

**Meeting Minutes** (*approved 3/3/15, 3-0*)  
**Wayland Energy Initiatives Advisory Committee**  
**Thursday, February 12, 2015**  
**7:30 p.m.**  
**Large Hearing Room**

**Members present:** Tom Sciacca, Anne Harris, Ellen Tohn

**Members Absent:** Harvey Michaels, Bill Huss

**Associate members present:** Corinne Lenk, John Harper, Mike Staiti

**Ex-officio Member present:** Ben Keefe

Also Present: Cherry Karlson, Board of Selectmen liaison

Minutes from 1/7/15 approved 3-0.

### **Energy Improvements Project with Ameresco (ESCO)**

CK relayed the feedback from the Board of Selectmen meeting on 2/10 when AH presented the ESCO resolution to replace the TB improvements with energy management systems and replacing pneumatic with digital controls at the two remaining elementary schools. Selectmen requested more information on the project, specifically the costs for each of the projects. One Selectman expressed he felt the project should be a warrant article, though CK reports having discussed the issue at a BoS meeting on 1/12/15 and voting to approve.

Energy Committee discussed resolution with revisions added to further define costs. BK provided costs.

Committee voted to co-sponsor ESCO resolution, with language as amended in v9, with Board of Selectmen, 3-0 in favor.

BK provided progress report of ESCO: progressing well, boilers just installed at HH and Loker. Measures are coming in under budget.

AH will coordinate with BK to be sure measures with grant funding from DOER are paid with that grant money. BK will also connect with Brian Keveny to insure bills are paid from correct accounts.

#### **Action Items:**

BK will forward spreadsheet to ET, AH, CK.

AH will forward DOER reporting information to BK

### **Municipal Solar Projects**

Committee discussed solar pricing proposal. Ameresco has finished 30% design review and presented pricing for the four sites and various combinations of sites, with or without water management. JH and MS have looked over the proposals, as well as reviewed available data on other canopy projects. PV Canopy Company, Solaire Generation, is reputable and has done local projects: Herb Connolly Chevrolet and Rutgers University.

Ameresco offers to us a 1<sup>st</sup> year PPA price of 15.1 cents/kWh (with a 2% escalator), and we could sell at the B5 rate, which is now around 25.0 cents/kWh. The profit is in that spread. This translates into a \$150,000 to \$200,000 estimated annual return to the town.

First question addressed: Is the rate they offer us reasonable?

- Online data lists 6 ongoing canopy projects in the state; 4 are listed as pending. Data self-reported; may not be reliable
- Lincoln-Sudbury's project showed a lower price, but that has not been verified
- JH and MS re-created Ameresco's model and believe over 50% of Ameresco's revenues come from SREC sales. They must balance risk.
- If we felt we should get a second proposal, it would mean delaying by at least a year for another TM; that would mean \$150,000 to \$200,000 lost savings. Also lose space in interconnect queue. Would another company want to work with us after Ameresco had invested so much already?
- Can try to press Ameresco for lower price, but have pushed already with little result.

Other essential questions we would want answered:

1. What is the projected return?
2. What is the risk of that turning into a loss?

Regarding above questions:

- If the B5 rate does not get assigned to Ameresco, they will pull out and project will not go forward, so no risk there.
- If the Department of Public Utilities lowers the B5 rate, our savings would decrease, but they would need to decrease by a significant portion for savings to go away, and only the supply costs are likely to decrease, as delivery costs almost never come down. Roughly 50% of cost is supply, 50% delivery. The supply cost would have to come down by something like 75% before the town lost money, which is exceedingly unlikely. We can quantify this better.
- We could consider adding a "tracking" mechanism, which would minimize our exposure to loss.
- The Committee will request a letter from Peregrine, our Owner's Agent, to summarize the likelihood of Wayland's getting the predicted savings. We will also ask them to assess the price in comparison to similar projects, though there is not much available data on canopies in New England on which to base a comparison.

The Committee discussed the six price proposals and decided on the following (Option 1):

- Sites: all 4: DPW roof and parking canopies at TB, HS and MS parking lots
- PPA annual rate escalator: 2%
- Water Management System: No
- Adder for decommissioning bond: Yes
- Adder for tax payment: Yes
- Property tax of roughly \$30,000, level payment, for 20 years from Ameresco

Discussion to support these decisions:

Sites: No one site was vastly different in price and thus did not justify omission; development costs are distributed over four sites; maximize production.

Escalator: rate will be lower up front; maximize savings at the front end.

Water Management System: Comments received from locations that have system and that don't; both are satisfied. TS notes desirability of reducing point discharges, and therefore omitting the system. Let water be distributed more widely. Might drip between panels, but no worse than rain.

Decommissioning bond: Costs little, insures us proper decommissioning

Tax payment: adds to PPA rate, but guarantees income.

ET moved the Energy Initiatives Advisory Committee co-sponsor the warrant article, along with the Board of Selectmen, and advise the Town to proceed with the municipal solar PV project proposal presented by Ameresco as Option 1, and as described in bulleted list, above. Motion seconded and approved, 3-0. (Assuming Peregrine gives favorable review).

Set date of March 19 for a public meeting to go over the solar article. Warrant has a website we can post items on. We will work on a FAQ, contact media to promote meeting, etc.

ET will try to get School Comm approval before March 19 meeting. First she will meet with the School Comm Finance subcommittee to go over revenue flow, etc.

ET/ CK will contact Nan Balmer to determine who will sign the PPA; who "owns" it? JH will work with Peregrine and MS, get markup, give to BK, he will send to Ameresco.

#### Action Items:

ET: Connect with John Senchyshyn to discuss insurance/liability. Make sure we are covered if someone hits pole, etc.

BK: Will compute the % of the Town's energy that this project would supply.

AH: Compute whether this would bring Town to 20% reduction for Green Communities.

AH: Follow up with Rami Alwan at L-S to verify PPA price for canopies

ET: Follow up with ConComm re: closing Order of Conditions at HS before this work starts.

AH: Send JH PMBC requirements; send CL GC sign locations

ET & JH: Will work with Dave Watkins on FinCom on write-up.

JH: Will contact Luis at Ameresco re: the \$260,000 for the resiliency grant. Where do projects overlap?

CL: Reserve room for Public meeting; Assemble FAQ sheet for TM

Promoting March 19 info meeting and solar article at TM: all notify our personal networks in town

AH: Transition Wayland

CL: Crier article

ET: enews, Patch

TS: WVN

#### Miscellaneous:

- ET requested AH request Kaat send her Transition network information on the Verde energy deal, as provided by HM.
- Next meeting set for March 11.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 pm.

ARH 2/24/15