

**CHESHIRE ENERGY COMMISSION
MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, JULY 29, 2013 AT 7:00 P.M.
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL – 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET
ROOM 210**

Commissioners Present:

Chairman Rich Ogurick, Walter Gayeski, Andy Maye, Phil Newton, Joseph Nesdale and Carol Wilson

Commissioners Absent:

David Gavin

Staff Present:

Walter Gancarz, Operations Manager/Town Engineer

Others Present:

Toni Bouchard, Vice President of SmartPower (departed at 7:55 p.m.); Tim White of Cheshire, CT

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. June 24, 2013 – Regular Meeting

MOTION by Carol Wilson to accept the minutes of the June 24, 2013 meeting minutes as submitted. **SECONDED** by Joseph Nesdale.

VOTE: In Favor – Gayeski, Maye, Nesdale, Newton, Ogurick and Wilson
Opposed – None

The motion passed 6 – 0.

V. COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Wilson mentioned that she was at a recent Connecticut Energy Roundtable, whose goal is to make renewable energy decisions and create jobs. The next meeting, the Roundtable would like other Energy Commissioners in Connecticut to attend; Ms. Wilson will forward the next meeting information to Chairman Ogurick for distribution to the Cheshire Energy Commission members.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Energy Management Projects

- 1) Town-wide ESPC project – Status of Ameresco contract

Mr. White stated that the Town Council starts reviewing the Capital Budget by first meeting with the Public Works Department tomorrow. There was nothing else to report on the ESPC project.

- 2) Community Pool –enclosure options; total cost of ownership; co-gen option

The Pool Subcommittee should be going to the Town Council in mid August with 3 options for the Community Pool enclosure, probably a new bubble enclosure, a polycarbonate structure or a tension membrane structure, per Mr. Gancarz. Chairman Ogurick asked if the Subcommittee has referenced the cost of ownership in their discussions and he was told no, there has been talk to build a new enclosure but not the costs associated with running each facility option. Chairman Ogurick commented that the Pool Subcommittee needs to discuss, in public, how much each option will cost to operate. It was also noted that the Subcommittee is also discussing a co-generation option for the Community Pool.

B. Benchmarking

- 1) Energy Star Portfolio Manager-database; new software version; electronic data entry

A more user friendly version of the Energy Star Portfolio Manager program has been released that will allow for data to be electronically uploaded.

C. Publicity / Education / Outreach

1) News articles and letters to the editor

Mr. Maye shared a May 24, 2013 Business Week article entitled "Long Live the Light Bulb" for Commissioners. He also shared a July 2013 Time magazine article entitled "Grid Politics – Solar Power is Getting Cheaper and Big Electric is Fighting Back".

Chairman Ogurick mentioned that there was a photograph and article in the Cheshire Herald recently regarding the Cheshire Public Library's recent award of \$9,766, which will be used for improving the parking lot lights at the Library.

2) Next Step Living – Energy Efficiency workshop at Cheshire Public Library on 7/10/2013

A Next Step Living workshop was held on July 10th at the Cheshire Public Library with 70 to 80 people in attendance, which Commissioner commented was a great turnout.

D. Clean Energy

1) 20% by 2020

There was no update given on the 20% by 2020 program during this meeting of the Energy Commission.

2) Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) – status

No update was available on the Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) program in Cheshire.

3) Solarize Choice – 20 week pilot; choice of 3 vendors

Toni Bouchard, Vice President of SmartPower was present to talk to the Energy Commission about Solarize Choice. She explained that

SmartPower works with CEFIA to create an RFP for vendors that would like to be considered as approved vendors for solar project installations on residential properties. Representatives from each town involved in this project will select their own winning bidders, not necessarily the lowest bids but rather the best option for their residents.

Ms. Bouchard talked about a possible start date of the Solarize Choice program for the end of August or early September and her wish to have a launch event for the program in Cheshire. Commissioners suggested that representatives of the Solarize Choice program be at the Fall Festival to talk to the community.

Chairman Ogurick asked if the solar install vendors can change install pricing after the RFP process is complete? Ms. Bouchard replied that the vendor pricing could go lower but could not be raised higher. She added that in certain situations, certain things will need to be added to a project, which will be additional costs but a lot of the basics of a solar installation will be laid out in advance so there is no surprise pricing. Typically 3 solar install vendors are selected and will be listed on the web site.

