

TOWN OF BEDFORD
August 26, 2021
ENERGY COMMISSION MINUTES

A meeting of the Bedford Energy Commission was held on Thursday, August 26, 2021 in the Town Meeting Room, 10 Meetinghouse Road.

I. Call to Order: Chairman Paradis opened the meeting at 7:00 PM

Present: Tim Paradis (Chair), John Russell (Vice Chair), Bing Lu, Bart Fromuth, Andrew Gillis, Sue Thomas (Town Council Liaison), Lori Radke (Town Council Alternate), Bill Foote (School Board Alternate)

Absent: Chris Bandazian, Tom Elwood, and John Schneller (School Board Liaison)

II. Approval of Minutes

– **July 22, 2021**

MOTION by Mr. Foote to approve the July 22, 2021 minutes. Seconded by Mr. Fromuth. Vote taken – Motion Approved – (Thomas and Fromuth abstained).

IV. Reports of Members and Committees

a. Legislative update (Chris not present)

b. School projects

Mr. Foote stated that they were doing facility improvements on a rolling basis. They've signed up for Demand Response and they were looking to capture as much as \$30k in avoided power costs for the year or over a 5-year period.

Mr. Russell wanted to know about ventilation in the school and that some classrooms weren't ventilated very well. Mr. Foote stated that when they were doing last year's budget, they had no idea what it was going to cost to do ventilation improvements, so it didn't go into the budget. They have budgetary figures for this budget, but that means they wouldn't see actual construction until probably the summer of 2023. As far as the schools go, from what he's been told, based on the fact that the school ventilation is filtered, the air in the classroom can't be any worse than the air outside. Because it's filtered, it's actually better. With it being a very hot day, it would make it uncomfortable, but there is no question of problems. If there were problems, they would have to get after them. He stated that right now they are looking at budgetary figures, there is about \$2.5m worth of improvements across the older schools. Mr. Russell stated that he heard some parents talking and they had asked if they could buy an air purifier and put it in the classroom and they were told no, because of power capacity. Mr. Foote explained that McKelvie was a problem, but

it wasn't now. Riddle Brook had to get an air conditioner that had to be custom wired. It's a lifetime of different maintenance issues that are coming to a head that they couldn't anticipate.

Chairman Paradis wanted to know if any of the schools had air conditioning. Councilor Thomas stated that a couple of rooms in the schools do, but the schools are not air conditioned per se.

V. Old Business

a. Solsmart

Councilor Radke stated that she spoke with both Becky Hebert and Jillian Harris in the Planning Department. Jillian signed the signature sheet, which she will send on to Nick Kasza and she will also be bringing it up at the next Planning Board meeting for their recommendations and review.

b. EV charging stations

Chairman Paradis mentioned that at the last meeting he shared a conversation that he had with the Town of Derry that did the EV charging stations downtown and they said that it ended up being way more costly like the Eagle Tribune article had said. It didn't really bring new people to downtown; it was the same cars staying there and not really walking around downtown or frequenting the businesses. The cost went from a couple hundred dollars a year to a couple thousand dollars a year. He stated that there was a Bedford resident that works in the Public Works and Engineering in Durham and Durham has done a bunch of EV charging stations on their public streets. He wants to reach out to him to check in on that. Chairman Paradis' opinion was except for the Library, there wasn't much the Town could do with EV charging stations on Town property. Beyond that it's privately owned and hopefully business owners would take advantage of it. Chris Bandazian had mentioned that there was some opportunity for some of the VW money to come through 101, because that would be a really good corridor to put some of the fast charging stations. Chris had also said that someone reached out to him and there is also a potential business owner in Town that might be doing some development in Town and might want to connect with the Energy Commission, because they might be doing some EV charging stations as part of their development. He didn't know that the Energy Commission as a group could do much.

