

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF CHESHIRE ENERGY COMMISSION MEETING HELD
ON MONDAY, APRIL 29, 2013, AT 7:00 P.M. IN ROOM 210, TOWN HALL, 84
SOUTH MAIN STREET, CHESHIRE CT 06410**

Present

Richard Ogurick, Chairman. David Gavin, Walter Gayeski, Andy Maye, Joseph Nesdale, Phil Newton, Carol Wilson.

Staff: George Noewatne, Public Works Director/Town Engineer. Frank Biancur, District Maintenance Foreman, Dept. of Education.

Guests: Madeline Priest, Neighbor to Neighbor; Peter Weeks, Erin O'Neill, Carey Dugues, Next Step Living.

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Following roll call a quorum was determined to be present.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The group Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

Chairman Ogurick introduced Phil Newton, new member of the Commission.

Mr. Newton informed the Commission members that he is a lifetime Cheshire resident, has an All State Insurance business in town, has been involved in youth sports for 10+ years. He wanted to get involved in town and was pleased to be appointed to the Energy Commission. His experience is in the operations and management areas.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. February 25, 2013 – Regular Meeting

MOTION by Mr. Nesdale; seconded by Mr. Gavin.

MOVED to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2013 Regular Meeting subject to corrections, additions, deletions.

Discussion

Mr. Ogurick noted there were typographical errors in these minutes.

VOTE The motion passed 4-0-2

B. March 25, 2013 – Regular Meeting

MOTION by Ms. Wilson; seconded by Mr. Newton.

MOVED to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2013 Regular Meeting subject to corrections, additions, deletions.

Discussion

Mr. Ogurick commented on there being typographical errors in the minutes.

VOTE The motion passed 4-0-3.

V. COMMUNICATIONS

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Energy Management Projects.

1. Town-wide ESPC Project – status

Mr. Gavin stated that there will be a recommendation made to the Town Council to approve ECG to work with Ameresco on this project. ECG has worked with Ameresco before, has done school and municipal work, is well qualified, and has their own engineering expertise for this work. The recommendation must receive Council approval. The interview process started in November for the three companies, and ECG was the company recommended by the committee.

The Council still has to approve the contract with Ameresco.

Mr. Noewatne advised that this recommendation would be on the Council agenda for May 14th. The Town Attorney had to review and approve the contract. There is a set contract price and if the contract is scaled back, ECG gets the same price.

At the Council meeting, Keith Goldberg will present the formal recommendation for the acceptance of ECG.

Mr. Biancur advised that CL&P has a project and the school information has been submitted to the company.

2. Community Pool – enclosure options

The Commission was informed by Mr. Gavin that the Town Council is in the process of putting together a committee to decide where the town goes regarding the municipal pool. The committee will be appointed on April 30th with a report to the Council in July 2013. There are options which will be discussed and considered, including a summer only pool, permanent structure, removable structure, and other options. There is a core group that has met about the pool, and they are getting information on various structures, and there will be a life cycle cost analysis on the pool. The first committee meeting is May 2nd, in Town Hall, Room 207, at 7 p.m.

Mr. Gavin stated that the core group thinks Ameresco should put together information on the structure to be financed through energy savings. It would have to include co-

generation for a permanent structure. He has talked to companies that do permanent structures for less cost than Open Air, and he will be talking with key people at Ameresco. He believes a bubble is out of the question, but it will be considered. There are good numbers on the bubble; there have been technical improvements on the structures, including a tense fabric structure. Any recommendation from the committee will be a capital budget item. Without the bubble over the pool for the upcoming winter, Mr. Gavin said the pool would have to be drained, winterized and covered.

With regard to the pool site, Mr. Gayeski said that it would be an ideal location for a hockey rink, with competitions held at this rink.

PUBLIC

Tim White, Orchard Hill Road, commented on micro grids being announced, and said a micro grid could be put in at the pool site.

According to Mr. Gavin there would be a need for two units, a 75 kw and 35 kw. The pool consumes energy during the summer, and the boiler at the pool is too large.

B. Benchmarking

1. Energy Star Portfolio Manager – database to be updated by Ameresco

Mr. Noewatne said this is still an open item. Ameresco will be updating the benchmarking, and ECG could also do this.

C. Publicity/Education/Outreach

1. News articles and letters to the editor

Mr. Maye reported there were no news articles or letters which would be of interest to the Commission.

D. Clean Energy

1. 20% by 2018

Mr. Ogurick said this is now 20% by 2020. He noted that DEEP Commissioner Esty is pulling the plug on some clean energy, and is in favor of transmission lines to Canada to bring down hydro power. He said the thing is how to get to 20% by 2020; and, it is Mr. Esty's position that there are not enough small projects to make this goal.

