

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMISSION

The Sustainable Energy Commission held a regular meeting, Thursday, April 21, 2016 in shared meeting room 3 of the Municipal Center located at 3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT 06470.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Kathy Quinn at 7:08pm

Present: Chairman, Kathy Quinn, Fred Hurley, Mark Sievel, Barbara Toomey

Absent: Steve Gogliettino, Joseph Borst, George Brown, Karen Pierce, Dave Stout

Presentation by: Mr. Stephen Filippo, Energy Consultant
Efficient Lighting Consultants, Inc.
31 Pecks Lane, Unit #2, Newtown, CT

Efficient Lighting Consultants, Inc. was invited to present at the meeting by Mr. Fred Hurley because they misplaced their copy of the RFP so they were unable to submit their bid on the Town lighting by the appointed deadline. ELC is one of the largest vendors in the state and they are approved through Eversource Energy and they would like the opportunity to be considered. They installed the outdoor lighting for Reed Elementary and Newtown High School. At the moment Head O' Meadow would be the only school ready to move forward on lighting. On the Town side, they are not ready to move forward on lighting. An RFP will be emailed directly to Mr. Filippo.

Communications: none

Public Comments: none

Acceptance of Minutes: not enough in attendance to accept

Business:

- a. **Status of Landfill Solar Project:** Mr. Hurly said they reached the final language for the Virtual Net Metering (VNM) bill that will provide the availability of credits and the legal ability to use VNM with Newtown and 12 other towns - 13 towns in total that will be covered by the bill – the only restriction is that an interconnection agreement is filed by April 17, 2016. Newtown's was filed last December so we're covered. This was the only stipulation by the utilities and they got what they wanted.

- b. Energy Savings Program Update; Municipal Center Waste Water Treatment Plant; Middle Gate School:** Ms. Quinn said there was some lighting replacement – some at The Board of Education - small fluorescent tubes were installed to see if there was any feedback (no known feedback). Mr. Hurly said they were testing for brightness and color rendition. Lighting controls were also set to do daytime harvesting.

Mr. Hurly said all proposals need to be vetted by Celtic. Ms. Quinn said nothing has been received yet. Mr. Hurly believes that Nxegen is probably closer to an actual written proposal at the Waste Water Treatment plant.

Mr. Hurly said that Automated Energy Management are the ones doing the controls and having the boilers coming in for Middle Gate. Ms. Quinn will get the information from Gino.

- c. Microgrid Feasibility Study:** Mr. Hurly said it's authorized but not much done with it yet. He expects it will start firing up next month.

Street Lighting: Mr. Hurly said they are going to use the three firms that were selected and vetted - Esco Energy Services, SolLux/Real Term Energy and Tanko Lighting. Eversource will be used as the fourth. They will all get an RFP and respond accordingly. The Borough will be part of the process. The RFP will ask for various options which includes ownership and maintenance and include the option for "smart lights" that can be controlled by the 911 center. This will allow police/fire to raise or lower the lighting levels. It gives more management control. Mr. Hurly said it won't be part of this round but they want to know it's available and it's been priced out. That should go out in May or June.

On another note, Mr. Hurly said there is an RFP going out for large recycling bins (96 gallons). It will go out with a multi-year contract and it will be up to the contractor to supply the bins (the Town will not directly finance it) and make that possible with a longer term contract - possibly 5 years with a couple of extensions. That will go out this summer (June/July) with implementation for July 2017. It will also give vendors time to get it together in terms of financing, etc. They need to make the conversion to automated arms on the trucks.

- d. Earth Day, April 23:** this Saturday

Additional Items to be addressed:

1. **EV Charging Stations:** Mr. Hurly said there is a directive from Pat Laredo to get this done. The preference would be a public site where everyone can go. Betsy Paynter (EDC) approached the old Lexington Gardens new ownership and they are interested so that is the site to pursue. Mr. Sievel said the big problem is that applications have to be in by May 4th. Mr. Hurly said not worry about the deadline, they will get it done. The bottom line is how many and where. Mr. Hurly said the two places should be one at park & rec and the other at the garage. He said the health inspector could use one as well.
2. **Municipal Energy Plan:** nothing to report
3. **Portfolios Manager:** Ms. Quinn has a request into Jake (Eversource) to get automatic updates from Eversource for electricity and gas to go into the portfolio managers so nobody has to enter the data.
4. **Budget & Grant Spending:** Ms. Quinn said she needs to find out when the grant money needs to be spent. And there is still budget money as well.
5. **Website:** Ms. Quinn said there are some changes for Mr. Stout and a bit more work to do.
6. **Outreach to Schools:** nothing to report
7. **Bridgeport Eco-Park:** nothing to report
8. **Ban on Fracking Waste:** Ms. Donna Culbert at the Health Department and Mr. Sibley in the Land Use Department will begin looking at this issue to decide how the Town should proceed.
9. **Organic Recycling:** Mr. Hurly said they are still signing up people for organic composting. The first full cycle was done and it was very successful. The program wants to get it up to about 500. Mr. Hurly feels that it will become a bigger program when the organic digesters are on-line and each are within a reasonable distance from each other. Ms. Quinn said the Enviro Club at the High School is still working on a video which we should be seeing soon. If it's good and something we can use. it can be attached to the ESC website.

Ms. Quinn adjourned meeting at: 8:15pm

The next regular meeting will be held on Thursday, May 19, 2016 at 7:00pm at the Newtown Municipal Center in Shared Meeting Room 3.

Submitted, Megan Williams, clerk