

FINAL

LEBANON ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2019
WEST MEETING ROOM – CITY HALL
4:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Clifton Below (Chair), Greg Ames, Meghan Butts, Johnathan Chaffee, Joan Monroe (Planning Board Rep), Peter Beardsley (Alt.)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Karen Hill (Alt. Council Rep.), Gene Homicki (Alt.), Woody Rothe,

STAFF PRESENT: Tad Montgomery (Energy & Facilities Manager)

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chair Below called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM.

- Chair Below appointed Peter Beardsley to sit in as a regular member of the Committee in Woody Rothe's absence.
- The Committee welcomed Ms. Joan Monroe as the new Planning Board representative.
- The Committee welcomed Mr. Evan Oxenham as a guest from the Plainfield Energy Committee.

2. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES: August 15, 2019

Amendments:

Page 1, line 34: Recommendation EV Subcommittee Motions were added to the August 15, 2019 Final Minutes, as sent from Mr. Ames; Page 2, Line 29: LGO GHG was spelled out- (Local Government Operations Green House Gas); Page 2, line 47: Replace "generates" with "could generate"

Mr. Peter Beardsley MOVED to approve the August 15, 2019 minutes as amended.

Seconded by Mr. Greg Ames.

***The Vote on the MOTION passed (5-0-1). Ms. Monroe abstained because she was not a member of the Committee at the time of the August 15, 2019 meeting.**

3. BRIEF UPDATES

A. State Legislation

Chair Below gave updates on the following:

- All energy related vetoes have been sustained.
- SB-307: Outdoor lighting bill. This bill was vetoed but an LSR will be submitted by a House Representative to re-introduce this same bill.
- SB-13: Dealing with Net Metering and enabling direct producer to consumer sales from up to 5 Mega Watt Power Plants outside of Net Metering. The Senate will need to take this up this fall and will be voting on it after the first of the year (2020), so it can get to the Governor by March (2020). It is very clear that anything the Governor vetoes will be sustained.
- Two items of Legislative Interest:
 - Third party Power Purchase Agreement for Solar that could, if it was owned by the property owner, qualify for the local property tax exemption.
 - Purchasing of Receivables as it pertains to Municipalities and the recovery of bad debt. Chair Below explained the concepts on how this would work.

There was consensus that the Committee pursue backing legislation on the above two points.

B. EV Subcommittee

Ms. Butts said this group has not met since LEAC's last meeting.

Mr. Montgomery gave updates on the EV Symposium; talks with the DES (Department of Environmental Services) regarding the OSI Grant; talks GMP (Green Mountain Power) regarding their rate structure; Lebanon's Streetlight Project; Lebanon's Municipal Aggregation; and email communications with ChargePoint. In his Energy & Facilities Managers Report he noted that ChargePoint called to say SunCommon has offered to own and operate the DC Fast Chargers behind City Hall and would have discounted rates for their solar customers.

Chair Below would like the EV Subcommittee to put together a presentation for the City Council that includes the pros/cons of EV Charging Stations in the City; potential locations of EV Charging Stations in the City; private ownership of EV Charging Stations; the potential financial risk for the City of incurring expenses not budgeted for; and if there is a public policy that covers this.

The Committee also discussed fast chargers and if the City should be involved with fast charging stations. Mr. Ames described the business model that Tesla used in the Price Chopper parking lot for the benefit of Ms. Monroe. Further discussions took place regarding the economic value of EV Charging Stations and what the estimated cost to the City would be (Mr. Evan Oxenham's estimate was \$800 month/\$10K per year); what consumers would pay; and potential costs for the installation of EV Charging Stations. Chair Below noted that Liberty Utilities is not committed to doing any infrastructure improvements that would support fast charge stations, but would be happy to discuss locations that might not need any upgrades for these.

Mr. Montgomery and Mr. Greg Ames will work on the City Council presentation. Ms. Butts will send out an email to schedule the EV Subcommittee meeting.

C. City Solar – Mr. Montgomery reported on the following:

- Two-page summaries for each array are available in the SharePoint Solar Folder.
- City Hall Solar has been removed from the Phase 1 list due to roof repairs not scheduled to be complete before mid-December.
- The City and attorneys are reviewing the final PPA documents, adjusted for the loss of the City Hall project.
- The DPW Maintenance Garage has major leaks. He has a roofer coming tomorrow (Sept. 20) to do an assessment of the roof and two others will follow. Repairs are needed ASAP. This is the second largest of all seven (7) arrays.
- We are still hoping to get an additional tracker array built at the airport this year. ReVision has said this could still get rolled into the 2019 City Hall project to capture the full federal tax credits if it is bundled with a 200 kW array at the airport. This needs to come together by the end of October.

D. LED Streetlight Conversion Project

Mr. Montgomery said he has been revising and writing the three streetlight RFP's: 1) Luminaires, 2) Controls, 3) Installation.