It was noted by Ms. Wilson that part of the problem is jobs, and tying energy renewal to jobs in Canada does not benefit Connecticut.

CL&P is building a new transmission line to Canada.

E. PBC Projects

1. Roof at PW Garage – status

Mr. Noewatne informed the Commission that this work will be completed within a month, and the town is waiting for the contractor to start the project.

2. Locker Room upgrades

Mr. Biancur stated that the PBC does not want to improve the locker room, and he is in agreement with this decision. The upgrades will be a summer 2014 project. In response to a question about energy items involved in this project, Mr. Biancur advised there are no energy savings; a traditional energy efficient water heater would have to be installed; and most of the locker room work is cosmetic.

Mr. Biancur is pricing LED lighting for Highland School, and the high school is done.

F. Grants, Rebates & Utility Programs

**1. Early Involvement of LC&P and YGS in all town building projects
Energy Blueprint**

**2. Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) – Norwalk Energy
Efficiency Project.**

The town of Norwalk CT is the first town to participate in this project which is tied into a bank loan paid through property taxes. It is a lien on the property, and the program is available only for commercial properties. This program mitigates a risk to the bank. It is also a program which the Council would have to approve. It is a volunteer program.

Ms. Wilson commented on Cheshire having passed a resolution for no extra taxes on a house with solar panels.

Mr. Noewatne advised that the Town Council would have to take action on the PACE project.

MOTION by Mr. Nesdale; seconded by Ms. Wilson.

MOVED that the Energy Commission requests the Town Council consider bringing the concept of the PACE project to eligible commercial buildings in Cheshire, as was done in the Town of Norwalk CT.

VOTE The motion passed 6-1; Gavin opposed.

G. CL&P Energy Reliability Program.

Mr. Noewatne reported that CL&P is doing a good job, a lot of work, tree trimming and tree removal throughout the town.

H. Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge

- 1. Personnel/Organization – N2N program officially comes to a close this Summer.**
- 2. Redeeming N2N Points – Cheshire has \$9,658 redeemable dollars; must be used by 5/10/13 or be forfeited; a check will be made out to the Town for the purpose of ordering the prize; N2N suggests a ribbon cutting ceremony between April and June.**

This program ends on April 30th. Ms. Priest will work with the Town to plan the award ceremony.

There is \$9658 worth of points. Ms. Priest said that this money can be used towards anything the town needs. If it is used for lights, she has a lighting engineer and installer at \$475 per retrofit. Mr. Gavin suggested a little sign on each light noting it saves energy.

Mr. Ogurick asked about getting more LED pole lights. At \$9658 the town could get 20 lights. Mr. Noewatne noted that the Library lights are now LED.

MOTION by Mr. Nesdale; seconded by Mr. Gavin.

MOVED that the Energy Commission use the N2N funds of \$9658 for lights at the Library Parking Lot.

Discussion

Tim White, Orchard Hill Road, asked about a second priority building.

Mr. Ogurick stated that extra money could be used for the purchase of light bulbs for the Fall Festival booth.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

With regard to the town celebration, Ms. Priest said N2N will help with the event, but there must be a decision on a date no later than June 30th. The forms must be signed and sent back to Ms. Priest, and Mr. Noewatne will take care of doing this in a PDF form.

Mr. Maye will take the lead on this event. He will contact Council Chairman Slocum regarding the event, and work with Ms. Priest in planning the ceremony.

There was a discussion on the date and place to hold the award ceremony. It was decided that it would be held at the June 2013 Strawberry Festival on the Town Green (Congregational Church) and Town Hall parking lot.

The Commission was informed by Ms. Priest that N2N gave \$5,000 to the Library to purchase energy efficient computers and I-pads. A press release will be issued on May 17th about this project.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Power of Change Municipal Innovation Award – application submitted for Frank Biancur

The Commission submitted Mr. Biancur for this award in recognition of his work and efforts. Vincent Masciana, DOE Director of Management Services did a great job in the write-up for the application submission. Mr. Ogurick stated that Mr. Biancur deserves to receive this award.

Mr. Biancur thanked the Commission for nominating him for the award. He will be attending a breakfast on May 21st with Supt. Dr. Florio and Mr. Masciana, and the winner of the award will be announced at this meeting.

Ms. Wilson stated she would also be attending this breakfast meeting as a representative of her company.

B. DEEP's *Lead by Example* municipal outreach and marketing campaign – Videos

C. State performance contracting program – Bristol first town to participate.

Mr. Ogurick commented on the State having a standardized performance contracting program, and the town of Bristol being the first to participate in the program. Cheshire has been talking about this for 10 years. This is also part of the DEEP's Lead by Example. He sent information to the commissioners about the videos showing what other towns have done, and marketing of energy efficiency projects.

