

**MINUTES OF A NON-MEETING OF THE TOWN OF CHESHIRE ENERGY
COMMISSION HELD ON MONDAY, MAY 20, 2013, IN ROOM 115, TOWN HALL, 84
SOUTH MAIN STREET, CHESHIRE CT 06410**

Present

Richard Ogurick, Chairman. Walter Gayeski, Carol Wilson.

Absent: David Gavin, Andy Maye, Joseph Nesdale, Phil Newton

Staff: Walter Gancarz, Town Engineer.

Guests: Peter Weeks and Carey Duques, Next Step Living.

Others present: Joan Szechtman and Tim White.

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Following roll call it was determined that a quorum was not present for the meeting.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The group Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – APRIL 29, 2013 REGULAR MEETING

Tabled.

V. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

Chairman Ogurick moved agenda item VI – I to current status.

**I. Next Step Living – residential energy efficiency and clean energy;
campaigns to address residential energy savings and issues and
increase adoption rates.**

Mr. Ogurick received information from Next Step Living (NSL) and briefly reviewed the power point presentation document and out reach information. He stated that the commission can get behind and endorse a program, but cannot specify a company, only a concept. In Cheshire there were Hess 1000 audits done, 10% of the households, probably the 2nd highest in the state wide competition. The next step is to turn the audits into programs. In the information from NSL it talks about achieving 600 audits, and he does not believe Cheshire will get another 600 audits. The 10% penetration is good, with lucrative incentives without homeowner payments.

With regard to the NSL information, Mr. Ogurick encouraged them to start at square #2 and #3 and focus their efforts there. If NSL could go to the 1000 homes that had audits done, NSL could show the homeowners how their house leaks through doors, roof, windows, the cost of this leakage, and this could be calculated. People could be

told how to get these things fixed through insulation etc., direct costs and programs available to help defray the costs.

PUBLIC

Tim White asked about access to the names of homeowners who had the audit done.

Ms. Wilson said N2N has this information.

Peter Weeks said that to reach these people, the commission and N2N could send a letter to all residents about NSL services. His company has a call center and outreach program, has reached homeowners with rebate programs through the Hess audit program, and there is more room for growth. NSL works through Home Performance of Energy Star, has many contractors available, a nationwide program with rebates, and this is the way to go. NSL would send a home advisor to a household, a report is generated, and recommendations are made on going forward with work which homeowners decide to get done. NSL could advertise locally so people who have not gone through the process yet can be informed and participate in the process. With regard to payment, NSL has a commission fee, scopes the job, does the work itself or works with subcontractors.

In the presentation information, Mr. Ogurick noted that part of the solution was hooking people up with someone they trust.

According to Mr. Weeks through the energy process NSL takes on the work, does the work, and Connecticut has a partnership with window installers, solar and insulation contractors. NSL becomes the service. Another piece is working with the local energy commission, businesses and organizations in Cheshire to build rapport and understanding of what the needs are.

Regarding p.v. installation, Mr. Weeks said NSL has a private installer in Connecticut, and uses a subcontractor.

PUBLIC

Tim White has concerns about this, questioned choosing winners and losers, and whether the town or commission wanted to do this with NSL assisting. With 1000 houses audited, people might be interested in p.v. panels.

This is difficult to do and Mr. Weeks said NSL has the capability to determine which homes are eligible for panels, and will not sell systems that do not generate enough energy savings on the investment.

PUBLIC

Tim White said the commission should be aware of the state rebate program which is now at 1.75 per watt and falling as money dries up, and awareness of solar programs

and timing issues. He has a list of 25 homes with solar panels and solar thermal panels.

NSL has run solar programs with AGES, and Mr. Weeks said it is important to find the market rate solution to have it succeed. Some homes are not eligible for solar and have found other ways to go green. NSL wants to develop a campaign so people understand the process.

Ms. Duques commented on a \$25 NSL rebate program which has worked in other communities, with a list received from N2N partners. She advised that the town of Portland CT held an energy workshop highlighting thermal images, overview of the company services, etc. at their Library, with 40 people attending. NSL coordinated this workshop with the town officials. A letter was sent to residents about the workshop, and she will send a copy of this letter to Mr. Ogurick.

PUBLIC

Joan Szechtman raised the issue of a town survey to residents about switching to natural gas from their current heating source.

There was a brief discussion about the gas lines in town and extension of gas service for heating and cooling. Yankee Gas has a web site with information about conversion to natural gas. Information from NSL on conversion to gas will be sent by Mr. Weeks to the commission.

It was stated by Mr. Ogurick that one of the missions of the commission is to provide outreach to the community, provide energy information and advise on savings. He believes the NSL concept proposed is within the commission charter without recommendation of a particular company.

Ms. Duques said that NSL is looking for shape maps of Cheshire.

Mr. Gancarz advised that the town is now uploading information on the GIS for the sort system, and this information is not available to the public.

