

**MINUTES  
CHESHIRE ENERGY COMMISSION  
MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2014, 7:00 PM  
ROOM 210, TOWN HALL, 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET**

Members Present: Richard Ogurick (Chairman)  
Paul Michalowski  
Joseph Nesdale  
Dave Gavin  
Carol Wilson (arrived at 7:10)  
Walter Gayeski (arrived at 7:10)

Members Absent: Phil Newton

Others Present: Joe Furman, Automated Logic  
Mike Torelli, Cheshire Herald  
Laurie Finne, Sagewell  
Frank Biancur, Cheshire Public Schools  
Walter Gancarz, Town Engineer  
Tim White, Resident

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Ogurick called the meeting to order at 7:03pm

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

Motion by Mr. Nesdale, to approve March's minutes with the following correction:

Page 3, item 2, "Automatic Logic" should be "Automated Logic." On that same page and same item, replace "TV" with "kiosk." Motion seconded by Mrs. Wilson. Motion carried unanimously.

V. COMMUNICATIONS – there were no communications to the Energy Commission.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Energy Efficiency Projects

1. Town-wide ESPC project – status

Mr. Gancarz stated that the contract with Ameresco has been signed, and the Town received a good interest rate from Bank of America of 2.81%. Mr. Biancur stated that according to the project manager, the subcontractors should be picked by the middle of the month. The conversion from electric heating to a hot water heating system for the high school is scheduled to begin during the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of May. LED lighting is going to be installed at Norton school during the last week in May. The lighting order has been already put in for the high school. Delivery is expected by June 22. LED lighting will be done in all of the classrooms and all of the hallways at all of the schools. In response to a question from Mr. Gavin, Mr. Biancur stated that the lighting will be dimmable.

2. \$10K Bright Idea Grant – for energy-saving projects; determine best use of funds (e.g., EVCS, classroom energy competition, LED lighting for pool, window film, insulation)

Mr. White added “electric vehicle charging station” to the above list, Mr. White also indicated that his understanding is that the Town would be eligible for additional \$10K grants, up to one every six months while they’re achieving CEFIA’s goals. His guess is that the Town may be eligible at this time for a second grant. A discussion followed about the application process, who would fill it out, and the possibility that there may be more competition than in previous periods. Mr. Gancarz discussed the timing of the application and possible rebates. Mr. White advised, regarding the electric car charging stations, that data indicates that in terms of plug-in vehicles, not hybrids, Cheshire had approximately 24 plug-in vehicles in October 2012, and approximately 53 plug-in vehicles in October 2013. Because the Prius was rolled out mid-year, if that vehicle is removed from the data, there were approximately 3 plug-in vehicles in October 2012 and 23 in October 2013.

3. Street lighting – LED conversion project

Mr. Gancarz indicated this item is supposed to go to Council next month. Mr. Nesdale will look into whether or not there is an attachment fee, and a reduced rate for LED lights.

#### B. Benchmarking

1. Energy Star Portfolio Manager

Mr. Gancarz stated that Ameresco is expected to update the Portfolio Manager database.

#### C. Publicity/Education/Outreach

1. News articles and letters to the editor  
An article was passed out regarding LED bulbs

2. Outstanding Energy Achiever award  
Ms. Wilson will get information to Mr. Ogurick by the next meeting.

#### D. Clean Energy

1. 20% by 2018 – no update at this time
2. Solarize Cheshire – results to date - 52 contracts signed out of approximately 300-400 leads. Some have been installed, but a number was not available at this time.
3. C-PACE - opt in; outreach – Mr. Ogurick went onto CEFIA’s website and filled out a form on April 24, 2014, to have a speaker come to this meeting, but there was no response as yet. The commission discussed the benefits of having the speaker come to the June meeting, which will be televised.

#### E. PBC Projects – nothing new to report

#### F. Grants, Rebates, & Utility Programs

1. Early involvement of CL&P and YGS in all town building projects – Energy Blueprint

Mr. Gancarz reported that the Wastewater Treatment Plant is currently under construction and is pursuing rebates, separate from the Performance Contract..

#### G. CL&P Energy Reliability Program – tree trimming suspended

Mr. Nesdale reported that the Public Utility Regulatory Authority (PURA) came to Cheshire on a bus tour. CL&P had a number of representatives on the bus. The tour went to Naugatuck and Cheshire. One of the safety supervisors was on the tour and will report back to Mr. Nesdale. Due to the number of complaints of severe trimming, PURA decided to take the tour to see the effects of the tree trimming.