Mr. Fromuth thought that if they put up EV charging in an area that is seldom going to be used, it would send your demand charge high. To alleviate, you could hook up to your master meter. For example, if you put one in front of Town Hall and plugged it into the Town Hall master meter, the demand spike wouldn't be an issue, because it's loaded in with everything they are doing there 9-5. He stated that they met with Chris Palmieri from EVBox a four months ago. Unfortunately he's moved on from EVBox and his replacement there is less than stellar in terms of his contacts, follow-up and communication. They might have to look around for someone else to talk to from a different company or see if they can get a different contact at EVBox.

Mr. Gillis thought it would be interesting to have fast charging, because that's the one that's the draw, not a slow one. Tesla puts their chargers wherever they want; they have a set plan where they go, but there is a new thing on their website that says, 'Do you have a business? Do you want a super charger? Call us'. He mentioned that gas stations now have super chargers. The put in a

big battery system, so you're pulling from a big battery instead of the grid. Mr. Fromuth stated that if you get a non-Tesla super charger with a battery component, you're in it for \$70-80k. Mr. Gillis stated that you would have to get a company to do it who is going to make money by doing it.

[Chris Bandazian joined the meeting]

Chairman Paradis stated that he's all in on them and thought it is a great idea and if he had a business in Town maybe he would look at it. His philosophical question was as a group here and talking to the Town Council, what can they do to promote that as an opportunity in Town.

Mr. Fromuth stated that they had two logical areas: the schools and the Town Offices. Those are some areas they could take a look at bringing more people in. Maybe doing a pro forma for them and show whether it's cost effective or not and take a look at the different models. He thought it promotes that discussion. NH has a stated is not necessarily there on the EV infrastructure yet, but it's going to be a big focus.

Mr. Gillis wanted to know how you pick where they go. If there are 5 malls on a couple of miles of 101 and one has the charging stations and the others don't, it could mean more business for that mall. Councilor Thomas thought that's the decision of the owners of those businesses. The Town only has so much Town land. Putting it at the Town offices; there's nothing around the Town Offices. She has talked to Rick (Sawyer) about it he thought maybe a couple of employees would use it, but we don't have a Town center. As far as the schools, she didn't think they would want her who has no kids in the school system driving up and using the charging stations. For what they want to do, she thought it's more promoting it to the gas stations, malls and stores and that it will bring people in, but as far as the Town doing it. Mr. Gillis stated that the money is going to come. There is going to be this big infrastructure bill and there's going to be hundreds of billions of dollars more available from the Federal government, but he assumed the states will have some or may be towns will have some.

Chairman Paradis wanted to know when the money comes in from the government, the Department of Energy accepts it, if it was in the Town's purview to be able to go request some of that money. Councilor Thomas stated that's how it works and she gave some examples of some grants that the Town did recently. Any money that is allocated to Bedford, Bedford does go after and there are parameters that come with the money.

Mr. Russell how they could get involved and mentioned that they could promote and wanted to know if they could use that money for promotion. Councilor Thomas stated that they would have to see what's available. Mr. Fromuth stated that even a low level by talking about it and having guests come, people see it on TV and it garners some interest. Chairman Paradis liked the idea of promoting. Mr. Lu thought if people see it like at the Library rather than just talking about it, it will draw interest. Maybe they don't need a super charger; maybe just a slow charger and then it won't cost so much. Mr. Gillis stated that Tesla will pay to put one in. They could have one put it at the Library. Mr. Foote thought they would have to develop a business case for it, because they don't just plop them anywhere. Mr. Gillis gave an example like I have a business and this many people come through here every day; they justify it. It costs an electrician about \$5k to run a conduit and then you have to pay for the electricity that's used. Councilor Thomas gave an example

of someone saying why I would pay for the electricity for your car; you're not paying for my gas. She thought that's the type of argument they would hear, and how do they justify it. Chairman Paradis mentioned the Tesla ones and could the Town charge people to use them. Mr. Gillis stated that now they are back to the EVBox where they get a cut and the Town gets a cut. With the Tesla one, Tesla will pay to install it, but then you have to pay for it. They will come up with a billing model at some point where you could charge people to use it, but that doesn't exist now. They are going to open all of the super chargers to all the cars, because you can't get Federal money to build chargers if they are only for one car.

