

AD-HOC ENERGY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING CORRECTED MINUTES – JANUARY 17, 2018

Members Present: Chairman Chris Ehlert (Via Phone), Bill Fish, Darlene Briggs, Richard White, **Gary Gavigan** and Lesley Wysocki

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 p.m. by Chairman Chris Ehlert.

LED Streetlight Project Update – Bill Fish:

Siemens has signed the Letter of Intent which had been modified to meet our specifics and was approved by Town Attorney Michael Wells. The Letter of Intent now has to be signed by First Selectman Noel Bishop following its approval at tomorrow's Board of Selectmen's Meeting.

We have finally gotten a draft letter of agreement for the purchase of the existing street lights from Eversource's Attorney (2 months after we requested it). Town Attorney Michael Wells has reviewed it and it has been sent back to Eversource with comments from both Attorney Wells and Bill Fish. A copy was distributed to all members. Once a final version is completed, it will have to be voted on by this committee and then forwarded to the Board of Selectmen for their review and approval. Once approved by them, we will be transmitting the money and upon closing, we will own the streetlights. Hopefully this will happen within the next 30 days or so.

Bill Fish also got a final copy of the newly proposed rebate structure from Eversource after numerous requests. It will be going back to what it was prior to last July, which is \$0.30 for each kilowatt hour saved with the new LED's or a maximum of 30% of total purchase price of the LED's. This would be an approximate rebate of \$55,000 to the Town. Bill Fish went over other options for further possible savings.

Siemens is willing to install sample fixtures for cobra heads, floods and decorative's. Decoratives will go on Flatrock Place going into the mall and lantern post types will go somewhere in a sub-division. Other sample lights will be going on Seaside Avenue by Tarpon Avenue and in the West Beach parking lot. Hopefully this will be done in February once we let them know what we want. Mr. Fish spoke with RST Wayne Buck who stated that he likes the lighting in Madison. He feels the lights should be brighter on main roads and less bright on other roads. There was discussion of what the Committee would like for the sample lighting. Mr. Fish will put up a "survey monkey" on the Town Website.

Mr. Fish has been working with Director of Finance Director Donna Castracane regarding what to budget next fiscal year for the lights. Gary Gavigan recommended supplying an informational sheet at the Annual Budget Hearing in order to make sure that the town's people understand what and why the funds need to be budgeted.

Mr. Fish went over all of the information regarding the pay back for the internal loans.

Upon a motion by Bill Fish, seconded by Darlene Briggs, it was:

VOTED: Unanimously to approve the Letter of Intent with Siemens as reviewed and discussed and forward to the Board of Selectmen for their review and approval.

Mr. Fish explained that Eversource or the Telephone Company will continue to own the poles, but we will own the lights. We will have to get permission to install the lights on their poles.

ZREC Update – Chris Ehlert:

Chairman Ehlert stated that at this time, everything is status quo. There has been no movement on the waiting list. Everything is currently in a holding pattern. Daisy Ingraham and the High School will go back on the list in the spring. There was discussion about whether the landfill would be feasible monetarily. A very large array would be needed and it could cost more to install than what we could save. We haven't had a formal evaluation of this.

Microgrid RFP Update – Chris Ehlert:

Chairman Ehlert stated that he will send a link to all members. There has been 8 proposals submitted including ours. DEEP is reviewing the material at this time and there is no date yet for when a decision will be made.

Approval of Bills:

None.

Approval of Minutes:

Special Meeting – October 17, 2017:

Upon a motion by Darlene Briggs, seconded by Richard White, it was:

VOTED: Unanimously to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting held on October 17, 2017, as amended.

Special Meeting – December 18, 2017:

Upon a motion by Lesley Wysocki, seconded by Darlene Briggs, it was:

VOTED: Unanimously to table the approval of the minutes of the December 18, 2017 Special Meeting.

Committee Member Updates:

- Lesley Wysocki stated that the interior LED lighting changes will be completed by Friday.
- There are no updates on the Riggio Building and there is no further information available regarding converting the furnace to natural gas. The gas company previously stated that they will not charge the town to run the line to the building. There was also an update regarding DEEP and the underground tanks in town. The timing is really good right now to change to natural gas for the Riggio Building as well as the Fire Department. It seems that we keep being told that gas lines cannot be under or near a fire house or emergency management. Chairman Ehlert contacted some people and has been told that this is false information. It probably only comes down to obtaining an easement of the property owner to the gas company and the Town of Westbrook owns the land and buildings of the fire department and emergency management. This matter will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting for further discussion.

2018/2019 Fiscal Year Budget:

The only difference from the current budget is a 2-1/2% increase for Part Time Payroll. The total proposed budget is \$1,331.00. There was discussion of whether the committee would need funds for any mailings. It was decided to not request any funds and Chairman Ehlert will contact

Tax Collector Kim Bratz to see if any information that the committee needs to be mailed, could they be put in the tax bills when they are mailed.

Upon a motion by Lesley Wysocki, seconded by Darlene Briggs, it was:

VOTED: Unanimously to submit a proposed budget of \$1,331.00 to the Board of Selectmen for Fiscal Year 2018/2019.

Designate Official to Authorize work needed to be done with Siemen's:

There needs to be one person who is authorized to contact Siemen's when something needs to be fixed or worked on. Bill Fish will contact Department of Public Works Director John Riggio to see if his Administrative Assistant could be the **primary go-between in transmitting requests to Siemen's for future repair work.**

Adjournment:

Upon a motion by Darlene Briggs, seconded by Lesley Wysocki, it was:

VOTED: Unanimously to adjourn at 5:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Kathleen H. Kelemen

NOTE: All changes indicated in bold, underline and italicized print.