

WILLINGTON ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

May 6, 2010 @ 7:30 pm at the Willington Town Office Building

1. Call to order: 7:35 pm

2. Present: Christina, Ed, Ralph, Pam, Carol. **Absent:** Jim, Mark, Norm.

3 Present to speak: Todd Casey from Climate Partners, Antonio (Tony) Cappuccia and Billy Lengyel from Starrion Energy.

4. Approval of minutes: Approved without correction.

5. Electricity provider options: Todd has worked closely with Starrion; says he experiences them as very responsive and recommends their services.

Tony and Billy from Starrion believe that they could sell electricity to Willington—and its residents who chose to participate.

a. Electric rate comparisons

Company	% Renewable	Residential rate	Commercial rate	Fixed-F variable-V
CL&P	?	\$.1105	\$0.1172	F
Constellation ¹	?	?	Varies each acct ²	V
Starrion	0	\$.0959	\$.0959	V ³
Starrion	100% ? \$.15			
Sterling Planet	100%	\$0.0119	?	F
	50%	\$0.00595		
Community Energy	100%	\$0.0113	?	V
	50%	\$0.0065		

¹Constellation (current supplier)

²varies for each of 24 accts: 3 examples \$0.1161-0.1254

³Starrion claims that rate has not increased in 2 years & includes supplier and distribution fees. No other taxes or fees.

b. About Starrion: CT based co. (Southington). Constellation based out of state.

- i. Starrion are day-rate traders.
- ii. Have been in business 4 years.
- iii. Monthly variable rate recommended for Willington’s present needs & current prices.
- iv. Not locked into contract; can change each month if more favorable rate available or lock in if price is going up.
- v. Starrion will monitor rate changes & advise on-going.
- vi. Increased efficiency: put all accts on one bill (not merged, just listed) vs. current multiple monthly bills.
- vii. Bill still comes from CL&P; Starrion listed as provider.
- viii. Customers to date concerned about lowering energy cost. Will check on rate

- for renewable energy.
- ix. Will pay one time bonus to town - about \$ per household that switches to Starrion.
- x. Gave each member an info. packet.
- c. Christina in charge of finding out if Willington is locked into a contract with Constellation.

5. Town Office Building issues

Town has permission to apply grant money, originally intended for window replacement, to more necessary remedial work to improve energy efficiency. Christina says that BOF approved spending the money, plus \$4000 to hire Larry Wagner of Wagner Assoc., to be grant administrator, for a total of \$46,000+.

Larry's work includes follow-up on all administrative responsibilities during work and after work completed. Christina says he has previously done similar work for Willington and believes it is money well spent.

Next steps: - With Larry's help, write proposal

- present for vote at town meeting 5/18.

- put out to bid to at least 3 vendors who meet grant guidelines.

Committee agrees to include Climate Partners as potential vendor.

- Ralph will meet with Larry to write proposal that includes 1st four items of energy assessment from Climate Partners: seal openings, insulation, insulate duct spaces, insulate hydronic pipes. Current estimate > \$42000 and may not include current min. wage.

Todd noted that there could be some cost savings by using combination of closed cell foam to seal larger leaks & batting for insulation, but batting alone would not prevent escape of warm air.

- Prepare questions for vendors so that everyone is commenting and quoting on the same information.

6. Clean Energy Options 20% by 2010 Many committee members renewed resolve to stay with intention of this program. Current oil spill in Gulf sited by many as example of pressure to pursue renewable energy sources.

- a. Ralph will explore ways to gets us to at least break even with 20% renewable commitment.
- b. Carol will contact Clean E. Options to see how/if we can choose a less expensive supplier and stay with the program.

7. Net metering issues/large scale projects

- a. DPUC continues to review how purchasers with multiple meters can aggregate accounts.

- b. Ed was approached by ECG, a company that does municipal energy efficiency assessments and, if cost of proposed remedial work totals > 1/2 million \$, does the work with no up front cost to town. It takes its payment out of guaranteed estimated savings.

ECG is interested in doing a presentation for Willington.

Discussion: include many people involved with Willington's facilities, where we can ask for more details about how this all works.

Contact company's references.

Ed will follow-up.

8. Public relations: Pam will send info about Willington Day to local publications when we know what we're doing. Ed will find out if Norm plans to be there with his car. Other ideas discussed for engaging public at event.

8. Adjourn 9:13 pm

Respectfully submitted

Carol Springer.

5/7/10