

ENERGY COMMITTEE
April 21, 2021
Via Zoom
Regular Meeting Minutes

Members Present via ZOOM:

Chairman Chris Ehlert, Darlene Briggs, Lesley Wysocki, Bill Fredrickson, Gary Gavigan and Jill Brainerd.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ehlert at 4:32 p.m.

Potential Solar Array at Mulvey Municipal Center – Presentation:

Matt Menard from Prism Energy Services was present and stated that he has been working with Jill Brainerd and John Riggio regarding the Mulvey Municipal Center. Mr. Menard gave the background of the company and that they are currently contracted with the State of Connecticut. At this time, he is still in the first state of the assessment and he discussed the roof-top units that need to be replaced, asphalt versus metal roof, solar panels, addition of a car port for the police fleet with solar panels. His company will be involved in the project from beginning to end. Mr. Menard also stated that the control systems in the building are very antiquated. He did an analysis of the utility bills for the building and has gathered a lot of data. He stated that the replacement of the 5 roof-top units would probably cost about \$285,000. The annual savings will not be huge, but would be approximately \$8,500 per year. There will also be utility incentives available. By putting solar panels on the building the end goal is to become net zero. The solar panel would come with a 25 year warranty. The project would most likely be financed. Another item discussed was to put charging stations on the new car port down the road if the police vehicles ever go electric. There would be battery storage that can be utilized after sundown. Mr. Menard stated that an audit and proposal for this project would take approximately 4 to 6 weeks to complete. There was discussion regarding the next ZREC Auction, which should be in May. The town could take advantage of this through the application process.

There was discussion by the Board Members of how they would like to proceed and if the Town should go out to bid. Lesley Wysocki stated that their company is already on the State of Connecticut's Bid List so if we would like to use this company, we do not have to go out to bid. We need to confirm that the new roof can handle the load of the solar panels.

Jill Brainerd stated that she is already in the process of replacing 2 of the 5 roof-top units because they really need to be as soon as possible. It was stated that all 5 units should be replaced prior to the roof being replaced.

It was stated that \$50,000 is available in the 2021/2022 budget for the upgrade of efficiency lighting for the Mulvey Center if the budget passes.

Upon a motion by Gary Gavigan, seconded by Darlene Briggs, it was:

VOTED: Unanimously to obtain additional information from Prism regarding ZREC and request a tighter cost alignment for the Mulvey Solar Project.

Approval of Minutes: March 17, 2021:

Upon a motion by Lesley Wysocki, seconded by Jill Brainerd, it was:

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the March 17, 2021, as distributed. (Darlene Briggs abstained)

Virtual Net-Metering Results to date:

Lesley Wysocki stated that she will not receive the necessary data to give a report until the end of the week. Once she receives the data, she will email it to all the members for their review. Chairman Ehlert stated that he also needs to get updated information from Donna Castracane.

Update Library Lighting Upgrade:

Jill Brainerd stated that the project is 99% completed. She also stated that she has received approval to replace the parking lights.

Committee Member Updates:

- There was discussion of possibly getting any potential grants for the roof top units to be replaced.
- Siemens notified the Town that they will no longer be the maintenance contractors for the street lights as of June 30th. The Town will have to go out to bid for a new maintenance contract.

Approval of Bills:

None.

Adjournment:

Upon a motion by Gary Gavigan, seconded by Jill Brainerd, it was:

VOTED: Unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 5:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Kathleen H. Kelemen, Secretary
As transcribed from a recording of the meeting.

NOTE: The next Regular Meeting will be on Wednesday, May 19, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.