

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 23rd, 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 14th (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 20th 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

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