Chairman Paradis wanted to know where they go next with the EV discussion like do they talk about the Library, looking for things promoting it. Mr. Gillis thought they should try to figure out how to get a small charger at the Library that is on one of the networks that you have to pay for. Whatever the electricity costs, the Town will get the money for it, so it doesn't cost anything. It might even generate a small amount of revenue. A lot of people go to the Library and they are going to spend ½hour to 1 hour there, so they are going to get a decent amount of charge. Mr. Fromuth wanted to know in terms of moving the conversation along, they started looking at fleet upgrades, because eventually that's going to come along as well. If Bedford eventually turns to electric vehicles for themselves, then they've necessitated the need for more charging in Town. Mr. Gillis stated that in some towns now they get a Tesla for a police car, because they are faster and cheaper for maintenance, so now all the public safety complexes are starting to have chargers, because they are using them for their Tesla police cars. There several cases on line where you can download the data from towns that are two or three years into Tesla police cars. It's half the cost of fuel and half the maintenance cost. Mr. Bandazian mentioned that Ipswich, Mass. has them and Wolfboro. Mr. Gillis stated that you don't even need a Federal grant, because it pays for itself back in like two years. Because police cars are driving constantly, the payback is really fast. Councilor Thomas thought that's probably where the fleets will go. The problem is anything with a payback, you have to pay for it, which goes into the budget, which means people have to go and vote for the budget. She knows the police and fire are in a rotation and they have a schedule. Mr. Gillis stated that they don't have to switch over all at once, they wait until one is done then get rid of that one and then get a Tesla. Mr. Fromuth stated that they are trying to bull their way through. They are just saying the next conversation they have in terms of this progression of this conversation is bringing in a fleet management company to talk to them about their experience in Ipswich or some other community that has made this change and they are information gathering. Mr. Gillis stated that the pick-up trucks and bigger vehicles will all be electric, but it's going to take a while longer. You can buy a Tesla police car now. That's one of the first things that people are doing as a town. They have trash trucks, but they cost millions of dollars. He thought the school busses are a really cool one, because they don't drive very far in a day, so they don't need very big batteries like a bus that was driving to Boston every day. Mr. Foote stated that their school busses are used heavily, because it's not just one route; it's four routes a day. Mr. Gillis stated that there is a few hours in between, so they can recharge and keep going. Mr. Foote they would need an extensive charging facility. Mr. Gillis stated that there is money available to pay for all of that, to pay for the infrastructure, to pay for the busses. Mr. Russell thought the maintenance of those busses is significant and that would drive their conversation a little better. Mr. Foote thought the first hurdle was getting one and using it and experimenting with it. See how it does in the cold weather. It was mentioned that they don't own them; they use an outside contractor for the school busses. Mr. Gillis stated that most of the towns that are doing it, as a town, have been filing for

the Federal money and then buying the busses. It's trickier when there is a 3rd party involved. Mr. Foote mentioned incenting them to experiment.

