

LEBANON ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

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

September 17, 2020

4:00 PM

FINAL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Clifton Below (Chair, Council Representative), Greg Ames (Vice-Chair)
Joan Monroe (Planning Board Representative), Jon Chaffee, Meghan Butts

MEMBERS ABSENT: Woody Rothe, Gene Homicki (alternate)

STAFF PRESENT: Tad Montgomery

GUESTS PRESENT: Dean Berg, John Branagan

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order by Clifton Below at 4:01 PM.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES: Minutes of 8/20/2020 not ready for approval; deferred to next meeting.

PATH TO A GREEN HOME - DEMONSTRATION & DISCUSS POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT: Jon has been talking with Dean Berg, who is developing a mobile phone app to assist individuals in lowering their greenhouse gas emissions. Dean gave an overview and demo of his app. The committee discussed Sustainable Lebanon's interest in participating in an Upper Valley pilot of Dean's app in conjunction with Hanover, Hartford, Woodstock, and Norwich, with support from Vital Communities. Dean is hoping to get roughly 200 residents and 10 businesses, starting in Spring 2021. Meghan moved that LEAC continue engaging in conversation with Dean Berg on his Path to a Green Home Pilot Project. Greg seconded, approved unanimously.

STATUS OF LANDFILL GAS-TO-ENERGY PROJECT (LFGTE) & ANEROBIC DIGESTER STUDY: A Liberty Utilities consultant (Control Point Technologies) has estimated that Liberty would need to do \$484,000 in distribution system upgrades. There may be a need for National Grid to do transmission system upgrades as well, pending a study cost (est cost \$25,000). Project needs further analysis. Liberty expressed interest in buying the gas for resale as renewable Natural Gas instead of using it for generation. Marc Morgan is working on a presentation for LEAC/City Council next month and suggested that there may be other possible buyers for the gas. DES has announced a new rule proposal that would reduce allowable emissions for hydrogen sulfide and formaldehyde which may impact the project as well (needs further analysis). Initial estimates are that 150-300kW of gas could be created via anaerobic digestion of sludge from the

wastewater treatment plant. A significant amount of remaining behind-the-meter load at the wastewater treatment plant could justify a small gas-to-energy plant there.

UPDATES & ISSUES IN ONGOING PROJECTS:

- **City Solar:** Shaun and Jim have given Tad the approval to start Phase 2. Tad has spoken with Dan Weeks at Revision. The 4 proposed sites are the City Hall roof, Airport hangar roofs, and two water pumping stations on Reservoir Road and Wolf Road. The Fire Chief has approved the use of string inverters at the Landfill Maintenance Garage, but wants microinverters at the Police Station due to the increased use/population in the Police Station.
- **LED Streetlight Conversion Project:** Estimated costs are \$700,000 vs budgeted \$925,000. Equipment and installers have been selected.
- **City's Experience with Real Time Pricing (RTP) & Other Rates:** Clifton reports that there have been minimal grid exports for excess solar production. First Point Power has credited the City's accounts for these exports, so there has been no negative impact compared to being on default service.
- **Lebanon Community Power (LCP) & Community Power New Hampshire (CPNH):** There have been ongoing discussions with several Municipal organizations and Clean Energy NH. Hanover and Lebanon issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ), interviewed several legal firms specializing in Community Choice Aggregations, Co-Ops, etc. and hired one to help draw up organizational documents.
- **PUC Rulemaking for Community Power Aggregations - See Attached**
 - **Rules for CPAs CPC Letter to Wiesner 9-11-20.pdf**
 - **CPA Rules NHPUC Staff Draft 7-21-20 CPC edits 9-11-20.pdf**Discussion of the letter Re: the draft rules that make Community Power Aggregations difficult to implement. See documents attached to the agenda.
- **PUC Data Platform Docket, DE 19-197 - See File Testimony At Tab 65 At this link:**
<https://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2019/19-197.html>
A common data format is critical for grid modernization and effective Community Power Aggregations. Clifton suggests reading Amro Farid's testimony filed in this case (see above link).
- **Energy & Facilities Manager Updates** – See attached report.

OTHER & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – None

REPORTS & NOTICES OF ENERGY RELATED CONFERENCES, WEBINARS & EVENTS – Clean Energy NH conference is virtual this year and still open for registration. They have several EV webinars planned.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – Discussion on Building Codes update and City Procurement policy deferred to a future meeting

NEXT MEETING:

Scheduled for Thursday, October 15th at 4pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Jon to adjourn the meeting at 6:05 PM. The motion was seconded by Greg. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Gregory Ames