

CHESHIRE ENERGY COMMISSION – Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 29, 2014
Regular Meeting
7:00 P.M. – Room 210, Town Hall

Commissioners Present: Chairman Rich Ogurick
David Gavin
Paul Michalowski
Phil Newton
Carol Wilson
Walter Gayeski

Commissioners Absent: Joseph Nesdale

Staff Present: Walter Gancarz

Others Present: Peter Talbot, Cheshire Town Council
Tim White

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Ogurick called the meeting to order at 7:02 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

Chairman Ogurick and the Commissioners did not feel the minutes from the August 25, 2014 were accurate and could not be approved as presented. The minutes were amended and then approved by the Commissioners, as amended. The amended minutes are attached hereto as Appendix A.

Motion by Mr. Newton to approve the minutes as amended. Seconded by Ms. Wilson and carried unanimously.

V. COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Gayeski invited the Commissioner to an open house this Saturday, October 4, 2014 in Farmington for a house that produces more electricity than it uses. Mr. Gayeski did all of the installation for this house.

There were no other communications to the Energy Commission.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Energy Efficiency Projects

- 1) Town-wide ESPC (Energy Saving Performance Contract) project

Mr. Gancarz reported the project is 40% complete. The replacement of lighting at the schools is completed. The heating and air conditioning at Highland and the west gym of the high school are completed, despite a delay in the west gym due to the installation of the new floor. There was a question about whether any unknown asbestos was found during the abatement. Mr. Gancarz reported that no unknown asbestos was found. Mr. Gancarz reported that the refrigerators in all Town buildings have been replaced and the cooling and heating systems will be replaced when they are not in use. It was suggested that if possible, the old refrigerators should be donated to charity or repurposed in a meaningful way. There was a brief discussion about expected savings from these energy projects and how that data will be recognized and tracked.

- 2) Community pool energy efficiency

It was reported that no energy efficiency determinations or decisions can be made until a design is completed by Arizon. Once Arizon submits a design, it can be determined whether a retrofit will work or if other possibilities need to be explored to ensure the energy

efficiency of the new pool structure. Adherence to the 3.2 million dollar budget is paramount. The Energy Commission wants to be on the record as NOT endorsing a structure that is not energy efficient.

3) LED streetlights – CCM program

Mr. Gancarz reported that Siemens dropped out of the program. CCM put out an RFP and received proposals from five vendors. CCM prequalified three of the five vendors. Mr. Gancarz is scheduled to meet with the recommended vendors for further vetting in the next couple of weeks. Mr. Gancarz expects to have more to report on this by the next meeting.

B. Benchmarking

1) Energy Star Portfolio Manager

Mr. Gancarz reported that the portfolio has been updated through June 2014 and the issue of who will maintain the data is currently being negotiated with Ameresco.

C. Publicity / Education / Outreach

1) News articles and letters to the editor

Mr. Michalowski shared three articles with the Commissioners. The first one was about the possibility of an EVCS at the library. The second and third articles were about a variety of energy programs the Town is considering. Mr. Michalowski objected to some quoted text in the third article because the comments seemed uninformed. Mr. Michalowski requested that the Commission allow him to respond by letter to the comments. Ms. Wilson made a motion to approve Mr. Michalowski's request. No second was made. A discussion ensued during which Jeff Gebeau from the Record Journal clarified that he had been at the Planning meeting where the comments were made and there were not many supporters of the EVCS at that meeting. Mr. Gebeau reported he had picked the most "colorful" quote from the meeting for the purposes of his article. After a brief discussion, it was decided that no response to the comments was warranted at this time.

Chairman Ogurick asked Mr. Gancarz to find out how many points we need to be eligible for a second grant. Once that information is obtained, the Commission can consider whether to revisit the idea of the EVCS in Cheshire or reallocate the money for other energy efficient projects.

2) Outstanding Energy Achiever Award

Mr. Newton reported that he had met with Barker and was able to find an 8x10 wall plaque with engraving for \$88 each. The awards will be presented in October to Ramona Burkey and Frank Biancur. There was a brief discussion about verbiage, use of the Town seal and how to pay for the plaques. Mr. Newton expects to have the plaques within 10-14 days.

3) October is National Energy Awareness Month

Mr. Michalowski reported he had originally considered participating in an Energy Expo at Suffield High on October 4th. However, that expo turned out to be more of a commercial event than an educational event. Mr. Michalowski spoke with a teacher at Norton School about having 6th grade students make posters having to do with all aspects of energy. The teacher liked the idea and the posters have been made by the students. The top ten posters will be selected and the students will be given \$10 gift certificates for their art and effort. There was a brief discussion about the best way to execute this event. It was decided that it should be held at Norton School at the end of the day with the kids present. The posters can then be displayed at the Town Hall. Mr. Gebeau from the Record Journal will attend and write an article if he is available.

Motion by Mr. Gayeski to spend \$100 to give \$10 gift certificates to the top ten students for their artwork and effort on energy improvement posters. Seconded by Ms. Wilson and carried unanimously.

D. Clean Energy

1) C-PACE – opt in; outreach;

Mr. Gancarz reported this was passed by Council (6-2). Jerry Sitko will now meet with the Chamber of Commerce to see how to roll out

an outreach program. There was a brief discussion on the timeline, the deadlines and possible outreach ideas. Chairman Ogurick asked Mr. Gancarz to have a discussion with Robert Schmidt.

2) CTCleanEnergyOptions signups

Chairman Ogurick reported it is no longer possible to receive points through the Clean Energy Communities program. However, there are other ways to receive points.

E. PBC Projects

It was reported that there are no big energy consuming PBC projects going on at this time. A rebate is expected on the Water Pollution Control Plant energy project.

F. Grants, Rebates & Utility Programs

1) Bright Idea Grant

There was a brief discussion about how to use the Bright Ideas grant if not on an EVCS. It was determined that once additional funding is secured, the Commission can go back to Planning Committee and perhaps choose a different location for the EVCS. There was nothing further to discuss on this matter at this time.

G. CL & P Energy Reliability Program

Mr. Gancarz reported that all tree trimming is done except for a little bit of work on East and West Johnson Avenues.

H. Microgrid Grant and Loan Program

Mr. Gancarz reported there was nothing new on this matter. There was a discussion about the possibility of a new location for the microgrid, as well as the advantages and disadvantages of this program. It was agreed that outreach efforts should be made in favor of renewable energy resources.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss at this time.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ms. Wilson to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Gayeski and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen M. Gill