Library lights and p.v. panels at the Library were discussed, and the question was whether LED or induction lights were installed through N2N points. There was a discussion about setting up a workshop at Cheshire Library working with Ms. Burkey, Library Director. The vice chairman, Mr. Gayeski, will coordinate setting up an energy workshop with Ms. Burkey. Mr. Ogurick commented on the involvement of Ms. Burkey with energy efficiency and with the commission, and the \$5,000 grant received from N2N. The commission has funds available through a grant that could be used as seed money.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Energy Management Projects.

1. Town wide ESPC project – status

Mr. Gancarz advised that ECG has been recommended to the Town Council.

2. Community Pool – enclosure options

There is a 15 member committee working on the 10 proposed options for the pool, and they meet again on May 23rd.

Mr. Gayeski does not want to see ESCO money going to the pool project, and asked for a commission resolution to this effect.

B. Benchmarking

1. Energy Star Portfolio Manager – database

C. Publicity/Education/Outreach

1. News articles and letters to the editor

D. Clean Energy

1. 20% by 2020

2. Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE)

This issue was discussed at the Council Planning Committee meeting. Mr. Ogurick spoke with Economic Development Coordinator, Mr. Sitko, and the EDC endorses this program. The Planning Committee had a presentation by Ms. Sherman from C-PACE. 39 communities in Connecticut endorse the program, and 20 are participating. The Planning Committee will bring this item to the Town Council for consideration. At the April meeting, the Energy Commission passed a resolution requesting the Council consider this program.

E. PBC Projects

1. Roof at PW Garage – status

Work is in progress and the roof is being stalled now.

2. Locker room upgrades

This project is on hold and is in the hands of PBC.

F. Grants, Rebates & Utility Programs

1. Early involvement of CL&P and YGS in all Town building Projects – Energy blueprint

G. CL&P Energy Reliability Program

Tree trimming of hazardous trees is an ongoing program, and the town has a contractor doing this work.

H. Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge

1. Redeeming N2N Points – Cheshire has \$9,668 redeemable dollars To be used to purchase efficient lighting for the Library.

A ribbon cutting ceremony will be planned for June.

The commission decided to purchase lighting with the points, and the question is whether they will be LED or induction lights. Mr. Biancur has done a lot of work with pole lights, and has a contractor.

Ms. Wilson discussed the Library glass ceiling and the loss of heat and energy. She believes something should be done about this ceiling as there are solutions to remedy this. She will get the dimensions and calculate the information and report at the next meeting.

It was noted by Mr. Ogurick that in the winter this ceiling is beneficial with the sunlight and heat coming through.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Power of Change Municipal Innovation Award – 5/21/13

Frank Biancur was nominated for this award by the Energy Commission and the winner will be announced on May 21st at the event.

B. 2013 LREC/ZREC Bidders Conference – 5/10/13

Mr. Ogurick attended this conference; bids are due June 15th; and the Library 5 kw system may qualify. He will research this and discuss it with the PW Director. Last year the bids were in the range of \$80 to \$100 per mwh, which is about 10 cents per kwh. The savings could be about \$600 a year, and over the 15 year commitment it is about \$9000. There is a question on whether the Library would be eligible due to the installed after date, but Mr. Ogurick will check on this with Mr. Noewatne.

C. Cheshire WPCP upgrades – energy efficiency

PW Director Noewatne is sending out a CD to everyone with information about the energy efficiency computations of the treatment plant upgrade. The commission wants Ameresco to look at this project.

According to Mr. Gancarz the information has gone to CL&P. The project goes out to bid in the next week or two, and the energy savings will be significantly better with more energy efficient meters, meters going to variable speed, lower flows, replacement of 25 to 40 year old meters. The energy efficient cost reduction has been quantified, and digesters are going back on line. The project is a two year construction period, and final results are about three years away.

Mr. Ogurick commented on knowing the current energy bills. Someone should calculate, with implementation of new ideas, how much the savings percentage will be for this project. This is good public relations for the town as people expect town government to save money.

Ms. Wilson said state money has been spent to implement savings with foam insulation on the digesters.

D. Clean Energy 20by2020 – new statewide energy dashboard tool

There is a new state energy dash board that replaces the old Clean Energy Management program, and on the web site information on Cheshire can be found.

E. Town Hall windows

There have been e mails about not having energy efficient windows in Town Hall. The question is replacement of windows while keeping the historic character of the building.

Mr. Gancarz advised that this issue is not in the performance contracting so the window replacement would have to be a capital budget item.

Mr. Ogurick commented on other communities replacing windows in historic buildings with energy efficient windows.

PUBLIC

Mr. White commented on the C-PACE program and the fact that many businesses in Cheshire rent their space, and he has not heard about any businesses stepping up with this program. He will follow up on this and report to the commission.

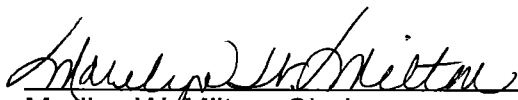
The commission asked that Mr. Noewatne bring this matter to the attention of the Town Manager.

Mr. White wants to identify solar program ambassadors who would contact home owners, meet and greet, and show how the solar panels work in their homes. He said Cheshire should identify these ambassadors; the commission should meet with solar panel installers; and have a list of benefits of solar panels. He said this would not require a vote of the Town Council.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Ogurick adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Attest:



Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk