

**CHESHIRE ENERGY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 2019 AT 7:00 P.M.
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL – 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET
ROOM 210**

Commissioners Present:

Chairman Rich Ogurick, Don Nidoh, Tim White, Dave Gavin, Dan Knudsen

Commissioners Absent:

Paul Michalowski, Walt Gayeski

Staff Present:

Walt Gancarz, Town Engineer

Rich Clavet, Facilities Manager, Cheshire Public Schools

Others Present:

Bryan Fitzgerald, Verogy

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Ogurick called the meeting to order at 7:00 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. July 29, 2019 – Regular Meeting

MOTION by Dave Gavin to accept the minutes of the July 29, 2019 regular meeting as submitted;
SECONDED by Tim White

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

The motion passes 5 – 0.

V. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Energy Efficiency Projects

- 1) Community Pool – access to CHP monitoring system; overheating of locker rooms and pool water

Mr. Gancarz reported that the overheating of the locker rooms and pool water is due to faulty control valves on the existing hot water distribution system in the building, not the new CHP unit. The higher temperature of the heat recovery system accentuates a problem that has existed, but gone unnoticed, before.

The valves will be repaired/replaced, but in the meantime the temperature of the system has been lowered (from 160°F to 130°F), which will adversely affect the efficiency of the CHP system, and could potentially force it to shut down if the generator gets too hot.

Mr. Gavin reported that in July 2019, the electricity usage at the pool was down 58%, and the gas usage was down 37% compared to year-earlier numbers. It is not known how much gas was consumed by the generator, but there is a separate gas meter, and Mr. Gavin will obtain and share the data when he gets a chance.

Mr. Gancarz said he will distribute the CHP monitoring report when he gets it from Aegis. He said the monitoring is not web-based.

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

Mr. Clavet reported that the design approval of the new bus depot is on hold until the P&Z receives the lighting plan from Milone & McBroom.

Mr. Clavet will make sure the design includes an energy efficient building and equipment, since the town will be paying for the energy bills.

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

Mr. Clavet reported that Energy Resources USA/JK Energy Solutions has completed the refrigeration upgrades and steam pipe insulation at CHS. The LED lighting is about 70% complete, and it will be completed on second shift by mid-September. He plans to have JK Energy look at Dodd and Highland next.

Mr. Clavet reported that the parking lot lighting at Dodd has been changed from induction to LED technology, with individual programmable stepped photocell/occupancy sensors that turn on at dusk, dim to 20% after 4 hours, then go to 100% for 15 minutes upon seeing any motion, and back to 20% etc., throughout the night. Doolittle will be done next.

Mr. Ogurick suggested that the parking lot lighting at Town Hall, the library, and the police station be retrofitted with the same technology.

4) Government Freezer at Highland School – heat recovery options

Mr. Clavet reported that only two bid responses have been received, and both are significantly over budget (25% and 100% over). The problem may be that contractors are too busy during the summer. The timing of the RFP was bad – it should have been issued earlier in the year.

5) Roof Replacement Work at CHS, Chapman, and Norton School

Mr. Clavet reported that when the repair of the EPDM roof membrane was repaired at Norton, the three 1-inch panels of Johns-Manville fibreboard were replaced with 5 inches of poly-isocyanate insulation, significantly increasing the R-value (and energy efficiency).

B. Benchmarking

1) Energy Star Portfolio Manager

Mr. Gavin reported that about 15 of the town's buildings in the Portfolio Manager database have been updated with current energy consumption.

He is still working with Rick Mascoli of Eversource to get the entire database updated, so the program can serve as a useful tool to direct energy efficiency projects to the facilities that need the most attention. He expects this to be complete within the next two months.

C. Publicity / Education / Outreach

1) News articles and letters to the editor

There was nothing to report

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

The theme for this year's Fall Festival will be Community Choice Aggregation (CCA). Mr. Knudsen has finalized the informational handout he had drafted last month, and will develop a petition for residents to sign, indicating their support for such a program.

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

Mr. Ogurick asked for volunteers for the Energy Commission booth. Several commissioners indicated that they would be available, and a schedule was drafted.

3) Community Choice Aggregation

Mr. Knudsen revised the CCA handout to make it more relevant to Cheshire residents, and explain more clearly how CCA's can give residents more choice and

local control of energy costs compared to the Standard Offer from the Local Distribution Company (Eversource).

Mr. Knudsen mentioned that he met with a representative from Cape Light Compact, a MA CCA, and distributed his notes from that meeting to the energy commission members.

4) Significant Energy Achievements

Mr. Ogurick reported that the handout containing the town's significant energy achievements, that will be distributed at the Fall Festival, has been updated.

D. Clean Energy

1) Greenskies 100 kW solar carport at Cheshire Police Station

Mr. Gancarz reported that there was a pre-construction meeting recently and the completion date is the end of November 2019. Projected savings is about \$6 – 8K per year, but having a car port is a big advantage for the police officers.

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. Solar Virtual Net Metering Project Opportunity - Bryan Fitzgerald, Verogy

Mr. Ogurick introduced Bryan Fitzgerald, Co-Founder and Director of Development for Verogy of Hartford, CT, who requested time to discuss a solar virtual net metering project opportunity with the energy commission.

Verogy is seeking beneficial accounts to purchase solar energy from one or two agricultural hosts in Bristol, CT (1 MW and 2 MW capacity). The current status of Virtual Net Metering (VNM) is that the cap was increased from \$10 million to \$20 million; however, Eversource has indicated that they have received enough applications to fill the current program. If any accepted projects fall through (maybe 10%), they will either pick alternates from a waiting list, or lobby for another cap increase. In either event, it would be good if Cheshire could get into the queue.

A Rate 35 customer could get a \$.15/kWh credit in Year 1. With a proposed 20% discount, there would be a \$0.03/kWh savings, or approximately \$56K/year for a customer that uses 1.8 million

kWh/year. Cheshire could aggregate up to ten accounts to take full advantage of the savings opportunity.

The town would need to apply to become a beneficial account. This would include submitting bills to Verogy for a no-cost analysis. Our obligation would be similar to the existing PPA at the former landfill with Solar City. Verogy estimates the price to be around \$0.12/kWh, for a term of 20 years.

Mr. White recommended that the Town Council be asked to approve a Waiver of Bid to enable the town to sign a no-cost contract with Verogy and move quickly to take advantage of this offer.

Mr. Clavet will submit the most recent electricity bills for CHS, Dodd, and Highland schools to Verogy for analysis, and Verogy will submit a fixed price proposal and an estimate of the total savings to Mr. Ogurick for distribution to the energy commission.

A certification letter indicating that Cheshire has committed to the PPA (provided the price is right) is all that would be needed for Cheshire to get in the queue.

Verogy needs to check if the schools, which buy electricity from a third-party, not Eversource, will qualify for participation in VNM. It did not make a difference on the town-side (which was buying supply from TransCanada) when the PPA with Solar City was signed.

It will be about 18 - 20 months before the Bristol project is in production.

Mr. White suggested that we take a proactive approach and contact other solar developers to see if they have any projects that we can get into the queue for as off-takers.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Opposed – none

The motion passes 5 – 0.

Respectfully submitted:

Richard G. Ogurick
Acting Recording Secretary