

Cheshire Energy Commission Meeting Minutes  
Monday, November 23 at 7:00 p.m.  
Room 210, Town Hall, 84 South Main Street

**MINUTES**

**Commissioners Present:** Chairman Rich Ogurick  
Paul Michalowski  
Walter Gayeski  
David Gavin

**Commissioners Absent:** Carol Wilson, Phil Newton

**Others Present:** Walter Gancarz, Town Engineer  
John White  
Rob Brucato  
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. September 28, 2015 – Regular Meeting

Commissioner Michalowski made a motion to accept the minutes for September 28, 2015. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Gavin and approved unanimously.

B. October 26, 2015 – No Quorum

Due to the absence of a quorum, this was an unofficial meeting. Non-quorum minutes were transcribed and published.

**V. COMMUNICATIONS**

Chairman Ogurick reported that the Energy Center in North Haven (off of Rt. 91) is offering ½ day field trips to schools with a \$250 school bus reimbursement. It is a great place to learn about science and electricity. It is sponsored by the CT Energy Efficiency Fund.

Rob Brucato joined the meeting at 7:10 p.m. He has been tapped to be the newest member of the Energy Commission and gave a statement about his experience and interest in the Commission.

**VI. OLD BUSINESS**

A. Energy Efficiency Projects

1. Town-wide ESPC project – status; supplemental projects

Mr. Gancarz reported that the project is 98-1/2% completed. Supplemental projects will not see action until the beginning of the new year because of attention being paid to the community pool. Council members want a reserve prior to spending \$800,000. The ESPC project shows \$700,000 in savings per year over 15 years. The project qualified for \$1.2M in rebates with CT Energy. \$350,000 was used to buy down the project itself. \$850,000 can be applied to ESPC for additional measures – supplemental projects where a current list exists. Chairman Ogurick sent a letter to the Town Council suggesting using some of this money to engineer and properly design a dehumidification system for the community pool. He did not receive a reply back.

## 2. Community pool energy efficiency – heat pipe heat recovery system

Commissioner Gavin reported that December 18 is the completion date for Arizon's portion of the work. The steel work, putting the cover on the pool, and installing lighting is being completed. The date to open the pool to the public is February 2016. Commissioner Gavin devised a table to calculate energy savings based on new information received 3-4 weeks ago regarding changes in the ventilation systems. 2.65 air exchanges per hour were originally estimated. This has been lowered to 1.26 air exchanges per hour 6 months ago. Ventilation of square footage per footprint requires 15,000 cubic feet per minute. This meets code for the pool as does the pool cover. A recommendation was made to see 4 to 6 air exchanges in a pool setting environment due to the aggressive atmosphere of "coring".

The addition of a new heat pipe recovery system runs at 40-60% efficiency. This system has no compression. R20 insulation has been installed above the upper membrane/above the lower ceiling.

The total gas and electric savings is \$50 – 60K.

## 3. LED streetlights – status

Mr. Gancarz reported that the closing date with Eversource to purchase 1,772 street lights is December 11. Three different fixtures will be put up and assessed. By April/May 2016, one of the fixtures will be selected and retrofitted. The LED streetlights will begin with a savings of \$9,000 per month on December 11 followed by a 10 year pay off of \$90,000 per year for the first year and \$190,000 thereafter.

## B. Benchmarking

### 1. Energy Star Portfolio Manager – status of database update

Mr. Gancarz reported that the electricity information is in the database and that once the gas information is received it will be downloaded.

### 2. AUTOMATED energy usage downloads from Eversource – available in 4<sup>th</sup> quarter

Automated downloads will not take place in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter but possibly in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2016.

## C. Publicity/Education Outreach -

### 1. New articles and letters to the editor

Commissioner Michalowski reported that Commissioner White wrote an article giving the Energy Commission credit for its work. It was published in local papers and received positive feedback.

### 2. LTTE: Cheshire's an energy leader in Connecticut

Cheshire was one of 5 towns to receive the Gold Star for energy efficiency.

### 3. Energy Achiever Awards Presentation

Chairman Ogurick presented the awards to Mr. Gancarz and Commissioner White thanking them for their work and contributions to energy efficiency in town. A picture was taken for a possible article.

