

**CHESHIRE ENERGY COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON  
MONDAY, October 24, 2011 AT 7:00 P.M.  
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL – 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET  
ROOM 210**

Commissioners Present:

Chairman Rich Ogurick, Walter Gayeski, Joseph Nesdale

Commissioners Absent:

David Gavin, Paul Michalowski, Peter Takizawa, and Carol Wilson

Staff Present:

George Noewatne  
Frank Biancur

Others Present:

Joan Szechtman of 917 Ward Lane

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Ogurick called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

**II. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

A quorum was NOT present for this meeting; however, the meeting was recorded, and these minutes were transcribed for information only.

**III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. September 26, 2011 – Regular Meeting

Commission could not approve minutes due to no quorum present.

**V. COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no communications to the Energy Commission.

**VI. OLD BUSINESS**

A. Energy Management Projects

- 1) Remaining Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) projects
  - a) Computer time management software – status

Mr. Biancur said all schools have been inter-connected, the infrastructure is there, and computer time management software should be purchased, and up and running soon. Mr. Noewatne stated that the deadline to get this completed is June

2012 (three years from when the grant was awarded – which was October 2009). Discussion followed as to what constitutes completion.

Mr. Biancur stated that he now has software to control the boilers at Norton, Chapman, Highland, and Darcey. Those are smaller schools with software cost about \$9,000 each. Software is loaded onto the Town Hall server and is internet-based, so school maintenance staff is able to see what's running (boilers, pumps, temperature, return water, supply water, outside temp, etc.). Mr. Biancur, Mr. Marseglia and maintenance people have access. Alarms go to Sonitrol if there is a problem. If something happens after hours, since it's internet-based, corrections and adjustments can be done remotely from home. Cost is prohibiting this being done at the high school.

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

No update was available regarding signing up the Hitchcock Phillips House for an HES audit. Mr. Noewatne stated that the tenant at Lock 12 is going to fill out the form.

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

LED wall-packs are being installed at CHS. Nine fixtures have been put up, with 6 more to go, for a total of 15. One classroom at the high school is complete with nine 2x2 LED's. Commission members would like to know what the wattage savings is. Mr. Biancur believes it's approximately 50% savings. LED lighting was also installed in a Special Ed room. Mr. Biancur discussed the option of adding dimmers if the lamps are too bright. This Special Ed room was chosen because it had no natural light, and the room was too warm (from the heat from standard lighting). Nothing has been done at Highland School yet. Discussion followed about using LED's outdoors (streetlights and traffic lights).

Mr. Noewatne stated that the application has been completed for the transfer of funds to retrofit the exterior lighting at the police department. This has to go to state and federal government for approval.

- 4) Town-wide ESPC project – reference checks, video case study, Energy Savings Performance Contracting Manual for Municipalities, IGA Agreement

There is a Town Council Planning Committee meeting on October 25, 2011. The Planning Committee needs to make a recommendation to the Town Council to proceed with a town-wide investment grade audit (IGA). Chairman Ogurick stated that Mr. Schrumm of the Town Council asked him to get him some examples of energy performance contracts that were done. Chairman Ogurick stated that he sent Councilor Schrumm five case studies that Ameresco had done. Mr. Sima and Ms. Flynn-Harris were copied.

## B. Benchmarking

- 1) Energy Star Portfolio Manager - database maintenance; resource allocation

According to Town Manager Milone, the Finance Department will take on the responsibility to maintain the Energy Star Portfolio Manager database.

C. Publicity / Education / Outreach

- 1) News articles and letters to the editor

There were no new articles related to the Energy Commission discussed during this evening's meeting.

D. Clean Energy

- 1) 30% by 2015

The 5.46kW solar array on the roof of the Cheshire Public Library has generated over 18,000 kWh and saved the Town of Cheshire over \$3,250 in avoided electricity costs since it was installed in December 2008.

E. PBC Projects

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

It was noted that we don't have the "before" measurements to compare to the "now" measurements. Nothing has been done, but measurements are still useful and need to be done. It was agreed to keep it on the back burner. Discussion followed on different types of data loggers and cost.

F. Grants, Rebates & Utility Programs

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

Nothing to report

G. CL & P Energy Reliability Program

- 1.) Lewis Tree Service tree trimming project - part of \$21 million/year level set by the State

State has authorized CL&P to spend 21 million/year to trim trees. Discussion followed about the benefits of having trees trimmed regularly.

H. Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge

There were no representative(s) for the Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge at tonight's Energy Commission meeting; therefore, no updates were available.

1.) Personnel changes

No update regarding the personnel changes for the Neighbor to Neighbor program was available. Chairman Ogurick will contact Roger Smith, New England Energy Program Director, to find out the status.

2.) Strategic Outreach – update

a) Home Energy Basics workshops

No update

b) Energy Workshop for Children – 10/29/11 at Cheshire Public Library

An educational energy workshop for kids is planned for October 29<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. at Cheshire Public Library.

c) Cheshire Social Services – promote HES – IE audits

No update was available regarding making Home Energy Solution – Income Eligible audits mandatory for residents that receive energy assistance from the Town.

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

No updates were available regarding the number of HES and / or HES-IE audits.

Chairman Ogurick discussed the Home Energy Solutions residential loan program. UI and CL&P have new programs that allow utility customers to roll loan payments for home efficiency upgrades onto their bills.

3.) Leaderboard

No update available regarding the Leaderboard for the Neighbor to Neighbor program.

4) Community Group Points – deadline is October 31, 2011

Discussion about community group points and noted that deadline is Monday. The Friends of Cheshire Public Library is currently in the lead both locally and statewide.

5) Personal Energy Dashboard – Snugg Home

Chairman Ogurick stated he tried to log on, but found out that he was never set up. Said he gave his release form to Crystal Nosal in July, but believes it fell through the cracks.

6) 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. Discussion followed about “going wide” instead of “going deep”,

meaning getting more people involved, rather than having the people who've been in the program find more ways to save.

I. Waste Water Treatment Plant upgrade – energy savings opportunities

Chairman Ogurick sent information about “methane harvest,” a proposal to install a small combined heat and power (CHP) facility at the Cheshire wastewater treatment plant, to Dennis Dievert and Tim Pelton. As of today, he has not heard anything from them.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Energy Star Webinars – 8 topical issues 10/4 through 10/24

Chairman Ogurick thought these webinars could be valuable and will keep members apprised of any more coming up in the future.

B. Connecticut Energy and Sustainability Symposium – November 19, 2011

Chairman Ogurick stated he would like to go and has heard from Mrs. Wilson, who will be attending.

C. Natural gas prices for January futures below \$4 per million BTUs, a level not seen since 2002

Cheshire has three schools which use natural gas. Discussion followed regarding price going down and the commission thought that it's a good time to lock in rates if possible. Mr. Noewatne will check with Finance to see how long our supply contract is, how much we pay, and who we get the natural gas from.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Respectfully submitted:

Stephanie Dunn  
Recording Secretary