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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- Electrify America: EA has withdrawn the east Taylor St. site from consideration and has moved on to another site "in proximity to Lebanon" because of difficulties getting cooperation from the NH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.