

WINDHAM ENERGY COMMISSION

Corrected Minutes for Monday, July 11, 2016 Meeting

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 6:05pm. **Voting Members Present:** Jean de Smet, Richard Bloomer; Tom Markland; Elizabeth Ostwald; Grace Adams; **Voting Members Absent:** Chris Mezzarone, **Voting Members Excused:** Corey Krohn **Guests Present:** None. **Staff Present:** Dagmar Noll, Clerk **Public Present:** None
- 2. Citizens and Delegations -** None.
- 3. Acceptance of Minutes of June 27, 2016**

R. Bloomer MOVED to approve the minutes from the June 27, 2016 meeting as amended to say, under Tom Markland's report, that, "After spending one-on-one time at the Public Works Garage, Markland is very impressed with their operation. He checked a Ford Crown Victoria and found a single code in the memory. The repair on this code is not worth the money. Older cars are for traffic duty. They idle all day long and, therefore, the repairs on the code are not worth the money. The Town of Windham has a fleet of late model Ford midsize cars and they are running quite well. Fleet management - especially Scott Clairmont and his technician, Frank-- are impressive. They already know the cost effectiveness of this repair on older cars, and it is not worth the expense. He is proud of the technicians and their ability to understand this very complex theory". E. Ostwald SECONDED. MOTION PASSED with E. Ostwald and G. Adams abstaining.

4. Next Steps

Discussion about what the Energy Commission can do. R. Bloomer described the Eversource Annual Report, which includes increasing the Eversource's profit by 5-7% each year. In the past five years, Eversource shares have seen an 89% increase in value. Presentation of a spreadsheet comparing electricity and electric service rates of municipal-owned utilities around New England, all of which are much lower than the current rates Windham residents are charged through Eversource. Discussion about what a municipal utility would look like in Windham and what the pros are to switching to a municipal utility. J. de Smet reported that DERP called inquiring about sites for solar installations. Research: Read statutes and Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) laws; look into Norwich Public Utility's model of expenses and income; acquire the 2010 Local Energy Assurance Plan report which looked over the town's emergency response capability; acquire more detailed data from CT municipal utilities.

5. Geothermal for schools: discussion and possible action to hire a consultant to do an analysis of the potential, possibly including using recently abandoned wells

It appears using the recently abandoned wells is not realistic. Contact P. Torcellini for direction on geothermal possibilities in town. Discussion about geothermal under parking lots, as done at Generations.

6. Old Business: Benchmarking, web site updates

a) Benchmarking

Celtic Energy sent town Engineer J. Gardner a note that they are continuing their benchmarking work. The current benchmarking report only has data through December 2015.

b) Web Site Updates

J. Finger is unable to get into the Energy Commission website account. J. de Smet and E. Ostwald will try to access the web site.

c) RFP for Streetlights

The RFP will be going out immediately.

d) Virtual Net Metering

J. de Smet reported that the Town's current all-in price is 0.942 through November 2017, when the contract ends. The Town uses 4.850 megawatt hours per month. C-TEC was offering 1.35 megawatt hours per month. The Town will pay a penalty to our provider, Titan Energy, if we reduce consumption. This needs to be changed before the next contract is signed, to allow us to continue to reduce energy consumption.

7. Citizens and delegations - None.

8. Adjournment - Members ended all discussion a 7:25pm.