

**CHESHIRE ENERGY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, AUGUST 29, 2011 AT 7:00 P.M.
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL – 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET
ROOM 210**

Commissioners Present:

Chairman Rich Ogurick, Paul Michalowski, Peter Takizawa and Carol Wilson

Commissioners Absent:

David Gavin, Walter Gayeski and Joseph Nesdale

Staff Present:

George Noewatne, Operations Manager for the Public Works/Engineering Department

Others Present:

Jessica Bergman of Clean Water Action (departed at 8:05 p.m.); Joan Szechtman of 917 Ward Lane

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 25, 2011 – Regular Meeting

MOTION by Carol Wilson to accept the July 25, 2011 Energy Commission regular meeting minutes as submitted. **SECONDED** by Paul Michalowski.

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

The motion passes 4 – 0.

V. COMMUNICATIONS

Chairman Ogurick stated that he received an e-mail from Madeleine Diker, Director of Food and Nutrition Services for Cheshire Public Schools, on August 3rd asking for suggestions in the purchase of a new steamer in the kitchen at Highland School. It was noted that gas would be the least expensive choice compared with an electric steamer.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Energy Management Projects

- 1) Remaining 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 regarding the computer time management software available during this meeting of the Energy Commission.

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

Mr. Noewatne stated that the tenant at the Lock 12 house will be signing up for a HES audit and then the Town will reimburse him. The Hitchcock Phillips House is not a residence so Mr. Noewatne does not believe a HES audit can be done. Chairman Ogurick suggested that the Town pay the regular fee to get an energy savings audit done of the building. Ms. Bergman stated that she would look into signing up the Hitchcock Phillips House for a HES audit or see what options are available for the building.

- 3) Exterior lighting improvements at police station, CHS and Highland School

Mr. Noewatne needs to submit the re-classification of grant funds request so that remaining funds can be applied to exterior lighting improvements at Cheshire Police Headquarters. It was noted that 70 watt induction lighting is the preferred choice for the property. Mr. Biancur was not available to provide an update on the Cheshire High School and Highland School lighting improvement projects.

4) Town-wide ESPC project – ESCO update

Mr. Noewatne stated that the Town Council has been briefed regarding the selection of Ameresco for the Town-wide ESPC project and they are taking it under advisement. The next step will be the Town Council Planning Committee to review the project and advise the Town Council on how to proceed. Chairman Ogurick stated that the next step should be a town wide audit, at a cost of \$50,000.

The Energy Commission is anxiously waiting for a decision on when and how the Town Council will take the next step with the selected ESPC.

5) Replacement bubble enclosure for Cheshire Community Pool

The Town Council approved the purchase of a new bubble enclosure for the Cheshire Community Pool as well as a new blower. The Town's insurance company will be paying \$284,000 towards the new enclosure. The new blower will be 5 horsepower vs 25 horsepower for the existing blower and will be more efficient as well as will have setback ability. It was noted that the new bubble enclosure will have an R-value of 4 compared to the R-value of 2 the previous bubble enclosure had.

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. Chairman Ogurick stated that he had recently e-mailed Town Manager Milone asking for help in getting this database updated on a regular basis going forward. Chairman Ogurick would like to see the database have the current information entered on a timely basis and then when time allows, go back and enter historic data. Mr. Noewatne noted that as part of the performance contracting, Ameresco will enter 1 year of data in the Energy Star Portfolio Manager database, as part of their work.

C. Publicity / Education / Outreach

1) News articles and letters to the editor

Mr. Michalowski distributed copies of an article regarding the Connecticut Public Television series from the Record Journal and article that talked about the pros and cons of different types of light bulbs, with descriptions of each type of light bulb.

D. Clean Energy

Chairman Ogurick informed the Commission that the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund is now known as the Connecticut Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority, which is a result of the State restructuring implemented by Governor Malloy, effective July 1, 2011.

- 1) 30% by 2015– status of Cheshire’s voluntary clean energy purchases

With regards to the 30% by 2015 goal, Mr. Noewatne stated that Chapman School is the only school currently signed up for clean energy, per Greg Gibbons.

E. PBC Projects

Chairman Ogurick asked if there were any other Public Building Commission projects that the Energy Commission should be monitoring or providing input for? Mr. Noewatne replied that a partial roof replacement will be coming forward soon for Cheshire Police Headquarters.

- 1.) CHS roof replacement – monitoring effect of white roofs; data loggers

Ms. Wilson commented that she thinks the HOBO Data Loggers, which had been suggested to use to track the Cheshire High School roof temperatures, cost approximately \$80 each. Chairman Ogurick stated that he would look into the data loggers.

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 during Hurricane Irene this past weekend there were 43 trees or large limbs that came down in Cheshire.

H. Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge

Ms. Bergman informed the Commission that she might be transferred to help some of the lagging communities in Connecticut, which would mean a new organizer might be assigned to Cheshire. The new Corp students will be starting in mid-September to help Cheshire with the Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge.

1.) Strategic Outreach – update

There will be representatives at the Cheshire Fall Festival on September 10th to promote the Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge.

A Neighbor to Neighbor Leadership workshop will be held on September 10th in Wethersfield Town Hall with Community leaders. The event begins at 1 p.m. and Ms. Bergman noted that she would be one of the speakers.

a) Home Energy Basics workshops

Ms. Bergman and Ms. Wilson stated that there will be a kid workshop on October 29th from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. at Cheshire Public Library.

b) Food Pantry

Chairman Ogurick provided Mr. Noewatne with the Partnership Agreement paperwork between the Food Pantry and the Energy Commission.

c) Cheshire Social Services – promote HES – IE audits?

Commissioners talked about whether Cheshire could make a Home Energy Solution – Income Eligible audit mandatory for residents that receive energy assistance from the Town. Ms. Bergman stated that she thinks the towns can do this and said she would contact Wilton, CT's Social Services Department to ask how they handled this in their town.

d) Goal: 300 new HES / HES-IE audits by 1/1/12

Chairman Ogurick if Ms. Bergman had the numbers to date for the new HES and / or HES-IE audits, but she did not.

2.) Leaderboard

Ms. Bergman stated that Cheshire is still in third place for the Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Outreach Challenge.

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

There was nothing new to report on “deeper energy savings” at this month’s Energy Commission meeting.

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

None.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Paul Michalowski to adjourn the Energy Commission meeting at 8:30 p.m.;
SECONDED by Peter Takizawa.

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

The motion passes 4 – 0.

Respectfully submitted:

Tracey M. Kozlowski
Recording Secretary