c. Transfer Station

i. Congressionally directed spending discussion

Mr. Bandazian stated that Eversource has continually moved the goal post for bringing 3-phase power to the Transfer Station. When it was first asked, it was a \$300k expense, but when they submitted their Congressional direct funding it was \$1.5m. They've got support for \$.5m in funding to bring 3-phase power through that program, but Eversource raised the price \$.5m. They've made it something that's not viable financially looking at the useful life of what could be generated at the landfill given that cost. There are collateral benefits, which is one of the reasons why they got Senator Shaheen's support for that, which are they can stop having a backhoe compress trash, which consumes diesel fuel and is not intended for that. It also requires a trained heavy equipment operator to do what a 3-phase power piece of equipment can do to compact trash. Mr. Gillis wanted to know if they could hire a private contractor to do that and turn the lines over. That's what you do when you are building a neighborhood. Mr. Bandazian responded that they want to know where your power going to go. Mr. Gillis wanted to know if they thought there were other things that needed to be upgraded and that's how they are justifying it. Mr. Bandazian didn't know if that was true or not. They've been good partners up until now. They've moved the goal post so far that it's not realistic to do it. Mr. Foote stated that they've been talking about this for 10 years. Mr. Gillis stated that it was \$100k back then. Councilor Thomas stated that it's \$1.5m to bring 3-phase power to the site, and then it is \$.5m for the funding; it's \$2m. Mr. Bandazian stated that it used to be \$1.5m and then they had \$.5m in funding, then Eversource raised the price from \$1.5m to \$2m, so it basically wipes out the funding. The question is, is there a Plan B, and he thought there can be a Plan B. There are modules like shipping containers, utility scale battery storage for sites like this that are so far off the grid that you can generate power and use battery storage. There are even those things with EV charging, so it would be very easy to make a little paved pad, use the power, massage it so you can do trash compactors and charge and EV fleet. Mr. Gillis stated that one of the things that he brought up the last time was the Riddle Brook has 3-phase power, so he wanted to know why they don't pay their own private contractor to run a line through the woods. They could run it underground and it would still be cheaper than that. Run it up to Riddle Brook and hook it into their panel. Mr. Bandazian stated that they have a wetlands crossing, so they would be talking about that for several years. Mr. Lu wanted to know how much power they were talking about and Mr. Bandazian stated a little over 1 megawatt, although developed to its full capability it might be 2. Mr. Foote stated that that was going to enable solar installation at the dump site. Mr. Gillis stated that they have enough room for 2 – 3 megawatts, so they would have solar, 3-phase, and they could also have trash compactors and much better and cheaper equipment at the Transfer Station and the Town garage would have 3-phase too.

Chairman Paradis mentioned repurposing the \$500k grant to something related. Mr. Bandazian stated that there were a couple of moving parts, one of which there has to be support for migrating the vehicle fleet to EV's. He mentioned that 1.5 years ago the police Ford interceptors were leased, so it's not upfront money. When you take the maintenance cost into consideration, he didn't think the tax impact was going to be much different than getting an internal combustion Ford and

maintaining it. He thought the upfront costs would be pretty similar. A number of department heads would have to be on board with that: Public Works, Police, and Town Manager. He thought the next thing to do would be to go talk to the whole Town Council. He would hate to walk away from \$.5m, which is what they are about to do. Councilor Radke wanted to know if the money could be repurposed. Mr. Bandazian thought it takes some political capital to do that, but thought it could be done. Mr. Gillis stated that they could change it to the charging infrastructure. If you are leasing vehicles whether a Tesla or a Ford Interceptor, it's probably the same, but you still need to put in the charging infrastructure. He thought for \$500k you could put charging infrastructure at the public safety garage and at the police station. Mr. Bandazian thought \$500k was more than enough to do the modular utility battery storage. They have that and they have the other small projects, so he thought it was probably time to talk to the Council as a whole. Councilor Radke thought they should do a presentation. Mr. Bandazian stated that he would be seeing Dave Gilbert in the morning, so he will ask him if he could put them on the agenda. Mr. Lu wanted to know if the battery could be an energy buffer, so the solar panel is stored in the battery and then dumping back at night, so you might not even need 3-phase. Mr. Bandazian stated that this is to eliminate that cost and take Eversource's utility bill out of the picture too, so they wouldn't need them.

Councilor Thomas mentioned that it is budget season very soon and Councilor Radke stated that she is the liaison for Public works and Kelleigh Murphy is the budget liaison for the Police.

d. Municipal Aggregation Cost Analysis and Presentation

i. Discuss with members around the idea of Chair and Vice-Chair presenting to TC to setup a sub-committee to investigate further

