

ENERGY COMMITTEE  
March 17, 2021  
Via Zoom  
Regular Meeting Minutes

**Members Present via ZOOM:**

Chairman Chris Ehlert, Richard White, Lesley Wysocki, Bill Fredrickson, Gary Gavigan and Jill Brainerd.

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ehlert at 4:36 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes: January 20, 2021:**

Upon a motion by Richard White, seconded by Lesley Wysocki, it was:

**VOTED:** Unanimously to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2021, as amended.

There was a discussion that there is a need for deeper Analyzation regarding the usage/credits for virtual net metering. Chairman Ehlert, Jill Brainerd and Lesley Wysocki will work together to come up with a plan for this.

**LED Street Light Projects Update and Work with Southern CT Gas for attachment fee:**

Chairman Ehlert stated that the punch list with Siemens is completed with the exception of wrapping up the labels on the decorative poles and fixtures, which is being worked on now. Everything else is current. Chairman Ehlert asked the Committee Members if they want to go out to bid for a new maintenance contractor. DPW recommends working with nearby towns to enter into a contract with them.

We have not received the rebate from Eversource yet, but Chairman Ehlert will continue to stay on top of this matter.

Southern CT Gas Company has some antennas on some of our fixtures and we should be charging them a fee for this. There are less than 20 in town, but we need to look into what to charge them and if it should be monthly or yearly. Chairman Ehlert will look further into this matter.

There are some left over funds for the project that will be used to buy inventory for the decorative fixtures.

**Virtual Net-Metering Results to date:**

Data from all the Town Buildings and the Schools were distributed to all members for their review. Lesley Wysocki stated that the savings for the schools is above what was anticipated and they think they can reduce next year's budget by an additional \$30,000. Jill Brainerd stated that the savings for town buildings is also higher than anticipated.

**Update Library Lighting Upgrade:**

Jill Brainerd stated that the contractor was having difficulty in getting Eversource to review the project because of COVID. The contractor took pictures and submitted them to Eversource, and they gave the go ahead to start the project which is now underway. The project is within budget and they are expecting a rebate of approximately \$9,000.00 when completed. The Library has requested capital funds for Fiscal Year 2021/2022 to convert the building to natural gas. At this time Ms. Brainerd stated she has received a quote to replace all the lighting in the Library parking lots. She is waiting for approval from Donna Castracane to move forward.

The Fire Department project is moving forward.

**Potential Solar Project – Mulvey Municipal Center:**

Chairman Ehlert stated that solar information has been received from Prism and he will forward the information to all members. This is in regards to the replacement of the Mulvey Municipal Center Roof. There are 2 HVAC that must be replaced but Ms. Brainerd is hoping to get all 5 units replaced as part of the project. John Riggio and Ms. Brainerd have been working on the project, but there are a lot of variations to be dealt with. This will be a major project and they are still working on getting quotes. Also as part of this project, they are looking to build a carport for the police vehicles that would have solar panels on the roof. Chairman Ehlert stated that if this project is approved and moves forward it will get this building to net 0.

**Committee Member Updates:**

- Chairman Ehlert stated that there are no updates at this time regarding the energy bill that is in front of the Legislature. He further stated that there is a lot of talk about doing away with fossil fuels.

**Approval of Bills:**

None.

**Adjournment:**

Upon a motion by Gary Gavigan, seconded by Richard White, it was:

**VOTED:** Unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 5:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Kathleen H. Kelemen, Secretary

As transcribed from a recording of the meeting.

NOTE: The next Regular Meeting will be on Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.