

**CHESHIRE ENERGY COMMISSION
MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, MARCH 31, 2014 AT 7:00 P.M.
CHESHIRE TOWN HALL – 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET
ROOM 210**

Commissioners Present:

Chairman Rich Ogurick, David Gavin, Walter Gayeski, Joseph Nesdale, Phil Newton, and Carol Wilson (arrived at 7:10 p.m.)

Commissioners Absent:

Paul Michalowski

Staff Present:

Frank Biancur, District Maintenance Foreman for the Education Department (departed at 7:45 p.m.)

Others Present:

Tim White of Cheshire, CT (arrived at 7:10 p.m.)

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. January 27, 2014 – Regular Meeting

MOTION by Joe Nesdale to accept the minutes of the January 27, 2014 regular meeting minutes with the following corrections: Page 3, item 2, in the motion the

correct spelling is "SECONDED"; Page 5, the seconded motion the correct spelling is "SECONDED"; Page 8 item G, third sentence should read, "There is no cost to the Town if they decide not to go forward with the street light program, but if the Town goes forward it must be with Siemens during the 1 year lock in. SECONDED by Walter Gayeski.

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

The motion passed 5 – 0.

B. February 24, 2014 – No Quorum; no meeting

No action was required.

V. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications to the Energy Commission.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Energy Efficiency Projects

1) Town-wide ESPC project – status of Ameresco contract, financing

The Town of Cheshire signed the ESPC Project contract with AMERESCO, who then solicited for several financing proposals for the Town and were recently submitted to Town Manager Milone and Finance Director Jim Jaskot. They have 10 days to review the proposals during their lock in period, according to Chairman Ogurick. Mr. Biancur noted that once the financing deal is signed, the projects can start moving forward. He stated that the first priority is on the conversion of electric heat at Highland School and Cheshire High School to be completed this Summer. Mr. Biancur stated that there is a meeting next Wednesday to lay out a project schedule.

Mr. Biancur commented that the construction guys have been nice to work with so far in this process.

Mr. White asked if there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony to kick off the first project under the ESPC proposals and Mr. Biancur replied that there

was nothing planned and suggested having an event at Highland School after the work is done to showcase all that has been done at the school.

- 2) \$10K Bright Idea Grant – to be used for energy-savings projects; best use of funds; ceremony at the State Capitol on 3/24

Mr. Biancur suggested a few projects for the Bright Idea Grant such as an electric car charger or Automatic Logic TV's around the schools that show which classroom is saving the most energy. When asked, Mr. Biancur stated that he would get more information for the Commission about this program.

Mr. Gavin suggested looking into LED lighting option upgrades for the Community Pool. Mr. Biancur stated that he would talk to his lighting representative specialist to see what options are available for the pool.

Chairman Ogurick suggested a dark film or tint for windows at the schools. Mr. Biancur commented that he didn't think the film was very effective and noted that film was applied to the cafeteria windows at Highland School. Ms. Wilson commented that a dark film is very effective if it is done using an air space between the film and the window. Mr. Nesdale agreed to look into window film and tinting options for windows and their cost effectiveness.

Chairman Ogurick asked if there are any insulation projects that need to be done at a Town building? He also noted that the Bright Idea Grant projects cannot be solar related.

Chairman Ogurick attended the March 24th recognition ceremony where he received a plaque on behalf of the Town of Cheshire for its participation in the Bright Idea Grant. Cheshire was one of 23 towns recognized at the ceremony.

- 3) Street Lighting – LED conversion project

Chairman Ogurick noted that the Energy Commission passed a motion at the January meeting to recommend that the Town participate in the CCM / Siemens street light evaluation program. Chairman Ogurick noted that he was opposed to the recommendation and stated that he emailed Town Manager Milone to remind him that several years ago an evaluation was done and it was determined that there was very little benefit compared to the risk associated with Cheshire purchasing all the street lights in Town.

Chairman Ogurick noted that LED is now the light source of choice for most street and exterior area lighting, the light quality has increased and the lumens are more efficient. LED lights also are more efficient and require less maintenance as well as last longer.

Mr. Nesdale agreed to find out if there is a separate LED rate at CL & P for street lights.

B. Benchmarking

- 1) Energy Star Portfolio Manager-Ameresco to update database if ESPC contract is signed

There was no update on when Ameresco will begin to bring the Energy Star Portfolio Manager program data up to date from 2009 to present.

C. Publicity / Education / Outreach

- 1) News articles and letters to the editor

There were no news articles or letters to the editor discussed at this meeting of the Energy Commission. Chairman Ogurick noted that many articles have been shared with Commissioners via email over the past few weeks.

- 2) Outstanding Energy Achiever award

Ms. Wilson will look into an item to give to the first Outstanding Energy Achiever award recipient from the Energy Commission.