Chairman Paradis mentioned the municipal aggregation presentation at their last meeting and how they talked about getting some time on the Town Council agenda to ask the Town Council to set up a subcommittee to get an MOU and actually go through and do the specific stuff with the Town Council's blessing. He mentioned that Dave Gilbert stated that he would be the person to appoint the subcommittee. Councilor Radke stated that in Hollis the Energy Commission went before the Select Board and did a wonderful presentation, they put something on the website and now they are going to get comments from the public. Then they are going to go back to the Select Board after a month or 2 and ask if they want to put a warrant article in, because there needs to be a warrant article to be voted on at Town Meeting. It's quite involved and she suggested that they do a presentation to the Council. She didn't think the Council knew a lot about aggregation. Both Councilor Radke and Councilor Thomas thought the hurdle would be that everyone is opted in, but then those that don't want to participate have to 'opt out'. Mr. Gillis stated that the important thing is that everyone is going at a lower rate than they are paying now. Councilor Radke thought that was the point that they had to sell. Councilor Thomas mentioned a podcast about municipal aggregation and suggested that they get on the Town Council agenda and do a similar presentation teaching the Council what it's about and also let the Council know they need a committee to look into this. She mentioned that she brought it up at the last Council meeting and thought the Council would be interested in hearing what it entails. She knows the 'opt out' is a hurdle, but it's not a hurdle you can't get over. They just need to get out there and explain it.

Chairman Paradis mentioned that in Hollis, the Energy Commission was taking on the role in town to either promote or not promote community power. He stated that in a conversation he had with Dave (Gilbert), Dave's thought was that if Bedford looked at community power, it wouldn't be the Energy Commission that would be partnering with whomever company they would partner with them to do it. He agreed with Councilor Thomas's suggestion to do a brief presentation saying this is a worthwhile endeavor to see if they want to do it and ask to set up a subcommittee. Councilor Thomas stated that they should ask the Council to set up a subcommittee to include a couple of Energy Commission members. She thought that was the next step. The subcommittee would look at what other companies do, the pros and cons, and then figure out what the process is to get it to the point where if you are going to put it on a warrant article you want to have a pretty good idea it's going to pass. The education needs to be done before that. Councilor Radke mentioned that there were already seven towns that are doing it and would get them the list. Chairman Paradis agreed that the subcommittee should be set up first.

MOTION by Mr. Russell that they go to the Town Council asking to set up a subcommittee and making a presentation. Seconded by Mr. Foote. Vote taken – All in favor.

Mr. Foote questioned if Chairman Paradis was going to do it. Chairman Paradis stated that he would be happy to do it, but didn't know if he was the most knowledgeable and best person to do it. Mr. Fromuth thought there might be a conflict if he did it, because his company is doing it for Londonderry and would love to do it for Bedford.

Mr. Fromuth stated that they signed Londonderry in 2019 and asked Eversource for all of the customer level data and were told that they needed a permission slip from every customer in town, which totally shot the process down completely. They ended up taking their fight to the PUC trying to work through the rules process and that went absolutely nowhere. Then they created the Department of Energy, so they had to take their fight back to the Legislature and they were able to get some good bi-partisan buy-in on handling that at the Legislative level. The latest wrinkle, which is a continuation of the issues created by the new Department of Energy, is the fact that 'purchase of receivables' (POR) is a new program that was instituted under HB315. That is a case where the utility is in the best position to collect receipts from customers, because they have the ability to turn on and off the power. Now that they have 'purchase of receivables' (POR) as of today with the Governor signing HB315, but the problem is they have to promulgate rules surrounding that and that is probably going to take a year, which is extremely unfortunate. No one is going to serve a community without that in place, because that means there is another layer of cost that would have to be put on to the customers absent that program. It also means that communities like Claremont or Berlin would likely not get serviced, because they have a higher default rate than communities like Hollis or Bedford. There is a lot of fairness and equity at play in those arguments as well. They are probably looking at a long time to get the POR up and running, which would then actually enable what the law already says they can do, so they have time to talk to people. He explained that in Bedford they have that one window in March and if they miss that deadline to have the warrant article up and running, talk to the community about it and get people on board, and if they miss that for this coming March, which they likely will, they are now into March of 2024 by the time they can even get that taken up. Mr. Foote thought that 2024 was the earliest they could do it anyway. Mr. Fromuth stated that there is no way he thought it would be

