

**CHESHIRE ENERGY COMMISSION – Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, June 29, 2015**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**7:00 P.M. – Room 210, Town Hall**

Commissioners Present: Chairman Rich Ogurick  
David Gavin  
Paul Michalowski

Commissioners Absent: Walter Gayeski  
Carol Wilson  
Phil Newton

Others Present: Tim White  
Art Crooker, PBC  
George Noewatne, Public Works

Others Absent: Walter Gancarz  
Peter Talbot, Town Council

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

A quorum was not determined for this meeting.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The May 18, 2015 minutes were reviewed and amended. There was no vote to approve the amended minutes due to the lack of a quorum.

## **V. COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no communications.

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Energy Efficiency Projects**

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

Mr. Noewatne reported this project is more than 90% complete and will be monitored once a year for fifteen years by ECG. There was a brief discussion. Chairman Ogurick inquired about the supplemental projects. Mr. Noewatne reported they are currently under review by the Town Council's appointed committee.

- 2) Community Pool Energy Efficiency

Mr. Noewatne reported the energy code issue has been cleared up to the satisfaction of Town building official. There was a brief discussion regarding HVAC, air circulation, air exchanges and the challenges of the "attic" portion of the building. Chairman Ogurick asked the minutes to reflect that the Energy Commission has concerns and reservations about the energy efficiency of the new pool dome structure.

As to the foundation issue, Mr. Noewatne reported the drawings are under a second peer review. Once the drawings are stamped, a building permit will be issued and this project will commence. There was a brief discussion. Chairman Ogurick asked the minutes to reflect that the Energy Commission inquired about early involvement of Eversource on the design for this project. Eversource has not been consulted. Mr. Noewatne noted there is no published design or building permit yet. Mr. Gavin noted a step should be included in the PBC procedure for advancing projects to consult with the Energy Commission regarding energy efficiency.

- 3) LED streetlights

Mr. Noewatne reported Siemens has done a field review and plans to run a trial. The details of accomplishing that are in the process of being negotiated with Eversource and expected to be worked out in the next few weeks. Mr. Noewatne reported Mr. Gancarz is currently working on obtaining a new buyout price from Eversource. There was a brief discussion about the details and benefits of this project and its significant savings.

## B. Benchmarking

There was nothing to report on this matter.

## C. Publicity / Education / Outreach

Mr. Michalowski shared three articles with the Commission. The first one was about Cheshire officials considering a solar farm. The second article was about Plainville adding additional chargers for electric vehicles. The third article was about the electric vehicles on display at the Strawberry Festival.

## D. Clean Energy

### 1) Solar on town-owned landfill

Mr. Noewatne reported Solar City submitted the ZREC bid on June 18, 2015 and the results will be out by July 24, 2015.

### 2) Electric Vehicle Show/Strawberry Festival

Mr. White reported the Electric Vehicle Show on display at the Strawberry Festival was a success.

## E. PBC Projects – CHS Locker Room renovations

Mr. Noewatne reported this project is in progress. Chairman Ogurick asked the minutes to reflect there was no early involvement of Eversource for energy efficiency consultation on this project. It was noted by Mr. Noewatne there was no need for consultation for the lighting, the heat or the hot water.

## F. Grants, Rebates & Utility Programs

### 1) Early involvement of Eversource in all town building projects - Energy Blueprint

There was nothing new to report on this matter.

2) Bright Idea Grants

There was nothing new to report on this matter

3) WPCP Rebate

Mr. Noewatne reported the Town is awaiting the final commitment letter from Eversource, which should come in July and be in the amount of approximately \$200,000.

G. CL&P Energy Reliability Program - Tree Trimming

There was nothing new to report on this matter.

H. Microgrid Grant and Loan Program

There was nothing new to report on this matter.

I. Electric Vehicle Charging Station (EVCS)

After a lengthy discussion about the possibility of an EVCS in Cheshire, it was agreed for myriad reasons this is not a viable project at the present time.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. White shared that he had read an article in the New York Times about school districts converting buses to propane. Mr. White reported there is a one year payback and has started a conversation with the Board of Education to see if this is a good program for the Town of Cheshire. Mr. White noted there may be benefits to this program including quieter buses and fewer emissions. Further discussion of this matter was tabled until the next meeting.

Mr. White reported that the decennial review of the Planning and Zoning Commission's "Plan of Conservation and Development" will happen at the end of July. Mr. White noted it may be beneficial for the Energy Commission to get involved on issues involving energy and environment. Mr. White feels this is an opportunity to create a collaboration for smarter ways to achieve future Town development. Further discussion of this matter was tabled until the next meeting.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting ended at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Karen M. Gill

## **APPENDIX A**

### **Revised Minutes**

Cheshire Energy Commission  
Monday, May 18 at 7:00 p.m.  
Room 207, Town Hall, 84 South Main Street

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

**Commissioners Absent:** Paul Michalowski

**Others Present:** Peter Talbot, District Councilman  
Tim White  
Dawn Guite, Recording Secretary

**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 the meeting.

#### **III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. February 23, 2015 – Regular Meeting  
The February 23, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes were amended and reviewed at the March 20, 2015 meeting.
- B. March 20, 2015 – Regular Meeting  
Due to the absence of a quorum, this was an unofficial meeting. Minutes were transcribed.
- C. April 27, 2015 – Regular Meeting  
Due to the absence of a quorum, this was also an unofficial meeting. Minutes were transcribed.

Commissioner Gavin made a motion to accept the minutes as amended for February 23, 2015 and written for the March 20 and April 27<sup>th</sup> meetings. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Newton and approved unanimously.