Ms. Bouchard mentioned that SmartPower will come into the community to brainstorm with other solar use residents on how to promote solar energy installation in Town. Also, the solar installers will have workshops and in some communities have been able to offer "office hours" at the local town hall to meet with residents. Chairman Ogurick commented that he didn't want residents of Cheshire to be inundated with sales calls. Ms. Bouchard stated that CEFIA representatives will meet with Cheshire representatives to discuss how they would and would not like this program promoted around Town.

Ms. Wilson asked if the basic solar system will include storage and Ms. Bouchard replied that it can be added but there are currently no incentives available from CEFIA for storage so it would be an additional cost to residents. Mr. White noted that federal tax credits are available for residents that install solar power systems.

Chairman Ogurick asked about the type of panels that would be used and Ms. Bouchard stated that they would be sun-powered panels, American made panels. She stated that this is a 20-week program, which would end in January 2014 and she is hopeful there will be a lot more solar power in Cheshire. Once the program is over, SmartPower will move on to another Connecticut Town to promote solar energy. Once the program ends, contractor will still be able to work in Town and the incentives will not go away. Ms. Bouchard noted that residents also have the option of going with a different solar installation vendor and will still be eligible for incentives. It was also noted that loan and lease plans

for the residential solar systems will be available through CEFIA as part of the SmartPower programs.

Ms. Bouchard stated that she would get Mr. Gancarz a copy of the letter the Town would have to sign in order to become part of the Solarize Choice program.

Mr. White stated that he has spoken with some of the Town Councilors who were not in favor of having just 1 installer so he thinks they will be more accepting of this program with having multiple vendors.

Chairman Ogurick asked about getting promotional materials for handout and display at the Fall Festival on September 7th.

Chairman Ogurick asked if building permitting has been standardized across Connecticut? Ms. Bouchard replied that she was not sure and would have to check with CEFIA.

To summarize the Solar Choice program, residents will have 20 weeks to sign a contract for solar panel installation and the installers will have up to 120 days after the program ends to install solar systems.

E. PBC Projects

- 1) Roof at PW Garage – status

The roof project at the Public Works garage on Waterbury Road is now done; employees have noted that it feels more comfortable now in the garage.

F. Grants, Rebates & Utility Programs

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

There was nothing new to report on CL & P and Yankee Gas' Energy Blueprint programs; Commissioners agree that this program at CL & P should review all Town projects.

G. CL & P Energy Reliability Program

Tree trimming work continues around Town as part of Cheshire's Energy Reliability Program.

H. Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge

- 1) Celebration – Tuesday, July 9th 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. – DEEP Phoenix Auditorium

Chairman Ogurick stated that he, Library Director Ramona Buckley as well as Town Councilman Peter Talbot and State Representative Al Adinolfi attended the Neighbor to Neighbor celebration. He noted that Cheshire received an award from Brian Garcia and DEEP Commissioner, Daniel Esty. Commissioners commented that the award should be displayed at the Town Hall.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. White talked about the Clean Energy Community program and reminded the Commission that Cheshire took the pledge in August 2005. Cheshire now needs to re-up their commitment to be a Clean Energy Community if the Town wants the benefits of the program to continue. He noted that this is a non-binding commitment. If Cheshire renews its pledge to the program they will receive a \$10,000 Bright Idea Grant.

MOTION by Rich Ogurick that the Energy Commission recommend the Town Council re-affirm its commitment to Clean Energy by signing the Clean Energy Communities Municipal Pledge, which was originally pledged in August 2005. The Energy Commission also recommends executing the Performance Contract to start capitalizing on energy savings to achieve the energy efficiency component of this pledge. Furthermore, the Energy Commission recommends maintaining the commitment to purchase clean energy, which will be paid in performance contract savings. **SECONDED** by Joseph Nesdale.

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

The motion passes 6 – 0.

Mr. White noted that if Cheshire achieves the program's objectives, it will be eligible for a Grant worth up to \$20,000.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Carol Wilson to adjourn the Energy Commission meeting at 9:02 p.m.;
SECONDED by Joseph Nesdale.

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

The motion passes 6 – 0.

Respectfully submitted:

Tracey M. Kozlowski
Recording Secretary