

**CHESHIRE ENERGY COMMISSION
MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2013 AT 7:00 P.M.
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL – 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET
ROOM 210**

Commissioners Present:

Chairman Rich Ogurick, David Gavin, Paul Michalowski (arrived at 7:20 p.m.), Phil Newton, and Carol Wilson

Commissioners Absent:

Walter Gayeski and Joseph Nesdale

Staff Present:

Walter Gancarz, Operations Manager/Town Engineer

Others Present:

Tim White of Cheshire, CT; Joan Szechtman of 917 Ward Lane;

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. October 28, 2013 – Regular Meeting

MOTION by Dave Gavin to accept the minutes of the October 28, 2013 regular meeting minutes with the following corrections: Page 2, item VI. A. 1), first paragraph, third sentence should read, "...expanding Automated Logic Corp's Energy

Management System for all...”; Page 3 item 2 in the MOTION, the department and commission referred to should be “Parks & Recreation”; Page 5, item D. 2) third paragraph, second sentence should read, “...stated that he would contact Ms. Weeks of Next Step Living...; Page 7, item H. 1) third paragraph, first sentence should read, “Ms. O’Neil stated that Next...” SECONDED by Phil Newton.

VOTE: In Favor – Gavin, Newton, Ogurick and Wilson
Opposed – None

The motion passed 4 – 0.

V. COMMUNICATIONS

Chairman Ogurick stated that he received an email from Pippa Alder of Westport, CT regarding solar imaging, which was offered to Cheshire residents in July. Ms. Alder was interested to know Cheshire’s thoughts on the program and also asked about the Next Step Living program.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Energy Efficiency Projects

- 1) Town-wide ESPC project – scope of work; Ameresco contract; investment grade audit

Mr. Gancarz stated that he received an email today from Jim at Ameresco with additional contractor pricing, which will be reviewed in early December. The goal of the staff is to have the final draft of the proposed projects for the ESPC to the Town Council in December or January for their review with the hope that the ESPC projects will be approved in January / February, before the Town Council starts the Operating Budget review in March.

The signing of Ameresco’s ESPC contract is still pending with the Town of Cheshire.

- 2) Community Pool – cost effectiveness calculation for rejecting winter pool cover

Mr. Gavin noted that as a result of the Energy Commission’s recommendation, as of today there is now a canvas / PVC cover over the Cheshire Community Pool. The cover had been purchased with the

2nd bubble enclosure and is fastened to the perimeter of the pool. Mr. Gavin used the web site www.noanderson.com to calculate the estimated gas savings of \$20,000 for the Cheshire Community Pool this Winter with the cover on compared to without the pool cover on. When asked, Mr. Gavin estimated that the pool cover has an R-2 value. It was also noted that when the Pool Subcommittee was asked about the initial calculations for savings with a cover over the pool for the Winter, but could not find them for the Energy Commission to review.

Mr. White asked about co-generation at the Cheshire Community Pool and Mr. Gavin replied that it was purposely not included for fear of complicating the project by the Pool Subcommittee.

B. Benchmarking

- 1) Energy Star Portfolio Manager-new software version; electronic data entry; Ameresco to update database if ESPC contract is signed

Mr. Gancarz stated that once Ameresco gets their performance contract signed with the Town they will bring the Energy Star Portfolio Manager program data up to date from 2009 to present.

- 2) Energy Data / Information Meeting – SourceOne to discuss PA 11-80 (electronic feeds of energy usage); Bill 6360 (EnergyStar scoring requirements)

There was nothing new to report from SourceOne.

C. Publicity / Education / Outreach

- 1) News articles and letters to the editor

Mr. Michalowski was happy to be back on the Energy Commission and agreed to take over Publicity / Education / Outreach for the Commission. He shared a couple of recent news articles regarding the Cheshire Energy Commission and energy efficiency in Connecticut with Commissioners.

2) Outstanding Energy Achiever award presentation

Commissioners agreed that Cheshire Public Library Director, Ramona Burkey should receive the first Outstanding Energy Achiever award from the Energy Commission. Ms. Wilson agreed to look into an item to give to Ms. Burkey as part of this recognition and suggested that the award should be given at a Town Council meeting.

D. Clean Energy

MOTION by Carol Wilson that the Energy Commission would like to add item D. Clean Energy 4) Electric Vehicle Charging Station, to this meeting's agenda. **SECONDED** by Paul Michalowski.

VOTE: In Favor – Gavin, Michalowski, Newton, Ogurick and Wilson
Opposed – none

The motion passes 5– 0.