H. Microgrid Grant and Loan Program - Round 2; Public Act 12-148 Section 7

Mr. Gancarz reported that the next round of applications is due August 8. He has been monitoring the program requirements, but it has been difficult to come up with a project, as the Town already has emergency generation. Mr. Ogurick asked about the generator that was proposed for the high school, and was advised by Mr. Gavin the application be processed soon, in order to get it in by August 8. Mr. White stated that putting together a microgrid is a very big project and would require a consultant and Council approval. Mr. Michalowski asked for a definition of a microgrid and was advised by Mr. White that it must serve more than one building, have onsite generation, and island ability.

I. Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations – municipal incentive program; Gov. Malloy declares Connecticut a "Range Confident" State for drivers of electric vehicles; webinar May 8 at 10:00 AM

This means if you have an electric plug-in vehicle, you can get through Connecticut. Mr. Ogurick invited anyone interested to sign up for the webinar. Discussion followed about a Korean company that has introduced new technology that charges cars wirelessly.

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Furman from Automated Logic gave a presentation on his products and showed several examples. There was a discussion about saving energy using automation. Mr. Biancur discussed how he's currently able to control heating and cooling at Town schools remotely. It was brought up that maybe this could be funded using the Bright Idea grant. Minimum base cost could be \$6,000-\$10,000.

A. Electric Supplier Consumers' Bill of Rights" - create new consumer protections – Mr. Ogurick advised commissioners that companies are offering good rates to switch, but then the kWh rates could go up. Commissioners agreed it's a good idea to shop around, but to do thorough research, and monitor the results.

B. Webinar series "Tech Tuesdays" - would highlight technology tools that can boost productivity among local Task Forces

Mr. Ogurick invited anyone interested to sign up for the webinar series.

C. Sagewell's free thermal imaging program for Cheshire; smart-e financing in Cheshire through Ion, Quinnipiac, and Liberty Banks.

Ms. Finne did a program in Cheshire last year, approximately 100 residents signed up to get their thermal images and also connected people with Home Energy Solutions visits. They have expanded what they are doing in Connecticut and have added 5 more towns. They've partnered with CEFIA and are now offering special financing for the clean energy products. Ms. Finne added that thermal imaging is still free for Cheshire residents. A question was raised by Mr. Gayeski regarding people signing up and did they need to register? Ms. Finne explained that they have to know who people are so at least have to have a name and contact information. Discussion followed regarding advertising and marketing and events coming up in Town for more exposure of this program.

Mrs. Finne spoke about Financing and stated that Sagewell's role is to connect people with local banks.

Mr. Ogurick stated that the Town's job is to provide information, but cannot endorse any companies.

Ms. Finne stated she was at the meeting in order to get suggestions from the commission how to get the information out.

A discussion followed about thermal imaging and what information Sagewell would be able to give to residents. Ms. Finne stated that thermal imaging quality depends on many factors...what kind of home, how far from the street, etc.

C. Landfill solar farm proposal

Mr. White gave a presentation to the Commission and spoke about the following items:

1. Project Goal
2. Town Benefits
3. Economic Drivers
4. Site Characteristics
5. Equipment/Technology
6. Model
7. Project Risks

The Powerpoint slides are attached to these minutes

Mr. White asked that the Energy Commission request the Town Council Planning Committee put this project on their agenda and consider it.

Mr. Gancarz asked if Mr. White envisioned this as the Town put an RFP out to a developer, offering the land? Mr. White stated that what he envisioned is something similar to the performance contract, where a working group is set up that includes the Town Council, the Energy Commission and possibly the Public Building Commission. The working group would run through the idea with the Energy Commission, and Mr. Jaskot, Finance Director, to issue an RFP or RFQ, and if that could happen by September, 2014, Solar City's Connecticut sales person said that she needs a few month's lead-time to do a proposal. Once the Town's RFP was out, the Town would need a few months where a few different installers could come in and propose, and the bid could be put into auction in April, 2015. Discussion followed that the Town of Meriden has done this.

*Motion by Mr. Gavin and seconded by Ms. Wilson to request the Town Council Planning Committee review the presentation done by Mr. White to consider viability and economics of a solar farm at the former Cheshire landfill. Motion carried unanimously.*

D. 1st annual REEBA day reception with state of CT legislators - Wednesday, April 30th

Mr. Ogurick stated that REEBA is a business lobbying organization.

E. Cheshire Wine & Spirits - earns State Energy Saver Award

Mr. Ogurick brought this item to the Commission's attention.

- F. Webinar: Attracting Clean Energy Business to Your Municipality - May 8th, 2014, 11:00AM - 12:00PM.

Mr. Ogurick advised anyone who is interested should sign up.

Prior to adjournment, the commissioners congratulated Mr. White on the great job he did with Solarize Cheshire.

*Motion to adjourn by Mr. Michalowski seconded by Mr. Gavin and carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:07pm.*

Respectfully submitted

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Stephanie Dunn, Recording Secretary