practical for them to think they could get it up and running by 2023. Mr. Foote wanted to know if they still wanted to present to the Town Council if it was a 2-year project or wait until next year. Councilor Thomas thought they should and thought that it's better to get the committee in place and get going, Mr. Foote didn't think there was any place for them to go and wanted to know if Hollis was presenting a warrant. Councilor Radke stated that they don't know that yet. It was just an initial presentation, an introduction. Councilor Thomas stated that the subcommittee is going to have to talk to companies, and come up with a plan to educate the community. There's a lot that would need to be done, so when it did hit a warrant article, people would know what it's about. She didn't think it was too early to set up a subcommittee. It might be slow in the beginning what they are doing, but didn't think it would be too soon to do it. Chairman Paradis agreed.

Chairman Paradis wanted to know from Councilor Thomas and Councilor Radke when would be the right time, because they are getting into budget season. He wanted to know when they should get on the Town Council agenda. Councilor Radke wanted to know if it required a budget action item, and Chairman Paradis responded no, he meant that she and Councilor Thomas were going to be busy with the budget. Mr. Bandazian stated that they budget is presented in October, so this is a good window. Councilor Thomas thought September would be the best time. Councilor Radke stated that there were two meetings in September. Councilor Thomas stated the 8th and then two weeks after. They would have to ask Dave (Gilbert) and he would put it on the agenda. Chairman Paradis didn't think that Mr. Fromuth should be the spokesperson, because his company should have the opportunity to bid and not have any conflicts. He would be happy to be a cheerleader, but didn't know that he could be much more than that on the technical side. Councilor Radke wanted to know if she should ask the person who did the one in Hollis to do it. Mr. Russell thought that was a great idea. Councilor Radke stated that she would send the deck around to the Commission. She already sent them a 2-page information document that explains everything that Hollis is going to be posting on their website. Councilor Thomas thought that considering they are just asking the Council to set up a subcommittee to look into this and not commit to anything at this point, she thought it would be approved. The Council just needs a good understanding of what road they are starting to go down with no commitments. Mr. Fromuth stated that his partners Mark and Stu were supposed to come and present in September, but if everyone feels that they have a pretty good overview, it might seem a bit redundant to have that presentation. He wanted to know if they should wait until the subcommittee is formed and have them present to the subcommittee instead. Chairman Paradis stated that that's why he wants to the subcommittee, because third parties are talking to the Energy Commission, but they aren't the ones that are ultimately going to make any decisions. The best thing is to ask the subcommittee who is empowered potentially make those decisions through the Town Council. He thought it would be redundant and they should wait until they get a subcommittee before they present.

Mr. Bandazian wanted to know what they would recommend to the Council for subcommittee members and thought it should be an odd number. Councilor Thomas stated that they definitely want one or two from the Energy Commission, because it's going to be a subcommittee of the Energy Commission. Councilor Radke suggested a Council liaison. Mr. Bandazian thought some members of the public as well. Councilor Thomas didn't think they wanted it bigger than five.

e. Town Pool PV Shade/Shelter

Mr. Bandazian thought was one of the things they just talked about and what direction they want to go, because it's ready to put the RFP out.

f. Public Works Highway Garage PV Vehicle Port/Shelter(s)

The Public Works garage roof needs to be redone. Hopefully it will be in the next year's budget and it will be ready to happen.

III. New Business

Mr. Gillis stated that they were discussing a program where Eversource can take over some of your equipment when they need to for Connected Solutions. He stated that in MA, if you have a battery system, you can join Connected Solutions and they can take over your battery on a day like today and run a few other things in the neighborhood. He has the battery now, so he went to join and they set it all up and they were just about ready to go and then Eversource said the PUC won't approve it, so we'll call you when that happens. It disappeared, but the website still says that NH people can sign up for the program. The website for it is getting bigger and they are adding more stuff on it and it still says 'If you live in NH, sign up here'. He didn't know if anybody had any information about that. Mr. Fromuth stated that it's just another thing that's held up by the PUC/DOE overhaul. All sorts of stuff is not getting approved, the dockets aren't moving forward. Mr. Gillis stated that they will give you \$1,400 a summer to use your battery 6-8 times for a couple of hours and it's a 5-year contract. They'll agree to pay you \$1,400 every summer for five years.