1) 20% by 2020

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

2) Solarize Cheshire – 20 week pilot, ending 4/8/14; program launch on 11/14/13

The launch date for Solarize Cheshire was held on November 14th at 7pm in Town Council Chambers and runs for 20 weeks through to April 8th, 2014. Mr. White noted that there were several Energy Commission members at the launch and about 85 residents. At the launch, 60 households signed up and approximately 8 more in the last couple of weeks. Mr. White noted that typically, about 20% of those expressing interest will go forward in the process. The launch event was televised and will be replayed during December.

Mr. White informed the Commission that he is organizing 3 workshops: January 15th at the Cheshire Public Library, February 24th at the Senior Center and March 25th at the Youth Center. He has also been standing out at different intersections and roadways around Town with signs to promote Solarize Cheshire. In addition, Mr. White is contacting local

roofers and real estate agents to form an alliance to promote partnerships for Solarize Cheshire.

Chairman Ogurick asked about Mr. White's prior conversation with Fire Chief Jack Casner regarding solar panels on residential roofs. Mr. White replied that Chief Casner has spoken to many area fire chiefs and there has not been any training that they are aware of. Mr. White has forwarded some information to Chief Casner for his review on PV systems. Mr. White also noted that there have been some efforts to streamline the building permit process for solar installations but nothing has been formalized yet.

Solarize Cheshire's website is www.solarizect.com/Cheshire for those that would like more information on the program.

- 3) Clean Energy Communities Program – pledge renewed by Council on 11/12; \$10 K grant

The Town Council renewed Cheshire's pledge to be a Clean Energy Community at their November 12th meeting. With the renewal, Cheshire will get a \$10,000 grant and be eligible for additional funding through this program. There are additional grant funds available based on a points system program related to electricity consumption reduction.

- 4) ****NEW **** Electric Vehicle Charging Station

Mr. Gancarz informed the Commission that the next round of grants for Electric Vehicle Charging Stations are due by December 10th, which is not enough time for the application to be completed and approved by the Town Council for submission. The grant would pay up to 50% of installation costs. Mr. Gancarz also let the Commission know that he has been told a new municipal program will be offered after the 1st of the year and will be as good, or better for incentives to install electric vehicle charging stations.

MOTION by Paul Michalowski that when the next round of municipal grants becomes available, the Energy Commission recommends that the Town Council consider applying for a grant to have an electric vehicle charging station installed on Town property. **SECONDED** by Carol Wilson.

VOTE: In Favor – Michalowski, Newton, Ogurick and Wilson
Opposed – none
Abstained - Gavin

The motion passes 4– 0 –1.

E. PBC Projects

There were no new PBC Projects referred to the Energy Commission to review at this time, although Mr. Gavin reported that the PBC is working on 5 new projects. Mr. Gavin added that he would make sure energy input is given on any new projects, where appropriate.

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 have agreed that this program at CL & P should review all construction / major renovation Town projects. Commissioners also recommended that John Purtill, Chairman of the Public Building Commission, be informed about this program with CL & P.

G. CL & P Energy Reliability Program

Mr. Gancarz stated that Commissioner Nesdale has forwarded him the CL & P proposed routes / streets for 2014 tree trimming in Cheshire. He noted that the streets that will be reviewed next year have not been worked on since 2009 / 2010.

H. Next Step Living

There was nothing new to report on the Next Step Living program.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Public Act 12-148 Section 7 – Microgrid Grant and Loan Program – Round 2

Mr. White talked about Public Act 12-148 Section 7 for round 2 of the Microgrid Grant and Loan Program. He suggested 2 possible locations in Cheshire: Cheshire High School / Cheshire Community Pool and Cheshire Fire Headquarters / Senior Center.

MOTION by Phil Newton that the Energy Commission recommends that the Cheshire Town Council consider applying for the Microgrid Grant and Loan Program – Round 2. **SECONDED** by Carol Wilson.

VOTE: In Favor – Gavin, Michalowski, Newton, Ogurick and Wilson
Opposed – none

The motion passes 5– 0.

B. Solar Smart for School Program

There was no discussion about the Solar Smart for School program at this meeting.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Dave Gavin to adjourn the Energy Commission meeting at 8:50 p.m.; **SECONDED** by Carol Wilson.

VOTE: In Favor – Gavin, Michalowski, Newton, Ogurick and Wilson
Opposed – none

The motion passes 5– 0.

Respectfully submitted:

Tracey M. Kozlowski
Recording Secretary