

**CHESHIRE ENERGY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, JANUARY 30, 2012 AT 7:00 P.M.
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL – 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET
ROOM 210**

Commissioners Present:

Chairman Rich Ogurick (arrived at 7:45 p.m.), Walter Gayeski, Paul Michalowski, Joseph Nesdale and Carol Wilson

Commissioners Absent:

David Gavin and Peter Takizawa

Staff Present:

Frank Biancur, District Maintenance Foreman for the Education Department (departed at 7:40 p.m.) and Vincent Masciana, Director of Management Services (departed at 7:40 p.m.)

Others Present:

Michael Ecke, Town Council Liaison; Jessica Bergman of Clean Water Action (departed at 8:45 p.m.); Stacy Stone of Clean Energy Corp / Student Conservation Association (departed at 8:45 p.m.); Steve Pelton of EcoSmart Home Services (departed at 8:45 p.m.); Jillian Ryan, Project Coordinator for Clean Energy Corp. (departed at 8:45 p.m.)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairwoman Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:02 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. November 28, 2011 – Regular Meeting

MOTION by Paul Michalowski to accept the November 28, 2011 Energy Commission regular meeting minutes as submitted. **SECONDED** by Walter Gayeski.

VOTE: In Favor – Gayeski, Michalowski, Nesdale and Wilson
Opposed – none

The motion passes 4 – 0.

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

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 – project changed to virtualized desktop environment; central server pushes software to *thin clients*, which uses 90% less electricity than a PC – buy 50 *thin client* devices

Mr. Masciani stated that the original computer time management software would not run on the existing network and upgrades of the schools’ network has begun. He stated that 77% of the schools’ computer equipment is over 5 years old. Mr. Masciani suggested that instead of purchasing the “power down” software he would like to use the \$12,000 EECBG funds to purchase 50 “thin client” devices to replace some desktop PC’s which would get their software from the school computer network and would reduce the energy consumption at the schools.

Mr. Masciani stated that he has checked with the D.E.E.P. regarding the change of funding allocation and it has been OK’d in writing, now he is asking for the Energy Commission’s permission to make this re-allocation. He noted that each “thin client” will cost \$250 and there will not be any software or

equipment upgrades needed for approximately 10 years with this equipment. Mr. Masciani noted that this is a pilot program and will be a good way to try them out. He distributed information regarding the energy savings comparison of 1,000 PCs versus 1,000 “thin clients” which estimated a savings of over \$10,000 per year, based on the use of 1,000 “thin clients”. There are approximately 1600 PCs currently in the Cheshire schools.

Ms. Wilson asked if Mr. Masciani has talked to other schools that are using these “thin clients”? Mr. Masciani replied that this is still in the early stages of rolling out; an upgrade of the education department’s network is about 18 years old and needs to be updated. Mr. Masciani stated that he has talked to a couple of towns that have started to use this technology but it is still new to schools. He added that a lot of corporations are switching to this technology.

Mr. Gayeski suggested that maybe the EECBG funding should be reallocated to supplement more home energy audits.

Ms. Wilson stated that the Energy Commission did not have to decide tonight on the reallocation of the grant, adding that she would like to know more about the program.

Mr. Masciani commented that PCs are not sustainable in schools and this would be a better, long term solution for the schools. Going forward, the schools are hoping to go more to a “bring your device to school” situation for teachers and students.

Mr. Nesdale asked where the main server is and Mr. Masciani replied that it is at the Town Hall and that fiber optic lines have now been run to all the schools and the servers have just been upgraded.

Ms. Wilson suggested that this topic be put on next month’s meeting agenda for the Energy Commission to discuss further. Mr. Gayeski asked the Education Department to update the memo regarding energy saving options for the schools related to individual refrigerators, coffee pots and space heaters. Mr. Biancur noted that all of the space heaters have been removed from the schools by order of the Fire Marshal. Mr. Masciani asked that if there are any specific questions or information the Commission would like, to please email him.

Mr. Biancur talked to the Commission about the “Redwood” system he saw in Glastonbury, which is a new LED system. It is web based and monitors the room temperatures via a server. There are also sensors for natural lighting attached to the system

which adjusts the LED classroom lights as needed by “harvesting” the light. Mr. Biancur stated that this looks like an interesting system and he is looking into further.

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

Mr. Biancur stated that the exterior Cheshire High School induction lights (18 total wall packs) were installed at Cheshire High School. The induction pole lights for the High School have come in but have not yet been installed.