D. Next Step Living – residential energy efficiency and clean energy company, Builds community level campaigns to address residential energy savings Issues and increase adoption rates.

Ms. Priest from N2N informed the Commission that the program for points ends on April 30th, and there will be plans for an awards ceremony and report on lessons learned over the last three years. The ceremony event will be planned with the Commission. She introduced Mr. Weeks from Next Step Living, and said it is an energy assessment firm and performs upgrade work.

Mr. Weeks thanked the Commission for taking time to meet with his company, Next Step Living, and said he has a power point presentation which he would leave with the Commission to review at a future time. The company's Connecticut headquarters is in New Haven, CT, with the main operation based in Boston, MA. They have serviced 100,000 homes in the last five years with energy upgrades, and have 475 employees. Their program works to combat climate change, overcome marketing barriers, increase operational efficiency, to make costs for energy more favorable.

On the mission side, Mr. Weeks stated they are a mission aligned company which goes about energy efficiency at scale, breaking down barriers, learning how to address the larger customer base in the near future. His company does not have companies that can take advantage of utility run programs like Hess, look at the report as a starting

point, or look at a solar assessment as just a starting point. Next Step Living talks about the whole home approach, creates a roadmap for the customer to think about making a home more comfortable, and lowering carbon footprint and save money. The company is the leading home performance contractor in Massachusetts. In Connecticut 150 homes have been done with two crews. The company is growing, and will have four crews in the State, more canvas teams, four solar advisors, various business lines, and will continue to grow as fast as possible. Next Step Living is a for profit business.

Chairman Ogurick noted that it is difficult for a municipality like Cheshire to endorse a private, for profit corporation, but could give residents a list of companies to contact.

According to Mr. Weeks the company is in 36 towns in Massachusetts, and not one is an exclusive contractor, and there is respect on both sides for the programs offered.

Ms. Duques said she came from the Medford MA municipality, and this town found that Next Step Living works well with municipal/town energy commissions. She noted that municipalities never endorsed the company.

A question was posed by Mr. Ogurick regarding home energy solutions program, and if the company does Hess audits for CL&P, and if they are considered one of their vendors.

Mr. Weeks stated his company is a private vendor, wants to take advantage of a great program offering great service to homeowners across the State, and combine that with its high value campaign strategy. He wants to have an alignment with businesses and residents and sports teams in Cheshire to take energy seriously. The company received a call about thermo-imaging and Cheshire is one of these towns. He would appreciate feedback from the Energy Commission on homes and businesses which his company can reach in Cheshire.

Ms. Duques advised that Next Step Living attended the Healthy Living Fair in Cheshire on April 28th, and there was interest expressed from people at the fair.

The Commissioners will review the power point presentation from Next Step Living and provide feedback to the company at a future meeting.

Ms. Priest said that N2N works with religious groups, the library, and other groups in Cheshire on energy programs.

Chairman Ogurick stated that we are already past getting people to do Hess audits, and 1000 were done, or 10% of the population. What was needed was implementation. Next Step Living could provide information to peek further interest.

In Massachusetts Next Step Living received 30% of referrals from customers, and Mr. Weeks said there was good customer satisfaction. The company is looking at 30% conversion from existing customers.

E. 2013 LREC/ZREC Bidder's Conference – Friday, May 10, 2013.

Mr. Ogurick stated he would be attending this conference through his business.

LREC is low emissions credits; ZREC is zero emissions credits. ZREC would be wind and solar; fuel cells fall into the LREC program. If someone has a clean energy technology that produces power you can bid into this program. CL&P is required to purchase some clean energy. The bids are closed. The payment is done like an auction. Mr. Ogurick commented on the Library producing 5 kw of clean energy, and asked about Cheshire making a bid. He will bring information back from the conference for Commissioners to review at the next meeting.

Mr. Gayeski wants to put together a coffee hour for people who put solar panels in their homes. He needs a list of these people to coordinate this event. A date and time and place for the coffee hour will be forthcoming. Ms. Wilson gave him information on a contact person for the names of the people involved.

PUBLIC

Tim White, Orchard Hill Road, talked about green design, the Commission considering this, and noted the PBC is going through an update and changes to the Plan of Conservation and Development (Plan). He is requesting boards and commissions to have developers consider green design in their plans, and in their comments to the Plan. He suggested the town being required to do this for any new structure or major retrofit as a project goes through the approval process.

Mr. Noewatne advised that every project over \$5 million must have LEED certification to take advantage of State money.

It was noted by Mr. Gavin that the Energy Commission did not have a review of the \$30 million sewer treatment plant upgrade project.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Ms. Wilson; seconded by Mr. Gayeski

MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Attest:

Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk

