give residents more choice and local control of energy costs compared to the Local Distribution Company (Eversource). Other benefits of CCA's, such as promotion of renewable energy supply, and positive impacts on climate change were also discussed; however, the commission feels that lower energy costs will be the main driver.

3) Significant Energy Achievements

Mr. Ogurick reported that the handout containing the town's significant energy achievements, that was distributed to Fall Festival attendees last year, will be updated and used again to draw attention to the efforts of the energy commission.

D. Clean Energy

1) Greenskies 100 kW solar carport at Cheshire Police Station

Mr. Michalowski commented that project has been delayed due to foundation design changes, and the projected completion date is this fall.

E. PBC Projects

There was nothing new to report.

F. Grants, Rebates & Utility Programs

There was nothing new to report.

G. Energy Reliability Program – update on tree trimming

There was nothing new to report.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Pump Station Improvements – energy efficiency opportunities

Mr. Ogurick reported that he had sent an e-mail to Mr. Gancarz regarding energy efficiency opportunities at the town's pump stations, including motor efficiency, VFD's, and controls.

B. Roof Replacement Work at CHS, Chapman, and Norton School

Mr. Ogurick read from notes supplied by Mr. Clavet that the "roof replacements" described in the July 11, 2019 edition of The Cheshire Herald were more appropriately "roof repairs," including re-seaming a small section of EPDM material at Norton, and some shingles at CHS.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Michalowski to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.; **SECONDED** by Mr. Gavin.

VOTE: In Favor – Michalowski, Gayeski, Nidoh, White, Gavin, Knudsen, Ogurick

Opposed – none

The motion passes 7 – 0.

Respectfully submitted:

Richard G. Ogurick
Acting Recording Secretary