Mr. Biancur stated that Mr. Noewatne told him that the Cheshire Police Department exterior induction lighting has been purchased but has not yet been installed. Exterior lighting at Highland School has been put on hold for now due to the work being done for mold remediation at Cheshire High School.

- 3) Town-wide ESPC project – Ameresco to proceed with the Energy Audit / Performance Contracting project; town attorney reviewing contract

Chairman Ogurick stated that the town wide Investment Grade Audit was recently approved by the Town Council to proceed in all Town buildings. The town wide audit will cost the Town approximately \$49,000 and will take approximately 6 months to complete. Once the Town Attorney finishes his review of the contract, the audits can begin. The Cheshire Community Pool and the Waste Water Treatment Plant will be included in the town wide audit.

- 4) HVAC zones at Cheshire Senior Center

Ms. Wilson stated that there is a room at the Cheshire Senior Center where exercise classes are held that had been kept too warm because there was not a separate heating zone for the room. A Public Works department crew has corrected the problem at the Senior Center around the Holidays but when Ms. Wilson returned after the New Year for the exercise class, the doorway was propped open, by the instructor, to help cool the room. Ms. Wilson expressed her frustration, adding that the instructor had not taken the time to realize the temperature was lower in the room to start off the class. Ms. Wilson suggested that notices be posted to not open exterior doors and windows when the heat is on in all of the Town buildings.

B. Benchmarking

- 1) Energy Star Portfolio Manager-database maintenance by Finance Department

There was no update on the Energy Star Portfolio Manager database maintenance.

C. Publicity / Education / Outreach

- 1) News articles and letters to the editor

Two recent Record Journal articles related to the Energy Commission were reviewed during this evening's meeting: "Electric Division installs LED Streetlightings" and "More Neighbors needed for Energy Challenge" as well as a cartoon regarding the Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge. In addition, an article entitled "Energy Efficiency Features add Value" from October 31, 2011 was reviewed.

D. Clean Energy

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

An update on Cheshire's points in this program was not available.

- 2) 3Degrees (new vendor); Community Energy Inc. – (\$0.0099 – less than a penny per kWh)

Chairman Ogurick stated that there is a new option for clean energy purchasing, 3 Degrees, which is a regional source for clean energy and is offering a low price.

E. PBC Projects

There were no new PBC projects to discuss.

F. Grants, Rebates & Utility Programs

Mr. Biancur talked about gas boiler rebates, that could be used to convert the electric heat at Highland School and a section of Cheshire High School, which were recently discussed at a CL & P workshop he attended.

- 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. Nesdale commented that CL & P continues to aggressively address the tree trimming in all towns in Connecticut since the storm in October.

H. Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge

- 1) Personnel /Organizational changes

- a) Additional HES Contractors

Ms. Bergman commented that an R.F.Q. was done this Summer to look for new HES contractors; 9 new vendors were selected, 3 of which are allocated to Cheshire.

Scott Pelton of EcoSmart Home Services, one of the new HES contractors, was present tonight to talk to the Commission about the services his company can offer. He also disclosed that Commissioner Gayeski works for EcoSmart.

One of the programs that EcoSmart offers is a program for school age kids, which he would be happy to provide the Commission and Education Department more information about.

Later, Ms. Wilson commented that she thinks the Commission should look at any of the materials that are proposed. She feels that the EESmart materials are appalling, using a dinosaur in a hard hat pumping gas into cars, unless their materials have changed. She feels if the Energy Commission is to recommend the use of these education materials, they should be reviewing them. Chairman Ogurick suggested that Ms. Wilson look into and review the materials but Ms. Wilson replied that she feels it may be a conflict of interest for her. It was agreed that the Commission will ask EcoSmart to bring in copies of their

education materials before a commitment to use it is made. Mr. Nesdale stated that he would look into it, too.

b) Energy Advisors

Ms. Bergman talked about the 2 Energy Advisors that were brought on board, Gail Spence and Gil Kearnen, to watch over the HES contractors and help the residents as a neutral 3rd party reviewer for energy improvement projects. Information about the Energy Advisors has been distributed to Neighbor to Neighbor participants via the newsletter.

