

WINDHAM ENERGY COMMISSION

Minutes for Monday, November 14, 2016

Windham Town Hall, 2nd floor Meeting Room, 979 Main Street, Willimantic, CT

1. Call to Order

J. de Smet called the meeting to order at 6:10pm. **Voting Members Present:** Jean de Smet, Tom Markland, Elizabeth Ostwald; Grace Adams, Corey Krohn. **Voting Members Absent:** Chris Mezzarone, **Voting Members Excused:** None **Present:** None **Staff Present:** Dagmar Noll, Clerk, James Finger, Town Planner. **Public Present:** None

2. Citizens and Delegations - None.

3. Acceptance of Minutes of October 24, 2016 and August 29, 2016

The Commission discussed changing the second to last sentence in #9 of the 10/24/2016 minutes to read, "E. Ostwald reported that Norwich's Municipal Utility had them breaking even after a \$7.4 million payment to the city." C. Krohn MOVED to approve the minutes of the October 24, 2016 as amended. E. Ostwald SECONDED. MOTION PASSED unanimously. Move "Chair de Smet explained that the sidewalk replacement in the downtown area was about to commence imminently, ahead of the Street lighting Plan." in the 8/29/2016 minutes to just before the last sentence in #4. The acronym for Renewable Energy Buyers Alliance in item #5 is REEBA. E. Ostwald MOVED to approve the minutes of the August 29, 2016 meeting as amended. C. Krohn SECONDED. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

4. Resignation of Dick Bloomer

R. Bloomer has submitted a letter of resignation to the Commission.

5. Report on REEBA Municipal Energy Summit in Cromwell

C. Krohn reported on the topics at the Summit, including recommendations for best practices. Discussion about the focus and direction of the Commission, and clarifying the Commission's role in our local government.

6. Report on Barrows STEM Academy Wind and Hydropower Project Presentations

T. Markland, E. Ostwald, and Chair de Smet reported that the projects, presented by seventh graders, were excellent.

7. Report on Emergency Power and Emergency Radio Operations for Willimantic Fire & Police

Review of the Commission's Report on Emergency Power for the City of Willimantic's Police & Fire Department. The Commission chose to send the report, with minor corrections, to the Chronicle, by consensus.

8. Report on Clean Energy Communities Workshop

J. Finger reported that Eversource will be directly uploading consumption data into Portfolio Manager in 2016. The Town's current contract with Celtic Energy to input data over the next two years and they will need to upload propane and oil data.

9. Update on VNM Status

The Commission made a recommendation that the town call REEBA and Paul Michaud and look at the proposal put forward by C-TEC SOLAR.

10. Report on Micro Grid

C. Krohn reported that DEEP was satisfied with the testing of the Town's micro grid. C. Krohn will find out how the savings will be charted, and will advise the Commission of when there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony.

11. 2017 Meeting Schedule

Windham Energy Commission meetings will continue to be held at 6:00pm on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month.

12. Recommendations for Using \$10,000 Bright Ideas Grant Award

Discussion about an LED light bulb swap for Windham residents and hiring someone to design downtown streetlight fixtures using solar power.

13. Other Business - None.

14. Citizens and delegations - None.

15. Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.