

ENERGY COMMITTEE  
September 19, 2018  
Mulvey Municipal Center  
Regular Meeting Minutes

**Members Present:**

Chairperson Chris Ehlert, Bill Fish (via phone), Darlene Briggs, Bill Fredrickson, Jill Brainerd and Gary Gavigan.

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Chris Ehlert at 5:0 pm.

**LED Streetlight Update – Possible vote on contract:**

Bill Fish discussed changes that he would like to see in the contract which will save the town money and also make the contract more like those that the Towns of Madison and Old Saybrook has with Siemens. Mike Wells has reviewed the Siemens contract and also made some changes.

Upon a motion by Bill Fish, seconded by Gary Gavigan, it was:

**VOTED:** Unanimously that the Committee recommend to the Board of Selectmen approval of the standard contract from Siemens, with the changes that were recommended and was vetted by Town Attorney Michael Wells on 9/18/18.

There was discussion regarding the difference between R2's and R3's. Bill Fish and Bill Fredrickson will survey each of the approximately 500 cobra head fixtures to decide which would be best. The R3 will give a broader pattern for main thoroughfares, intersections and curves. They do a review to see which would be appropriate for each area. The R2 is shorter and wider and is more appropriate for residential areas. Once this is completed, the fixture order will be submitted to Siemens.

Discussion of request for 2 new street lights. One in the area of Eckford Avenue and Boston Post Road on Pole #116 and the other is on pole #1024 at the intersection of Boone Circle and Fishing Brook Road. Upon a motion by Gary Gavigan, seconded by Darlene Briggs, it was:

**VOTED:** Unanimously that as part of the original install, that 2 new lights be added in the following 2 locations:

1. Pole #116 on Boston Post Road near Eckford Avenue
2. Pole #1024 located at the intersection of Boone Circle and Fishing Brook Road.

In the future, any requests for new street lights will be handled by the Department of Public Works.

There are currently 5 lights that need to be repaired. The funds for the repairs will come out of DPW's budget.

Upon a motion by Bill Fredrickson, seconded by Gary Gavigan, it was:

**VOTED:** Unanimously to approve the list of fixtures to be repaired by Siemens on their next visit, which could be as soon as next week. The repairs are as follows:

- 163 Breakneck Hill Road – Pole #1077
- Old Kelsey Point Road and Meriden Avenue – Pole #36
- Old Kelsey Point Road and Canton Road – Pole #37
- Newell Terrace – Pole #1134
- 81 Chapman Beach Road – Pole #527

**ZREC Update:**

Chairman Ehlert reported that we are moving forward with the next auction that is only for all 3 schools. The applications were submitted on 9/7/18.

**Virtual Net Metering Community Solar Update:**

Chairman Ehlert stated that the new energy bill was approved and we have put in an application to be part of the program. We were approved and will be partnered with the Town of Griswold and we are approved for one full mega-watt of Virtual Net Metering with Eversource for all 3 schools, the Town Hall and the library. We are waiting for the paperwork from Eversource for the Board of Selectmen's Review and sign-off.

**Microgrid RFP Update – Chris Ehlert:**

At this time, there are no updates. Chairman Ehlert will follow up for any updated information.

There was discussion of the gas explosions that happened in Massachusetts. Gary Gavigan asked if we should go with Solar Array instead of Natural Gas at the schools. Chairman Ehlert gave a full explanation with details of what took place. The piping was very old. All the newer systems are a lot safer than the old systems and he doesn't feel the town needs to worry about this happening in Westbrook.

**Fracking Waste Ordinance:**

There was an article forwarded to towns from CCM that was encouraging municipalities to move forward with a Fracking Waste Ordinance. Clinton, Madison and Guilford have adopted this type of ordinance. There are potential properties located in Westbrook that these type of companies might be interested in. There was discussion of whether this committee should spear-head this type of ordinance for the Town. It was felt that this type of ordinance would fall under Zoning, Planning or the Economic Development Committee. The information will be forwarded to the Board of Selectmen. This Committee will re-look at in a few months to make sure that it is being taken care of.

**Sub-Committee to Update Municipal Energy Plan:**

Chairman Ehlert stated that he is currently reviewing the plan for any updates that are necessary.

**Approval of Bills:**

None.

**Approval of Minutes:**

**Regular Meeting – July 18, 2018:**

Upon a motion by Chris Ehlert, seconded by Darlene Briggs, it was:

**VOTED:** To approve the minutes of the July 18, 2018 Regular Meeting, as distributed. (Jill Brainerd and Bill Fredrickson abstained from the vote).

**Regular Meeting – August 15, 2018:**

Upon a motion by Darlene Briggs, seconded by Chris Ehlert, it was:

**VOTED:** To approve the minutes of the August 15, 2018 Regular Meeting, as distributed. (Jill Brainerd and Bill Fredrickson abstained from the vote).

**Update of Municipal Committee Member Updates:**

None.

**Adjournment:**

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

**VOTED:** Unanimously to adjourn at 6:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Kathleen H. Kelemen

As transcribed by a tape of the meeting