

DRAFT
Hartford Energy Commission minutes
October, 25, 2018
Town Hall, 171 Bridge St, WRJ

Present: Niki Thran, Lynn Bohi, Martha McDaniel, Ryan Scelza, Peg Allen, Fred Randall; Alan Johnson, Selectboard liaison; Lori Hirshfield, Staff

Martha called the meeting to order at 6:30.

Agenda Changes:

Lori was moved to the beginning of the agenda so that she could return to other work.

Budget for FY 20:

There will be a separate section for energy in the budget with the heading 626. The HEC discussed the following budget needs:

- Money should again be requested to attend the VECAN conference, and additional funding should be requested to attend the REV conference. In addition, the Town should consider becoming a REV member, because it can be a good economic development tool to bring new businesses to town.
- Funding for building energy audits have been moved to department budgets.
- The generator for the Public Safety Building may be a good candidate for replacement with batteries.
- The Energy Chapter Work Group has discussed creating a revolving loan fund to help fund energy upgrades for Hartford residents. The Selectboard is discussing a loan program for affordable housing. A thought was to develop an information sheet about housing loans and energy saving programs. The problem is programs change quickly.
- Currently, energy savings are being tracked by Geoff. In the future, departments could take the savings from energy-related projects and put the money into other energy projects. The plan is to have a yearly report on savings achieved from energy reduction.
- There should be funding requested for contract services and for legal fees.
- In addition, the HEC needs funding for general supplies, including paper for inserts in water bills, postage, and advertising in the Valley News.

In addition to budget, the group also discussed the following topics:

- The Energy Chapter Work Group has been considering requiring new buildings be built to net-zero standards. This may be possible, but how it could be implemented is unclear and needs to be researched. Lori mentioned it might be possible for HEC to get a planning grant to look into this, and this could be included in next year's budget.
- Maybe VECAN or VPIRG interns could be persuaded to develop lists of resources for energy grants or affordable housing agencies.

- HEC would like to have Geoff's list of energy savings over the past year. The savings should be tracked throughout the life of the project.
- Mini park and rides are being discussed and may need legal services. Niki has seen a "bike parklet". It is for rideshare bikes to drop off and pick up. This is similar to the scooter-sharing programs that some cities are implementing.

Municipal energy projects:

Wilder Well Solar: The Town is continuing to work with Norwich Technologies on siting. A contract probably will be signed within a week.

South Main Street Charging Station: The station was activated Wednesday, October 24. The next step will be to order the signage and complete the striping.

Electric Vehicle Charging Station RFP: The Town has an RFP out for charging station companies to use VW settlement money to install charging stations on Town property. Responses are due at the end of October. Both level 2 and 3 stations are requested.

Electric Car for Town Manager: November 6th is the deadline for responses to the RFP. Both purchase and lease options are being considered.

Public Safety Ventilation Project: Geoff is working with Chief Kasten to get quotes.

Bugbee Senior Center: All items from the audit are included in the budget.

Telematics: Department heads are looking at the data. There is some behavioral change. The departments are working on this as a team effort and working together to reduce energy usage.

Minutes:

Two typos were noted. Peg moved and Ryan seconded that the September minutes pass as amended. The motion passed.

Trunk or Treat:

HEC will use Alan's car as the coffin. Geoff has the paper hand outs and capes for vampires. Niki will pick up a large quantity of candy.

Thank You to Leo:

Martha asked if HEC wanted to write a note to Leo, and the HEC agreed they would like to. Lynn will draft and email to Commissioners to edit.

Chamber of Commerce:

PJ Skeehan, Executive Director of the Chamber, would like to host a program providing businesses with information on how to save energy and what funding sources are available for them to make

improvements. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 14 at CCV from 8:00 to 9:30am. He is also inviting realtors, landlords, and Vital Communities to participate. PJ has invited Andrew Pearce to speak, and will reach out to others who have had success in saving energy at their businesses. He may also show the video from 3E thermal. Ben Doyle from USDA may also be invited.

Railroad Car:

Niki and Geoff went to see and ride some of the Budd cars owned by All Earth Renewables. Lynn had ridden it previously. A Budd car is a self propelled passenger car. The hope is to use them as an option for commuters. The routes are still unclear at this point.

Advance Transit (AT):

There is a meeting November 27 at 8:30am at Lebanon City Hall to discuss potentially increasing AT's hours of service and adding weekend hours.

The meeting adjourned at 8:14.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Bohi, Clerk