

**TOWN OF BEDFORD**  
**May 24, 2018**  
**ENERGY COMMISSION MINUTES**

A meeting of the Bedford Energy Commission was held on Thursday, May 24, 2018 at the Bedford Meeting Room, 10 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford, NH. Present were: Jeff Kerr (Chair), Andrew Gillis (Vice Chair), Alexander Joy, Bing Lu, William Coder, Bill Foote (School Board Liaison), and Chris Bandazian (Town Council Liaison).

Mr. Kerr opened the meeting at 7:00 PM

I. Approval of Minutes – Postponed until next meeting

II. Jeff Foote, Department of Public Works

Mr. Foote stated that one of the issues they are facing is seeking an energy supplier for all of the Town buildings. The current provider, Standard Power, will explain some of the processes and happenings in the industry and give an update of what's happening in the market. He introduced Matt Rounds and Ryan Polson.

Mr. Rounds gave a brief overview of Standard Power. They are an energy consulting firm as well as an administrator of hydroelectric in NH. They work with all of the major electricity suppliers and they also work with natural gas and propane. They are a very green company. He showed the current contract they have with the Town of Bedford. He talked about their hydro dams. He explained buying power, rates, capacity costs, and specific cost factors. He talked about the SNHPC Energy Consortium. They answered questions about the school and the school/Town relationship, if demand affects what they charge, solar, batteries, and if they aggregate for residential consumers.

Mr. Foote talked about Public Works 2018 projects:

- LED Street Lighting Project

Mr. Foote stated that the cost was \$47,000. The Town received a rebate for the new fixtures from Eversource for \$16,775.

- HVAC efficiency improvement project at the Safety Complex

Mr. Foote stated that DPW is overseeing the Trane Energy System to improve the HVAC operating system. The project cost would be \$40,000 with a return of investment of 4-5 years. They would like to eliminate waste, such as introducing automation to control building temperature. This will result in reduction of gas and electricity.

- Recycling

Mr. Foote stated that the Town processes about 100 tons of recyclables per month. The unit price for April was \$152.22/ton. They are reviewing some options including removing glass from single stream recycling and: crushing it and use it in Town road construction projects, pay a 3<sup>rd</sup> party vendor to crush it and use it as a cap material at a landfill, or dispose in municipal solid waste.

The Commission brought up some questions/topics for Mr. Foote.

- LED lighting options for sports field / outdoor lighting

Mr. Bandazian would like numbers on how much it would be to convert to LED for all the recreational lighting, such as the sports fields. Mr. Foote said Peter Barbuto, Facilities Manager, could look into that, maybe meet with a vendor. Mr. Lu expressed concern on the cost spent to replace the current lights with LED lights vs. the payoff.

- Are any Town vehicles candidates for the VW settlement (replacement of diesels with electric)

Chairman Kerr asked if there are any town vehicles that qualify for the VW settlement. Mr. Foote said the DPW vehicles we have are newer so they don't meet the criteria for the replacement.

- E-waste collection at transfer station

Mr. Gillis stated that all e-waste like computers and printers are getting thrown in the trash. He suggested looking into companies that will take them away for free or would pay the Town for them. Mr. Foote stated that the Town's current vendor is saving the Town about \$400/month. The amount of e-waste the Town would have to generate in order to make switching to another vendor make sense would have to be a lot.

- Can we get recycling bins at town pool / fields?

Mr. Foote stated that DPW is looking into it. One of the leagues has provided and maintains a trash bin at Swenson Field on Greenfield Parkway. They looked at that as a model to distribute them elsewhere in parks throughout town. The cost is about \$500. DPW is looking at other alternatives for the pool that are cheaper.

- Scrap metal bin at the Transfer Station

Councilor Bandazian mentioned that the scrap metal bin generates revenue and if it was easier to access, maybe residents would use it more. He knows that Jeff and his staff have some ideas. Mr. Foote stated that they've improved the enforcement of materials coming into the Transfer Station. That staff has been good at increasing people's awareness to dispose the metals in the metal bin, and it has shown in increased revenue.

### III. Reports of Members and Committees

#### a. School projects – Bill

Mr. Foote stated that the RFPs are out and they've selected a winner. The ESCO contract, which stands for Energy Service Company, will start after June 30<sup>th</sup> when the new school year budget kicks in. They will do a more substantial survey of the buildings, soup to nuts, and he feels there will be photovoltaic in there. The report will be due in October, then a warrant will be put out for any improvements needed.

