



**LEBANON ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LEAC)  
MEETING AGENDA  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2020 - 4:00 PM  
REMOTE VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS  
LebanonNH.gov/Live**

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**1. CALL TO ORDER - CHECK-IN & PRELIMINARIES**

**2. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:**

A. July 16, 2020

**Documents:**

[2020-07-16\\_LEAC Minutes-draft.pdf](#)

**3. UPDATES & ISSUES IN ONGOING PROJECTS:**

A. EV Subcommittee

B. City Solar

C. LED Streetlight Conversion Project

D. City's Experience With RTP - Woody & Tad

E. Lebanon Community Power (LCP) & CPNH

F. PUC Rulemaking For Community Power Aggregations

G. PUC Grid Mod & Data Dockets

H. Energy And Facilities Manager Updates

**Documents:**

[2020-08-17 EFM Report.pdf](#)

**4. OTHER & OPEN TO PUBLIC**

**5. REPORTS & NOTICES OF ENERGY RELATED CONFERENCES,  
WEBINARS & EVENTS**

**6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

A. Building Codes Update

B. City Procurement Policy

**7. NEXT MEETING DATE:**

A. Thursday, September 17, 2020

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

Any person with a disability who wishes to attend this public meeting and needs additional accommodations, please contact the ADA coordinator at City Hall by calling 603-448-1457 at least 72 hours in advance so that the City can make any necessary arrangements.

Department. of Public Works – Phone 603-448-3112 / Fax 603-448-1756

## LEBANON ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Due to the Covid 19 Pandemic, the meeting was held virtually via MS Teams

*July 16, 2020*

3:00 PM

### DRAFT

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Clifton Below (Chair, Council Representative), Greg Ames (Vice-Chair) Joan Monroe (Planning Board Representative), Woody Rothe, Gene Homicki (alternate), Jon Chaffee, Meghan Butts

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**STAFF PRESENT:** Tad Montgomery, Mark Goodwin, Marc Morgan (left after giving his update)

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Jan Scott and Eric Wilgenbusch from Unison Solutions (left after Marc's update), Mike Savage from Virgin Power

**CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting called to order by Clifton Below at 3:05 PM. Clifton appointed Gene Homicki to fill the absent Lebanon High School representative.

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:**

Woody moved to accept the 6/18/2020 minutes as presented; Gene seconded.  
Approved unanimously, with minor corrections, by roll call vote.

**UPDATE ON LANDFILL GAS TO ENERGY PROJECT WITH MARC MORGAN, SOLID WASTE MANAGER**

Marc gave an update on the landfill gas to energy project. They are doing significant amount of gas management work to prepare for increased gas production. They have done a sounding study on every well and discovered that 30% of the well screen is available (ie, 2/3rds of the wells are "watered out" and will need to be pumped dry). They have met with a couple of companies with pumps that can be used to remove water and improve gas collection. This fall they will add 2 new gas collection trenches. A multi-year gas expansion plan in this year's CIP budget request will add 12 new collection wells in the future. They will do some condensation knock-out station improvements later this year (improved pumps, burying the pumps below grade to eliminate winter pump freezing issues). Structural plans for the facility are nearly complete. The Planning Board has issued a conditional use permit and additional state permitting (air permit, alteration of terrain permit, and solid waste permit amendment) is underway. Liberty Utilities delivered an interconnection impact study on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, which showed that \$400,000-\$500,000 (+/-25%) in substation upgrades will be necessary. Responsibility for costs is TBD. Also, the substation is 50%/50% owned by Liberty and National

Grid, so a National Grid impact study will be needed, which will take 6-9 months to complete. A purchase order has been issued for the gas conditioning skid. There were further technical discussions around the necessary substation upgrades.