#### **V. COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no communications to the Energy Commission.

#### **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Energy Efficiency Projects
  - 1. Town-wide ESPC project – A savings of approximately \$100,000 was noted since the installation of the LED lighting. Frank Biancur gave a full rundown at the Energy meeting in April and this is noted in the April minutes. He did not have reports with him at the April

meeting. The LED lighting in the schools has been completed and a controller is being utilized.

2. Community pool energy efficiency – HVAC options; energy code issue

There is an outstanding issue to get approval by the town's building commissioner on the energy code. The inspector has a document from Arizona explaining how the building conforms to the energy code. The outcome of the submittal of this document has not yet been determined. He said that this document does not have to be forwarded to the state for approval. The inspector asked for engineering calculations and explanation as to how the building meets code. Chairman Ogurick referenced the 2009 energy code but there is a problem because the state said that because it is such a new building, it is not sure what energy code should be applied. The 2012 energy code was agreed upon. Keith Darren, the town's building inspector, has the energy compliance. It has yet to be signed off on by him. At the last special meeting, Mr. Darren said that the energy code is agreed upon and all involved are on the same page.

In addition to the building, the foundation failed to get an engineering stamp of approval. It has been redesigned and the stamp has been issued.

B. Benchmarking

1. Energy Star Portfolio Manager

Electric and gas data from Eversource will be available in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter and can be downloaded. This will keep the program easily updated. Chairman Ogurick discussed the need for someone to manage the data recordkeeping, i.e., data entry and analysis. Suggestions were made that it makes sense for Finance to take charge of the data or perhaps Mr. Gancarz. Finance can enter the data and present it to Mr. Gancarz who can decipher and then pass on to the Energy Committee for a sanity check. Another suggestion was made to consider hiring a technical person with energy experience to be a single point of contact. This discussion will be tabled to the next meeting.

C. Publicity/Education Outreach -

1. New articles and letters to the editor

Mr. White reached out to the local media and Cheshire Chamber of Commerce regarding Electric Vehicle show.

D. Clean Energy

1. C-PACE – program information at [www.cpace.com](http://www.cpace.com)

There were no communications to the Energy Commission.

2. Solar on town-owned landfill – Solar City contract; ZREC bids due 6/18

The Town of Cheshire has contracted with Solar City to present a ZREC bid to Eversource on behalf of the Town. Assuming ZREC bid wins on behalf of the town, a letter of intent will be signed with Solar City. Bids are due on June 18, 2015.

3. Virtual Net Metering – Solar City handles this in its application process.

Conversations took place with Sarah Hill of Solar City on virtual net metering. The total state budget is \$10 mil (2 cents per kilowatt hour per town). United Illuminating has used up its budget of \$2 mil and 30% of the CL&P (Eversource) budget has been used. One risk is that once ZREC bids are entered, there will be a large queue for requests. Ms. Hill said that 30% should not cause any issues. It is logical to give net metering benefits to towns. Socialized costs is a

system set up for the “public good” and gives a benefit to municipal government in that it pays a lower rate.

4. Monitoring site for the solar system at Cheshire Public Library:  
<https://easyview.auroravision.net/easyview/index.html?entityId=215231&lang=en>  
There were no communications to the Energy Commission.

E. PBC Projects

1. CHS locker room renovations – review plans and specifications

There were no communications to the Energy Commission.

F. Grants, Rebates, & Utility Programs

1. Early involvement of Eversource in all town building projects – Energy Blueprint

There were no communications to the Energy Commission.

2. Bright Ideas Grant(s) – status

A second grant for \$10,000 was awarded to the Town of Cheshire. The Town Council would like suggestions from the Energy Commission as to how this money should be used.

3. Rebates for WPCP upgrade

There were no communications to the Energy Commission.

G. CL&P Energy Reliability Program update on tree trimming

There were no communications to the Energy Commission.

H. Microgrid Grant and Loan Program

There were no communications to the Energy Commission.

- I. Electric Vehicle Charging Station (EVCS) – options; Round 3 Municipal and State Agency EV Charging Station Incentive; commercial partnerships

Commissioner Newton presented an email from Commissioner Michalowski where he asks for a motion that “the Cheshire Energy Commission requests that the Cheshire Town Council’s planning committee reconsider reviewing the possibility of an Electric Vehicle Charging Station for use in Cheshire, CT. A representative of the Energy Commission requests to be present to explain all aspects of this proposal.”

Commissioner Newton made a motion based on Commissioner Michalowski’s email that “the Cheshire Energy Commission requests that the Cheshire Town Council’s planning committee reconsider reviewing the possibility of an Electric Vehicle Charging Station for use in Cheshire, CT”. Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Proposal for an Electrical Vehicle Show – during the Strawberry Festival, June 20<sup>th</sup>

Mr. White proposed an idea for an Electrical Vehicle show during the Congregational Church’s Strawberry Festival on June 20<sup>th</sup>. He discussed this with the church which stated that they would like to receive a donation from the dealerships that have their cars on display. He will research further as to the cost of the donations. Mr. White would like the show to display an evolution of the electric car through the years. A suggestion was made that a designated area on the green serve as the site for the show. Solar City can be contacted to see if they would like to participate.

This is a good opportunity to educate the public on energy initiatives and for the Energy Commission to get some positive attention.

B. Library Supporter Appreciation – Thursday, May 21 at 6:00pm

Chairman Ogurick announced that the Energy Commission has been invited to the Library Supporter Appreciation event being held on Thursday, May 21 at 6:00pm at the library. This is a good way to network and to stay connected with the library and its activities.

C. Effective July 1, Eversource residential generation rate will decrease from 12.629 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh) to 8.228 cents/kWh

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. made by Mr. Newton. Seconded by Mr. Gayeski and passed unanimously

Minutes typed and submitted on May 26, 2015 by Dawn Guite, Recording Secretary.