

# Stratham Energy Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: September 11, 2013

Commission members present:

John Dold

Matthew O'Keefe

James Schlough

Michael Welty

Absent- Michael Gorman

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm.

Minutes of the August 14th meeting were reviewed and approved.

John Dold made a motion that we ask the selectmen to approve the reappointment of Michael Gorman to a new 3-year term on the commission. Michael's original appointment was for a 1-year term and that has expired. The terms of the five members are staggered to provide better continuity of experience. The motion was approved and will be forwarded to Paul Deschaine to present to the selectmen.

Matt O'Keefe presented his draft version of the commission's year-end report for the selectmen. The summary of the Portfolio Manager data collected over the past year highlighted the Energy Utilization Index for each of the five town buildings. It was noted that the Police Station has the lowest index due to the large amount of unused space in the building. The Municipal Building meets the energy star rating based on current energy use history. Matt suggested we might want to apply for energy star rating approval in the future. Lighting improvements at the Highway Garage have been completed as recommended by the commission. Matt will edit the report per suggestions and distribute a red-lined update for approval at the October meeting.

John exhibited a Home Energy Toolkit that is made available to residents in Boxboro MA. The kit includes an electric energy monitor, an LED light bulb, gaskets for blocking air leaks and many suggestions for energy savings. It costs \$99 with some additional cost underwritten by that region's utility, National Grid. It was noted that this is an example of the use of the Systems Benefit Charge that each metered user pays every month. This government mandated charge is used to support the promotion of energy savings. A well known example is the rebates on compact fluorescent bulbs purchased by consumers.

Mike Welty presented data on electrical energy use in the town that he obtained from Unitil. Based on this information, it was estimated that the residents of Stratham pay about \$5600 a month into this program. The commission will consider options for requesting support from Unitil for educational activities regarding energy use for the residents of the town.

The commission approved a motion to spend \$275 for Michael Welty to attend a 7-day seminar series by PSNH on Energy Efficiency. PSNH underwrites \$925 of the cost.

John mentioned the half-day Annual Energy Summit in Concord on September 30 sponsored by the NH Independent Energy Council. There is a cost of \$20 per person. The commission approved a motion that any member could have this fee reimbursed.

John suggested we use some of the commission's budget to perform a blower door test on the Historical Society building. There are known air leaks, and this test is an ideal way to locate them. Matt mentioned that we might use a Unitil energy audit for this. His personal experience is that Unitil will do a home energy audit for \$100 and that that charge can be refunded if corrective work is done on the residence. We will check with Unitil on this option.

Matt noted that much of the HVAC equipment on the town buildings is of the same age and expects that in future years there would be a need to replace many of the units in a short time span. He proposed we recommend to the town that budgeting activities should account for this. He said the average life of an HVAC roof unit these days is about 20 years and that replacement is especially worthwhile as efficiencies continue to improve.

John questioned if unspent funds in our budget could be used for a purpose such as adding motion sensors for the lights at the highway garage as previously suggested by the commission.

The New Hampshire Local Energy Coop has asked us to share our town energy use benchmark data. It was agreed we would do this.

Michael Gorman reported by an earlier email that he has received approval from Travis Thompson, Stratham Memorial School Board Chair, for the commission to do an energy audit of the school. The commission agreed to have Michael begin the process of gathering energy billing data from the school.

David Walker of Green Power Management Holding Inc. had requested to meet with the commission to make a presentation on their services. It was agreed to give him 30 minutes at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm. The next meeting will be October 9th at the municipal center.