

ENERGY COMMITTEE  
May 19, 2021  
Via Zoom  
Regular Meeting Minutes

**Members Present via ZOOM:**

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

Also Present: Selectman John Hall, Board of Finance Member Paul Wynch, Matt Menard from Prism and Brendan ?? of Solbid.

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ehlert at 4:30 p.m.

**Potential Solar Array at Mulvey Municipal Center – Presentation:**

Matt Menard from Prism Energy Services was present, as well as Brendan ?? from Solbid who is a partner in the project. He has been working with Jill Brainerd and John Riggio regarding the Mulvey Municipal Center. At this time, there are 3 roof-top units that still need to be replaced and possibly a second boiler. The biggest part is the possible solar for the roof of the building. Also a carport with solar panels for the police fleet. Charging stations can be added as part of the project or can be added later, if the fleet goes to electric vehicles. Mr. Menard discussed the different options available to the town if they were to move forward with this project, as well as the benefits. Mr. Menard stated that there is a ZREC program coming up for bid and recommends that the town apply. If we were to get the application approved, the town would have 24 months to complete the project, although there are extensions available. Mr. Hall asked if the battery storage system is included in the guestimate of cost provided. Mr. Menard stated that it did not, but he would research that information. There was discussion regarding the safety of the car port and solar panels because of the location of the town's preschool that uses that area. It was stated that the structure would be enclosed and poses no danger to anyone.

Mr. Ehlert asked if there were any members of the public whom wish to speak or ask questions. There was no one from the public present.

Discussion of next steps: If the committee decides to move forward, we would have to approach the Board of Selectmen to recommend that an application be submitted for the upcoming ZREC program for solar panels on the roof of the Mulvey Municipal Center. We have to be sure that there will be a new roof put on the building and if it will hold the load of the solar panels. The members of the committee feel that we don't have enough information for the project to move forward. Chairman Ehlert stated that he would contact Chris Whitman regarding the ZREC and if a special meeting will be called if it is necessary.

**Approval of Minutes: April 21, 2021:**

Upon a motion by Bill Fredrickson, seconded by Lesley Wysocki, it was:

**VOTED:** To approve the minutes of the April 21, 2021, as distributed. (Richard White abstained from the vote).

**Virtual Net-Metering Results to date:**

Chairman Ehlert sent emails regarding the latest results from the schools and town buildings. The amount of savings is well above what was predicted. The town has seen approximately \$16K in savings this year and the schools have seen approximately \$71K since the beginning.

Chairman Ehlert also added that the town has also saved approximately \$40K since we purchased the street lights.

**Update Library Lighting Upgrade:**

Jill Brainerd stated that the project is complete and they are awaiting the rebate. The material for the parking lot lights should be delivered soon and won't take long to install. Everyone seems very pleased with the updates.

**Committee Member Updates:** None.

**Approval of Bills:**

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

**VOTED:** Unanimously to approve payment of \$72.09, \$36.05, \$12.02 and \$72.09 to Katie Kelemen for Secretarial duties since the beginning of 2021.

**Discussion of future meetings: In person or remote:**

The town has given the go ahead to start meeting in person so the committee has to decide how to move forward for future meetings.

Upon a motion by Richard White, seconded by Gary Gavigan, it was:

**VOTED:** Unanimously that until further notice, the Energy Committee will continue to meet via Zoom.

**Adjournment:**

Upon a motion by Richard White, seconded by Bill Fredrickson, it was:

**VOTED:** Unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:16 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, June 16, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.