D. Clean Energy

- 1) 20% by 2018

Chairman Ogurick informed the Commissioners that the former 20% by 2010 program is now referred to as the 20% by 2018 program.

- 2) Solarize Cheshire – workshops on February 24th, March 25th; last mailer 3/11; results to date

Mr. White informed the Commission that Cheshire as of March 24th has 18 residents that have signed contracts to add solar arrays to their property with a mix of financing being used. The average solar system is 8.8 kilowatts.

Mr. White noted that each installer has 200 contacts but some may be duplicates. There are 30-40 solar system proposals out with residents to review that have not been acted upon yet, for each of the 3 contractors. Mr. White noted that Cheshire had 31 homes with solar systems before the start of Solarize Cheshire. Mr. White expects to see a large number of sign ups in the final days leading up to the April 8th program deadline.

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

- 3) Nearly 2,800 Connecticut homes have gone solar since CEFIA launched the Residential Solar Incentive Program in 2012

Mr. White stated that he believes this estimate to be pretty accurate with regards to the number of homes in Connecticut with solar systems added since 2012 when CEFIA launched their Residential Solar Incentive Program.

- 4) Napoli Foods installing an 860 kW solar system

Chairman Ogurick informed the Commissioners that Napoli Foods will be installing an 860 kW solar system at their facility on Knotter Drive, which will be bigger than the system at Whole Foods.

E. PBC Projects

There were no new PBC Projects referred to the Energy Commission for review at this time.

F. Grants, Rebates & Utility Programs

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

Commissioners have agreed that this program at CL & P should be used for CL& P to review all construction / major renovation Town projects and determine the most energy efficient alternatives for a specific project. Commissioners also recommended that Ameresco take advantage of this program with CL & P. It was noted that J.K. Muir is reviewing the WPCA's Waste Water Treatment Plant upgrade plans for CL & P.

G. CL & P Energy Reliability Program

Mr. Biancur reported that he will have a new representative from CL & P for rebates, which he will find out more about tomorrow.

Chairman Ogurick asked if CL & P has been issued a cease & desist order for tree trimming in Cheshire? Mr. Nesdale replied yes but they are allowed to finish up what they are working on and then the program will be re-assessed and a new plan will be developed to move forward. It was also noted that the State cut down the numerous trees along Interstate 91 and all over the State, not CL & P.

H. Next Step Living

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

I. Microgrid Grant and Loan Program – Round 2; Public Act 12-148 Section 7; Wesleyan University is the first micro grid project to come online under the inaugural round of Connecticut's statewide micro grid pilot program.

Chairman Ogurick commented that another round of micro grid grants will be coming up soon.

J. Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations – new municipal incentive program

Chairman Ogurick reported that Mr. Gancarz is looking into funding options for an Electric Vehicle charging station for Cheshire.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Use of Facebook by town boards / commissions

Chairman Ogurick stated that the Town now has a Facebook page, to make the public aware of energy related events and programs, the information can be sent to Arnett Talbot in the Town Manager's office for posting.

B. Alternate electricity supplier rate hikes

Commissioners talked about the number of people that were surprised by the large rate hikes at alternate electricity suppliers over the last couple of months.

C. Act Concerning Shared Clean Energy Facilities – passed the Energy Committee; calls for a limited pilot program that would allow consumers in two communities to subscribe to local, off-site renewable energy projects and receive a utility bill credit for their portion of the energy produced

Chairman Ogurick noted that this is a limited pilot program that would allow customers to get the benefits of solar energy if they cannot put it on their own property.

Mr. White noted that he is working on a solar farm proposal at school for the Cheshire Land Fill. He is hoping to come to the Energy Commission in the next month or two with his proposal that would call for 3 – 8 acres for 1 megawatt of solar.

D. CEFIA – C-PACE webinar on 3/27 – opt in; outreach

Mr. White noted that there is a residential C-PACE similar program at CL & P.

Chairman Ogurick noted that the Energy Commission had recommended quite a while ago to the Town Council that Cheshire participates in the C-PACE program but he does not believe the Town Council acted upon this suggestion. He suggested inviting Bob Wahl or a delegate of the C-PACE program to the next Energy Commission meeting to discuss the program. Chairman Ogurick also mentioned inviting Cheshire's Economic Development Coordinator, Jerry Sitko, to the meeting.

E. CEC meeting will be taped and televised 6/30/14

Chairman Ogurick noted that the Town is giving each commission / board the opportunity to have a meeting televised live and recorded on the cable access channel. The Energy Commission is scheduled for June 30, 2014 in Council Chambers. Mr. Gayeski questioned if the Commission had to do a live meeting. There was also discussion as to who the Energy Commission liaison is from the Town Council and it was determined that Peter Talbot is the liaison.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The motion passes 6– 0.

Respectfully submitted:

Tracey M. Kozlowski
Recording Secretary