#### **UPDATES & ISSUES IN ONGOING PROJECTS:**

- **Energy & Facilities Manager Updates (see attached EFM report in agenda packet)**  
Tad had 2 comments beyond the EFM report: (1) Tad mentioned that he has been approached by “Path to a Green Home”, an organization putting together a smartphone app to help people determine their carbon footprint and work to reduce it. Tad has connected them to Sustainable Lebanon, Vital Communities, April Salas in Hanover, as well as other potentially interested people in Woodstock, Hartford, and Norwich. (2) Tad mentioned that they are having a bit of difficulty determining 2021 electric budgets for Waste Water and Water Treatment, for a number of reasons – reduced electricity demand system-wide this year due to Covid-19 has reduced wholesale electric costs for all, the switch to real time pricing for Waste Water and Water Treatment has further reduced cost, and increased solar production at these sites has reduced demand. All told, electric costs for these two accounts so far this year is half of what was budgeted for 2020.
- **City Solar Phase 1 And Phase 2**  
RF interference from the solar optimizers used in the Landfill Maintenance building and Police Station solar systems are impacting emergency communications antennas at these sites. After much research, it has been determined that the solution is to switch to microinverters or a string inverter without optimizers. Work on the solution is ongoing. No updates.
- **LED Streetlight Conversion Project**  
Tad has finished the RFP’s for the Streetlight Conversion project; they were posted Tuesday. He sent a generic notification to all parties that had expressed an interest in the project in the past. See the RFPs here:
  1. LED Streetlight RFP 1 - Provision of LED Luminaires  
<https://lebanonnh.gov/bids.aspx?bidID=139>
  2. LED Streetlight RFP 2 - Provision of Networked Control Nodes  
<https://lebanonnh.gov/bids.aspx?bidID=140>
  3. LED Streetlight RFP 3 - Installation of LED Luminaires and Controls  
<https://lebanonnh.gov/bids.aspx?bidID=141>
- **Lebanon Community Power (LCP) & CPNH**  
Clifton discussed pending legislation that will simplify net metering for municipal aggregations, by allowing competitive suppliers of electricity and municipal/county aggregations to set their own terms for net metering, provided that the distribution utility counts exports to the grid from customer-generators as an offset to the Community Power’s load (vs requiring the power to be bought and sold indirectly

through the wholesale market). Without this bill, it is unlikely that net metered customers would participate in Community Power. Clifton reports there has been significant interest in Lebanon Community Power and believes that we will need to issue an RFQ for legal services to help set up LCP.

- **PUC Grid Mod & Data Dockets**

Eversource moved to re-hear the grid mod order, objecting to the fact that an adjudicated proceeding was not used. The Consumer Advocate and City of Lebanon submitted a filing that Eversource has missed their window to object, having declined to support an adjudicated proceeding last winter. Data docket is moving forward, however the settlement talks broke down in the past week, so they will be moving forward with a litigated process. The State of New York is expected to issue a similar data docket later this year, which may help NH. New York's process has uncovered several software companies that have products that could be useful.

### **OTHER & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Rebecca Owens reminded Clifton that the PUC put out an RFP for community solar projects that will provide direct benefit to low and moderate income residential electric customers. Applications are due by 4:30PM on September 14<sup>th</sup> (this is processes whereby the Mascoma Meadows solar project was developed). She also mentioned that a 44-unit Lebanon Housing Authority project (Heater Landing on Heater Road) is under review, with no solar currently proposed. Clifton asked if any LEAC members would be interested in working to help apply for solar funding for this site and Roger's House (which had been previously approved for solar). Jon offered to reach out to Ditha Alonso (ED of Lebanon Housing Authority). Joan reported that the Heater Landing project is new and just came in front of the Planning Board this week. Joan briefly mentioned the compressed natural gas project at Novo Nordisk, which will use gas sourced from the Bethlehem, NH landfill.

### **REPORTS & NOTICES OF ENERGY RELATED CONFERENCES, WEBINARS & EVENTS**

Tad mentioned an online webinar Saturday for low to moderate income solar development; Jon pointed out that it was specifically for Green Mountain Power customers. Henry Herndon (Clean Energy NH) and April Salas (Hanover) participated in a NH Energy Policy 101 presentation which may be put on Clean Energy NH's website. NH Municipal Association has a new webinar on the NH right-to-know-law. Also, Clifton mentioned that NHMA has included much of the Energy, Sustainability, and Climate Policy that LEAC worked on.

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Jon requested keeping possible updates to Building Code and Procurement Policy in mind for future meetings. Tad mentioned some leaks at City Hall during the Tuesday rainstorm (~4" of rain).

### **NEXT MEETING:**

Scheduled for Thursday, August 20<sup>th</sup> at 3pm.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion was made by Meghan to adjourn the meeting at 5:01 PM. The motion was seconded by Greg. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gregory Ames

DRAFT



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## Energy & Facilities Report, August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020

### Solar

EFM is meeting with ReVision and the FD to discuss options for new inverters for the solar array on the landfill garage on Monday. Similar problems seem to have cropped up for hand-held radios in the DPW Garage. Based on the work of LEAC members Woody Rothe and Jon Chaffee we are looking to install additional solar in Phase 2 at sites in Lebanon that would allow for more behind-the-meter energy production, e.g. at pumping stations. ReVision has provided a schematic for optimal layout of solar on the City Hall roof, and ReArch is positioning equipment accordingly. We have finally gotten access to data for the ground-mount solar array at the landfill. Monthly production totals for the spring and summer so far are -- April: 39,180 kWh, May: 57,315 kWh, June: 50,761 kWh, July: 52,217 kWh.