Chair Below said the critical item is the proposed special contract with Liberty Utilities and explained the details of the proposed language that needs to be revised, noting that if the PUC approves the use of the integral review grade metering for streetlights, this language would be used for determining kW hour charges. Alternatively, if the City has a trim level, they would have transparency in setting the kW hours based on the City's trim level. He explained what the trim level was for LED street lighting. Filing with the PUC will take 1-2 months. Installation estimate is in the spring of 2020.

E. Lebanon Community Power: Chair Below

The Aggregation Committee has met a couple of times since the last LEAC meeting. There are now two components with Lebanon Community Power, which are the Opt-out Option and the Opt-In real time pricing pilot. He also spoke about getting customers back to real-time pricing, which was approved conceptually by the PUC as a Pilot. Liberty Utilities agreed that for this Pilot, Lebanon should have interval meters that they can read from on a daily basis. In conjunction with the LED Street lighting Tariff, vendors should specifically ask for communication systems that can be used for the interval meters that will be used in the Pilot. The new law states that Municipal Aggregation can do their own metering and can own their own meters secondary to the utilities or they can jointly own the meters. There is at least one vendor who responded to the RFI with a product that is a much better product than Itron, and has a much lower cost, and their systems have been fully integrated so one system does it all. This vendor would also make it easy for companies like Liberty Utilities to be able to phase their product in and/or add it to their existing meter data/billing management system. This is where the RFP needs to be framed in the right way, but buy-ins from Liberty Utilities and or PUC staff are needed.

4. ENERGY & FACILITIES MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Montgomery handed out his full report to the Committee at the beginning of the meeting. This was not made available in the agenda packet. His report included the details he has been working on such as Building Energy; Solar; Landfill Gas to Energy; Municipal Aggregation; Streetlight, Electric Vehicles, Misc.; and Upcoming Events.

Mr. Montgomery attended the NH Municipal Clean Energy Roundtable that CLF (Conservation Law Foundation) put together. This is made up of municipalities who have explicitly made commitments to reducing greenhouse gases and/or renewable energy.

Mr. Montgomery will be meeting with Jim Brennan of the OCA to discuss his SB-284 to make utility data available in a form that will be necessary and helpful for the City in rolling out Lebanon Community Power (LCP). Chair Below explained the directive to the PUC in SB 284 regarding sharing a common platform.

A brochure for Lebanon Community Power was handed out for the Committee's review.

5. Update on PUC Proceedings – Chair Below:

- DE 16-576, Net Metering & RTP Pilot: How to move forward with grid modernization. PUC Staff reiterated that short of waiting for full grid modernization plans, they thought it worthwhile to move forward with time varying rate pilots with utilities. Issues involved with signing off on Tesla Batteries were also discussed (e.g., Cyber Security).
- PUC 900 Rules, re: Net Metering: The PUC has not revised these rules for many years. In the DE 16-576, where net metering rates were approved, they are finally getting around to updating the rules. The PUC has issued an initial proposal and another stakeholder work session will be held. Chair Below will be following this closely.
- DE 19-064, Liberty Utilities Distribution Rates: Chair Below is doing some discovery on this, both with regards to street lighting and metering, noting that new information has come to light. The discovery process is being completed and he will be filing testimony.

- IR 15-296, Grid Modernization: The City Council consented having Chair Below represent the City in in this proceeding.
- DE 19-120, Liberty Utilities Least Cost Integrated Resource Plan: The City Council consented having Chair Below represent the City in in this proceeding.

6. REPORTS & NOTICES of energy related Conferences, Webinars, & Events

Mr. Ames updated the Committee on the EV Event that took place on Saturday, September 14, 2019, noting this was a well-attended event.

Upcoming Events from Mr. Montgomery:

9/24/19: Sustainable Lebanon; 1st Congregational Church; 6:30-8 PM.

9/24/19: Aggregation Subcommittee Meeting; 4:30-6:00 PM. Location TBA.

9/26/19: Mr. Montgomery and Chair Below to present Lebanon Community Power to the Lebanon Rotary; Harvest Hill Dwinell Room; 7 PM.

9/27/19: Bi-State EV Connector; Hypertherm; 9AM – 3 PM.

10/3/19: Dartmouth Energy Lunch, Denmark Trip; 12-1PM

10/17/19: Energy Advocacy Council has scheduled a Landlord Energy Workshop; Hartford Town Hall; 8:30 AM to noon.

Ms. Butts updated the Committee on the following:

- Upper Valley Adaptation Work Group will be hosting a Climate Leadership Academy which will be held at City Hall.
- At the UVLSRPC Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting it was noted that the DERA (Diesel Emission Reduction Act Grant Program) is back and an application process will open in October.
- For the CMAQ (Congestion Management Air Quality) grant application there is about \$1 million difference between the applications and the actual funding. The last word was they were going to recommend funding for all available projects.

7. OTHER & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: None

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: None

9. NEXT MEETING DATE: Thursday, October 17, 2019

10. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Greg Ames MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 5:58 PM.

Seconded by Ms. Meghan Butts.

****The Vote on the MOTION passed unanimously (6-0).***

The meeting was adjourned at 5:58 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dona E. Gibson

Recording Secretary