#### D. Clean Energy

##### 1. Solar on town landfill – virtual net metering status

Mr. Gancarz attended a meeting in Woodbridge on November 18 to discuss virtual net metering credits. Three legislators were in attendance along with representatives from Eversource. It was reported that \$10M in credits broken down for 40% for municipalities, 40% for the state, and 20% for farms has been used up. Because the legislators have other competing interests, use of municipal landfills and the possibility of increasing the \$10M to \$50M will be looked into but are not the priority. The idea of reassigning the \$10M credits will not be brought up until a special session is held in February 2016. While it is not fact, a representative from Eversource thinks that approximately \$3.8M of the \$10M has been spoken for. If virtual net metering credits are not awarded, the project still has green energy and will have to be presented again to the Town Council. Now that the Council has new members, the attention toward the project may be revitalized.

##### 2. Solar possibilities on other town-operated buildings

Suggestions for solar possibilities were discussed. One suggestion is to install solar at the concession building at the high school.

#### E. PBC Projects

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) – \$10K remaining

Commissioner White suggested brainstorming with the Bright Ideas people for ideas.

##### 3. Cheshire has earned an additional 4kW on the Renewable Energy track of the Clean Energy Communities program, valued at \$4,500 per kW, or \$18,000 – can be applied to any project involving Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy, or Alternative Fuel Vehicles.

Commissioner White suggested using the \$18,000 toward solar installation on rooftops of town buildings.

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

Mr. Gancarz reported that the tree trimming is winding down.

#### H. Microgrid Grant and Loan Program – Round 3 Application

There were no communications to the Energy Commission.

#### I. Electric Vehicle Charging Station (EVCS) –commercial partnerships; meetings with YUMCA, Stop & Shop

Commissioner Michalowski reported that he met with the manager of Stop & Shop in Wallingford to ask about the details of its electric vehicle charging station. He also distributed an article regarding

the EVCS in Wallingford. Scott Germaine, Stop & Shop manager, explained that the landlord paid for the EVCS and did all of the legwork for the installation. It is a wall mounted unit on the left side of the store where there are two parking spaces to accommodate it. Mr. Germaine said that a state grant was orchestrated by Mary Muchinski (sp. ?), a state representative from Wallingford. Mr. Germaine called Randy Bellaire, the manager of Stop & Shop in Cheshire to ask him to call Commissioner Michalowski. A phone call has not been returned. Commissioner Michalowski will call Mr. Bellaire and if he does not connect with him, he will elevate to the corporate office. This is a repeat of an issue that took place 6-8 months ago. While the Stop & Shop in Cheshire does not have a layout that will accommodate an EVCS, there is an area behind the senior center, which is in close proximity to Stop & Shop. Suggestions were made for other locations such as behind the fire house, or at a local restaurant. DEEP will be contacted for a list of companies that may be interested in installing an EVCS.

J. Concession stand renovations – energy efficiency measures

Chairman Ogurick will resend a letter to the Town Council asking that the Energy Commission review the plans and specs. before construction begins.

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. New EVconnecticut Public Fleet EV Incentive Program announced

A credit of up to \$15,000 can be received. Proposals for the Incentive Program are due by December 8. The Energy Commission will miss this year's deadline.

B. The Small ZREC (< 100 Kw) two-week window is typically opened in January or February each year

There were no communications to the Energy Commission.

C. New electric charging station opens in Wallingford

This was discussed under Microgrid Grant and Loan Program – Round 3 Application – Item I.

D. Winter energy prices to drop for Cheshire residents: Eversource

This was stated to the Energy Commission members.

E. Proposed Energy Commission 2016 meeting dates

The date of May 30, 2016 will be changed to May 23, 2016. The date of October 31, 2016 (Halloween) will be changed to October 24, 2016.

Commissioner Michalowski made a motion to accept the meeting dates for 2016 with the suggested changes. Commissioner Gayeski seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

## ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Chairman Ogurick to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Minutes typed and submitted on November 30, 2015 by Dawn Guite, Recording Secretary.