Mr. Fromuth stated that as part of HB315, the Governor raised the net metering to 5 megawatts for municipalities. That will be fundamental to their conversations about Bedford and sustainability and becoming either a direct participant or virtual offtaker. There's a lot of opportunity there for both the Town and the School District.

Chairman Paradis mentioned back when they were ready to go with something at the Transfer Station, but the net group metering didn't pass. Mr. Gillis explained that to have a large scale solar array, you need to need some pretty beefy power and Eversource apparently doesn't want to run them the power. Mr. Fromuth stated that that would limit them on their physically net metering capability, but they have the ability for all sorts of over 1 megawatt producers, under 5 megawatt producers that are already in existence at the time of the bill signing. Mr. Gillis stated that they could buy the power. Mr. Fromuth stated that they don't have to buy the power, they just become the virtual offtaker; they give them rebate money and he explained how that would work. Mr. Bandazian stated that they had a company willing to pay \$800k in 2018 to lease the capped landfill subject to increasing the net metering limit, which didn't happen.

Chairman Paradis mentioned Bart's point about existing structures wanted to know if the Town needed to do anything. Mr. Fromuth stated that they should definitely start taking a look at who's out there for hydro providers and solar providers that are looking for virtual offtakers, because it's essentially free money for doing nothing. Mr. Gillis wanted to know if they already had consultants that do that already. Mr. Foote stated that the School side does. He stated that it was cheaper for them not to use the hydro. Mr. Fromuth thought the School District uses Access and he didn't think they had any in-state assets. Mr. Foote stated that someone approached them for hydro and

the price was higher from what they are using now. Mr. Fromuth stated that technically they aren't buying the hydro; you're still buying from Constellation or EDF. He explained how it works and that there's going to be a lot more availability now that it's been raised to 5 megawatts.

Chairman Paradis wanted to know if that's something that Standard Power, as the Town's energy consultant, would be doing for them. Mr. Fromuth stated that they have access to hydro facilities. The School District uses Access and they don't have any of those features. Mr. Foote stated that he would inquire. Mr. Fromuth stated that Freedom has them too. Chairman Paradis wanted to know what the next step would be. Mr. Fromuth stated that in the best interest for the Town, they are already working with Standard Power, he suggested giving them a call and say this just passed up to 5 megawatts, what do you have for additional capacity that they can take on as a virtual offtaker; instant money for the Town. He stated that if they wanted to go to the next level and wanted to build their own array in Town, the generation asset has to be within the municipal limits. They've got the issue that the best area not being cost effective as of right now. They talked about a small piece of land off the Heritage Trail that's next to the substation. Mr. Foote stated that the School has roof area, but didn't think they had much land area.

Chairman Paradis wanted to know if recycling at the Transfer Station was still cheaper than municipal waste and the response was yes. Councilor Thomas stated that they were going to start composting. They have bins for people to put the food into and then they will move it to the back and compost it there. Mr. Foote questioned if they had enough room to do that and Councilor Thomas stated that Jeff Foote did a whole presentation at the last Council meeting. Councilor Radke added that they've cleared a lot of the area in the back. Councilor Radke stated that the goal was to get this up and running, because it will help with the tipping charges. The weight of food is very heavy. They are going to use the composting to fertilize the fields.

Mr. Russell had the data and stated that the standard waste was \$74.89 per ton and recycling is \$48.61 and glass is \$58.04.

IV. The next meeting September 23, 2021

V. Adjournment

MOTION by Mr. Foote to adjourn by at 8:18 pm. Seconded by Mr. Russell. Vote taken – All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by,

Dawn Boufford