2) Strategic Outreach – update

a) *Home Energy Basics* workshops

Workshops are planned for February 7th at Temple Beth David during the Jewish environmental holiday celebration; February 22nd at Cheshire Public Library there will be an ice dam workshop; March 3rd there will be a kids energy program at Cheshire Public Library in conjunction with a Dr. Seuss birthday celebration; March 11th there will be a kids activity at Artsday.

Chairman Ogurick suggested contacting Henry Chase to have these events posted on the cable public access channel.

Commissioners mentioned the upcoming Chamber of Commerce Home and Garden Expo that is planned for April 2012, which would be a good opportunity for Neighbor to Neighbor.

b) Energy Workshop for children – Cheshire Public Library

The energy workshop for kids that was planned for October 29th at Cheshire Public Library was snowed out. The workshop was to target Kindergarten through 5th graders. All involved are trying to re-schedule the kids workshop.

c) User testimonials

Ms. Stone stated that she has tried to reach Tim Slocum regarding a testimonial about his HES Audit experience but he has not returned her messages.

3) Goals

- a) 300 new HES / HES-IE audits by 3/31/12

Chairman Ogurick noted that Cheshire would likely not meet the 300 new HES or HES-IE audits by March 31st

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

A “deeper energy savings” workshop is scheduled for March with the Energy Advisors at the Cheshire Public Library; HES contractors will be there also for individual consultations.

Neighbor to Neighbor is focusing on upgrades and the CORE is working on calls to HES audit clients. The awards program is being re-vamped for upgrades only. There is also a new do it yourself assessment for residential users.

Chairman Ogurick commented that there were nearly 1,000 HES audits done during the Spring / Summer of 2010 that could be followed up with for deeper energy savings options.

- 4) Score

- a) Leaderboard

The updated Leaderboard for the Neighbor to Neighbor program shows Cheshire in 5th place with 34,900 points.

- b) Community Group Points – awards presentation 12/15/11

The first round of the Community Group competition found the Friends of Cheshire Public Library as the Statewide grand prize winner of \$5,000 worth of energy related products. In addition, Cheshire’s winners were the Cheshire Methodist Church, who received a \$1,000 prize; Temple Beth David, who received a \$500 prize; Cheshire Newcomers / Neighbors, who received a \$250 prize. The second round started November 1st and runs until April 30th.

- 5) Personal Energy Dashboard – Snugg Home

With regards to the Personal Energy Dashboard for those that have had a HES audit done, Chairman Ogurick stated that he still has not been able to activate his “dashboard”.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Commissioner term expirations

Chairman Ogurick informed the Commission that Peter Takizawa was not going to re-apply to be a member of the Energy Commission. It is believed that Ms. Wilson will be re-appointed to the Energy Commission. Ms. Wilson suggested that if she was interested, Joan Szechtman could be appointed to the Energy Commission.

B. Yankee Gas Waterbury to Wallingford pipeline expansion project - complete

Chairman Ogurick stated that the Yankee Gas Waterbury to Wallingford pipeline expansion project has been completed.

C. Price of power dropping in Connecticut: On Jan 1 bills go down 7.5% to lowest level in nearly seven years

According to Chairman Ogurick, the price of power is dropping in Connecticut, which started on January 1, 2012 bills.

D. Revised residential solar rebate and lease programs

Chairman Ogurick mentioned that there are revised residential solar rebates and leases available, but more information is needed as to how the rebate and lease programs have been changed.

E. New insulation loan program coming 2/1/12 - 0% loans from \$1,000 to \$2,500; 36 month maximum term; must have done Home Energy Solutions audit

Commissioners commented that the new insulation loan program that goes into effect on Wednesday, adding that it is too bad that residents have to go through a contractor when they can install insulation themselves, to get the 0% loans.

F. IREJN – Cool Congregations Challenge

Ms. Wilson talked about the IREJN's Cool Congregations Challenge.

G. Exterior lighting at Cheshire Senior Center – resident complains of excess illumination, long hours of use

Ms. Wilson talked about the importance of educating the managers of each of the Town buildings regarding energy savings opportunities. Chairman Ogurick commented that Public Works should look into the exterior lighting complaint at the Cheshire Senior Center. If the it is not an issue of security, perhaps the number of exterior lights could be reduced at the Cheshire Senior Center.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Joe Nesdale to adjourn the Energy Commission meeting at 9:10 p.m.;
SECONDED by Paul Michalowski.

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

The motion passes 5 – 0.

Respectfully submitted:

Tracey M. Kozlowski
Recording Secretary