### Electric Vehicles

- DPW's Nissan Leaf EV: Tad and Melle Benzel have posted a 'How To' page on the CoL employee portal detailing how to reserve and use the Leaf EV. Jim Donison recorded an instructional video.
- Electrify America: EA has withdrawn the east Taylor St. site from consideration and has moved on to another site "in proximity to Lebanon" because of difficulties getting cooperation from the NH DOT RR Bureau over right-of-way issues. When I spoke with EA they reiterated a strong affection for Lebanon and the site we had identified, and said that they would be happy to re-consider a site in Lebanon if we can get the bugs worked out. With the CM's assent I am both pursuing information from the DOT re the City's rights and responsibilities for that land, the old rail line, and re-starting discussions with CCBA over a potential site that abuts their property.
- City Hall Charger: ReVision will install the EV charger at City Hall after a new electrical panel is installed in the building this week.

### Streetlight Conversion Project

We received seven responses to the three RFP's and interviewed three firms on August 14<sup>th</sup>. Tad will be checking references now for the recommended firm(s). Savings seem to be substantial from breaking the project into individual RFP's. Additional savings will result from Clifton's work getting appropriate depreciation values into the new streetlight LED-2 tariff. We have submitted a formal request for

streetlight removal to L.U. but have heard nothing back. The schedule as it now stands for the project is as follows:

- Aug. 14: interviews
- Aug. 18 (?): selection
- Aug. ?: Streetlight removal process finished
- Sept. 8: photometric study done, inventory confirmed
- Sept. 18: City accepts/adjusts recommendations of photometric study
- Oct. 1 or later: Delivery of luminaires and control nodes, installation commences
- Jan. 2: Project continues if deemed best

### **Municipal Aggregation** aka Lebanon Community Power

Asst. Mayor Below and the EFM are working actively with the state-wide coordinating group Community Power New Hampshire (CPNH) which is establishing a 'back office' to support Community Power programs' development and operation. Last week a subcommittee interviewed legal teams that will review our joint power agreement and other formative documents. We are very excited about the firms that responded to the RFQ that Asst. Mayor Below wrote for this consultant. The City Manager has agreed to contribute \$10,000 to support this legal work, and other municipalities may contribute as well. It is probable that the City will recoup this money when CPNH launches and has a revenue stream. Note that the intention of CPNH is to allow each municipality to choose its aggregation objectives. CPNH members are using LEAC's draft aggregation plan to develop a more complete version; thanks to Clifton and Jon Chaffee for drafting the first version. Jon has also been invited to join a CPNH working group for publicity and outreach – both state-wide to municipalities and for each municipality to use to inform its residents and businesses. I have been quite impressed with the high level of competence and commitment of the CPNH working group.

### **Other**

- Walker Roofing began the repair the roof at the DPW Garage last week but has a bit more to do. We won't know how successful the job was until we have snow on the roof again because one primary issue was snow dams.
- City Hall Renovations: The City Manager continues to look for funds to cover the cost of insulating the walls of the Opera House with 6" of spray foam. We are close. The architect has determined that this will still leave adequate egress and wheelchair accessibility in the isles without having to move chairs. The new flex-fuel boilers have been installed and are biodiesel compatible. We are hoping to get three 330-gal. storage tanks into the basement before things get closed up down there. Tad will be crunching the numbers for Thermal Energy Storage soon to see if it makes sense financially. Unfortunately, there is a large discrepancy in cost between what the architect/engineer have estimated for TES construction costs and what RBG has estimated. In other news, we are exploring installing worm bins in the basement to do food scrap composting.

- Incident Command Training: EFM took a three-day training hosted by the Fire Dept. and passed the follow-up test with hopping colors.
- Real-Time Prices: LEAC member Woody Rothe has been working to tabulate savings from the electric accounts that we have switched to real-time pricing. We will be incorporating the solar production into this table as well.
- Evaluation: I received my annual evaluation this month. It was heavily slanted towards facilities.
- Gene Homicki: has been reappointed to LEAC with accolades.
- Path to a Green Home: Tad has been working in his free time to help launch a pilot program for this phone app in the Upper Valley. Other participants include Ana Mejir at Vital Communities, Gus Speth at the VT Law School, and Marta Ceroni for the Upper Valley Food Coops. Hanover has asked for a presentation at their next energy committee meeting.
- Drone Video of City Hall: Rich Adams coordinated a drone video of the bell tower and roof of City Hall and GAR building a couple weeks ago. It is delightful to watch, and available now on the City's website. Check recent LebNews for a link. Jim Donison has suggested we do all City buildings. Rich is looking into the cost of buying a drone for the city, and what licenses would be needed to fly it.
- Facility Assessment Plan: We should be signing a contract this week to for FAP's on eight buildings this week.
- Electricity Costs: DPW leadership has been delighted to see that year-to-date electricity costs have been roughly half what they were last year. I have been asked to formulate projections for electricity and liquid fuel costs for next year. Not a trivial task.
- Honeywell Contract: We are working with Honeywell to reassess what has been reasonable regarding City Hall HVAC maintenance this year while the building is under construction, and include all new equipment into the contract. I have asked Honeywell to provide a report of work done at the WWTP to date this year based on complaints of the cost from the WWTP Superintendent.