#### b. Legislative update – Chris

Mr. Bandazian stated that there are no real surprises or anything different to report. Some bills are in Committees of Conference dealing with disclosure on bills of what's going into renewable energy. That will be reported once a year on the energy bill from Eversource and consumers will pay the cost to provide that information on their bill. Hydro and biomass got a preferred treatment.

#### IV. Old Business

- a. Green Resident Award - Shana – tabled until Shana returns
- b. Green Business Award - Lex social media promotion update

Chairman Kerr and Mr. Joy have been exchanging emails with Shana on the social media promotion and will discuss it more once Shana returns.

- c. Website updates - Chris

Chairman Kerr stated that Dawn is having trouble with the website and has things to update, but can't get access.

- d. Landfill Solar – Legislation impact - Jeff

Mr. Bandazian updated that the legislation has been finalized, now they just need the governor to sign off on it. Mr. Gillis stated that the proposal from PPA that estimated for a megawatt. Mr. Kerr would like to start looking for grants for a consultant to get a real number for the cost of a megawatt of arrays and also a grant for 3 phase power at the Transfer Station. Mr. Gillis stated that because it pushes so much power back into the grid, Eversource has to approve it, costing what he believes is around \$15,000.

Mr. Coder stated that some towns are hiring an energy manager to do the feasibility modeling and to work through some of the hassles dealing with Eversource. Mr. Gillis stated that this typically what you would use consultants for.

Mr. Kerr wanted to know if the cost Mr. Gillis has in his financial model would be enough to sell to the Town Council. Mr. Gillis stated that he would come up with a worksheet.

- e. New Solar Up campaign - Shana – tabled until Shana comes back.
- f. Grants for PV display - Chris

Mr. Bandazian has updated that the request was denied, but the commission will try again next year. Mr. Joy stated that they chose to go to the NH Charitable Foundation, but maybe they could go with the other one for this round. Councilor Bandazian stated that there is the New England Grass Roots Environmental Fund. Mr. Joy stated that he will look at the requirements and start preparing the application.

- g. Recycling bins at town pool/town fields/schools – in the works
- h. Transfer station - Lex and Catherine – update on Spring Cleaning article

Mr. Joy suggested doing a letter to the editor preparing people for the separation of recyclables. If they can show the numbers and if they remove the glass from the recycling how much money the Town would save. Mr. Kerr suggested coordinating that with Jeff Foote. Mr. Kerr thought they needed to have regular communication with the community about what's going on and what it's costing and why they need the community to pitch in and do these things.

- i. Bedford 2020 Master Plan update Representative – volunteers (2) needed

Mr. Bandazian stated that they are selecting a consultant. In a month would be the earliest they would want to have somebody. They will want to solicit input from the public around Labor Day.

- j. Commission Roles

Chairman Kerr put himself on for the solar landfill. He would like the roles to be checked by other commission members before the next meeting.

- k. VW settlement – grants to replace diesel with electric– busses are eligible.

#### V. New business

- a. Electric Vehicle Show June 9 Nashua – Bill C.

Mr. Codor stated that there will be an Electric Vehicle show on June 9<sup>th</sup> from 9-3pm at Rivier University in Nashua. It would be an opportunity to interact with people that have those vehicles.

- b. Energy Plan Webinar from May 11 – Bill C.

Mr. Coder stated that there's a backlog of recorded webinars. The website is called LES (local energy solutions) and he could pass around the link. Mr. Kerr stated that there's a conference every year and it gives great information on energy plans. Mr. Coder stated that the webinars are once a month and the next one will be about a model solar zoning law to facilitate the placement of solar arrays within towns.

- c. Sportsman Field lighting information – Bing L.

There has been talk of replacing Sportsman field with LED but Mr. Lu isn't familiar with the demand charge. Mr. Bandazian stated that the EPA did an update of that and it now keeps track of demand charges. He asked the Eversource source if web services was doing that yet, and he said no, later this year. He could talk to the finance department about getting a copy of the bills. Mr. Lu could create a model to see what the most economical way to start up is and estimate the costs. Mr. Coder wanted to know if they quote they got was to put in new poles and wiring or is it just replacing the key bulb. Mr. Bandazian thought about \$200k, but it includes everything. Mr. Gillis thought they could do a retrofit for cheaper.

VI. Reminders: Next upcoming meeting is June 28

#### VII. Adjournment

**MOTION by Mr. Joy to adjourn at 8:50 PM. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gillis. All in favor – motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted by  
Ashley Schoff