

DRAFT MINUTES

ENERGY COMMITTEE

THURSDAY APRIL 5, 2012

5:00 P.M.

GREAT BARRINGTON TOWN HALL

334 MAIN STREET, GREAT BARRINGTON

- I. Call to Order. 5:05pm. Present: Steve Weisman and Kaj Huld from Peregrine, Joe Sokul Great Barrington DPW Superintendent, Chris Vleek, Jenn Bailly, Ryan Caruso, Michele DiSimone, Diego Gutierrez, Brandee Nelson, Beth Moser, and Peter Greer all present. Alana Chernila absent.
- II. Approval of Minutes from March 21, 2012 Meeting - Deigo moved to approve as amended by Jenn. Ryan seconded. All approved.
- III. Review Peregrine Draft Report – Details – Steve provided an overview. Joe thought report is well done and a useful planning tool. Diego inquired as to the extent to which Peregrine can be available to help with implementation steps. Steve indicated the present contract has a specific scope of work to be completed, but Peregrine would be interested in providing future services.

Kaj stated the report's costs and savings come from projection on energy usage breakdown and rules of thumb on where savings can be taken from.

In summary, report finds potential for 29% total energy reduction for 12 buildings in 3 priority categories:

- Priority 1 – 10-11% savings for about \$70,000 with \$19,000 per year savings w/ 3.4 yr payback – these are primarily no and low cost or regular maintenance items.
- Priority 2 – 8% savings for about \$165,000 capital energy efficiency projects
- Priority 3 – 10% savings from major capital projects with about \$1,000,000 cost pursued at end of useful life or major renovations or because of significant savings.

Assumes a fixed utility cost of \$0.14/kwh for electricity; all year one utility costs. See page 14 of report for all utility cost assumptions. Note this is a variable which affects the payback period for the project.

Table 9 reflects updated square footage for conditioned space. We should update MEI to reflect these reported square footages – Jenn will take care of.

Building by Building Review of Report Findings:

District Court Building – From Joe: Town is negotiating with the State on a long term lease on the building. Once completed the Town will be able to hire an architect, etc to improve building envelop and systems. Improvements can be considered in RFP/RFQ development.

Ducted or hydronic system could be considered for renovations.

This building will not be in ERP because Town does not pay for utilities.

DPW Garage – From Joe: O&M changes can be implemented immediately. Other changes look realistic.

Note in almost all buildings thermostats and weatherstripping could be modified and savings result through behavioral change.

Elmwood Cemetery – 2 measures – occupancy sensor and programmable thermostat should be installed.

Fire Station – Manage controls of HVAC system to improve building efficiency. A building use analysis versus HVAC operation should be completed and system should be configured for a better match. Joe is looking at door seals currently.

Housatonic Community Center – range of opportunities for improvements including modifying lighting. Building usage is more than what is in CES – Joe/Jenn thought usage information can be obtained and provided to Peregrine for period between Nov and Apr.

Dampers in ventilation system need to be evaluated and modified.

Housatonic Fire Station - would benefit from attic insulation.

Housatonic School – From Joe: In September the school's future will be decided upon. CIP has funds to evaluate building. Minimal amount of funding at this point put into building because of uncertain future.

Peregrine mentioned that some measures that are very low cost should be implemented if Town will have for 3+ years; insulation and ventilation shaft sealing in particular.

This building is in ERP because there no plans to have it change hands immediately.

Mason Library – a very high energy user. From Joe: Commissioning was recently completed and many systems were hooked up which may improve operations.

Although they were unable to get on the control system, Peregrine thinks there is probably a lot of opportunity to get additional savings through better building management. Still needs to be evaluated.

Insulation really needs to be completed. Peregrine brought in an expert to review. Also exterior storm windows may benefit or rebuild and seal windows. Other window treatments may be appropriate.

Lighting control systems can be modified and Town is working on this presently. Security lighting should be modified to discontinue use of chandelier.

Energy savings opportunities at both libraries present good public education opportunities for larger community outreach on energy efficiency.

Police Station – some of the improvements are very low cost; others major.

Ramsdell Library – up to 33% energy potential – programmable thermostat, insulation should be done/basement insulation may make sense. From Joe: CIP already has 2016/2017 for access barrier removal and other building improvements; replacing heating system was estimated at \$150,000 about three years ago.

Recycling Center (Transfer Station)– nonelectric heat and additional insulation would improve energy usage.

Senior Center – From Joe: Thermostats are being replaced. In 2-3 years CIP has replacement of AC system.

Jenn – facility usage is more than CES lists – staff are at facility to 3:30pm and there are many nights and weekends with community programs. Jenn will confirm and provide info to Peregrine.

Town Hall – From Joe: There is money in this year's budget for energy efficiency at town hall.

Improving insulation is important in priority 3.

Wastewater Treatment Plant – From Joe: The Town has received \$4.2 million in long term commitments being funded through SRF low interest loan for facility upgrades. RFP for engineering services is being prepared. Fees cover operating expenses but not capital expenses.

Next steps – feed back if we have additional including edits and building hours and operations. Need MEI adjustments ASAP.

Steve focusing on ERP. He can bring a priority of proposed improvements to next meeting on 4/17. CES doesn't need to be finalized until study is done.

- IV. Solar sites – subcommittee to investigate & report – can 2 people take that on Peter and Ryan tentatively.
- V. Community Preservation Act (CPA) – venues to view presentation. Encourage all to attend to hear about funding opportunities. The CPA has to pass at town meeting. CPA is citizen petition.
- VI. Open Discussion Items - table

- VII. Next Meeting Date- Possible Agenda Items. Brandee to email around to get availability. Tentatively the meeting is 4/17 at 5 pm.
- VIII. Adjournment. 7:10 Beth moved Brandee seconded all in favor.

Respectfully submitted;



Brandee Nelson