

Hillsboro Energy Commission Approved Minutes
December 8th, 2022; **Bolded items are things to-do**

Meeting opened at 6:11 PM. Attendance: Brett Cherrington, Chairman; Adam Charrette, Vice-Chairman; Jon Daley, Secretary; Sue Durling

Secretary's report:

Minutes from November 10th, motion to approve by Adam, seconded by Sue; unanimously approved.

LED Street Lighting Project

Adam received the new updated map from Affinity with the lights removed with downgrades, etc. We have not received an estimated cost savings by implementing this plan. Adam did get the electric bill and has an 2019 bill to compare it to. The cost savings is significant, and we have a credit going forward 3 or 4 months. There are some unclear items based on partial months, credits, etc, so **Adam will get this month's bill to hopefully be able to present a clear picture to the selectmen next week.** How many reflectors should we purchase?

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations, Town Vehicles and Grants

There is a Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) required online meeting on December 13th at 9AM. **Brett will get the link from Laura and send it to us.** There is a deadline 24 days after that meeting to get to the next step. We are hoping to get a lot of clarification from that meeting, as Brett talked with Jessica Wilcox and found out that CMAQ might not be the right program for us, and perhaps Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships (NEEP) would be better for us.

Brett got a list of town vehicles and the planned replacement schedule from some departments. The next vehicle due for replacement is a 10-wheel dump/plow truck. The CMAQ grant is a 80% grant / 20% for us. If that doesn't work, a Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) grant is 25% / 75% us might be available. There are restrictions about replacing vehicles older than 2009, which the highway department does have vehicles that would qualify.

Brett asked Jessica about school buses because Mike Tardiff from NH Regional Planning Commission thought that would be too ambitious / too large to add into the CMAQ grant. First Student is eligible to qualify on their own or we could qualify. Our school district is not on the prioritized list - based on percentage of students in poverty (~10% vs a 20% requirement), we aren't rural enough, and aren't on Indian land) but still worth looking into.

In addition to replacing entire vehicles, it is also possible to replace just the engine with either a newer diesel or an electric motor replacement, though finding information about available motors has been impossible to find online. Our guess is that the rest of the truck also needs replacement, so just replacing the engine likely isn't a plan that would work for us.

The police department has a couple vehicles on the list for replacement. They have bought some hybrids in the past. Chevrolet has some police rated all-electric models, and Ford has a Mustang Mach-E and particularly the F-150 Lightning, which Chief Parsons is interested in.

Community Power and PUC updates

Three towns in NH are the first to be approved by the Public Utility Commission (PUC): Enfield, Exeter and Walpole. Sue shared documents from those town and Community Power Coalition of NH (CPCNH) explaining the process and where those towns are in the process.

We/Laura were contacted this week by Standard Power (Keene signed up with them) to see if we were interested to join their coalition. Community Power can be organized by a town, coalition, county, etc. That group will act as an energy supplier such as the typical alternative suppliers available to Eversource customers like Direct Energy, etc. Standard Power is one of three management companies that are choices for coalitions to choose.

We found the Power Plan from Keene that was approved by the PUC to look over to see how it applies to us. We agreed that we want to move forward, and will accept Standard Power's offer to come talk to us, and **Brett will invite them to our meeting on January 26th.**

Weatherization Project

Shakes to Shingles does not have time this year. He did think we could get a rebate on the heat pump installed at the town office, depending on the efficiency of the unit. Jon sent the criteria to Laura to ask her to check the model number, etc. **Jon will ask Rich if there are pieces of hardware that we could buy and install ourselves? What is the timeline for when he will have the cost savings document?**

Brett called Revision Energy and talked to them about the 2010 energy audit which included a proposal for a solar array, etc, and asked them to update their proposal.

Annual Report

Each member of the commission should write a sentence to a paragraph about the status of their project and send it to Jon for inclusion into a page for the annual report.

Inflation Reduction Act

Sue attended a meeting talking about how to implement the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) for towns in New Hampshire. There are many ideas and possibilities that were discussed like the High Efficiency Electric Home Rebate Act (HEEHRA). All of it requires the state government to implement policies, etc. before we can take advantage of this law.

Commission Logo

Sue is working on a logo for us, and we brainstormed ideas and features that we like.

Motion to adjourn at 8:00 PM by Adam, seconded by Jon. Unanimously approved.

We will meet with the selectmen on December 14th.

Respectfully submitted,
Jon Daley