

ENERGY COMMITTEE

TOWN OF SOUTH WINDSOR

Minutes

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May 17, 2016

Madden Room – South Windsor Town Hall

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Members Present: Hank Cullinane, Resident
Mike Gantick, Director of Public Works
Athena Loukellis, Resident
Deputy Mayor Carolyn Mirek, Town Council
Sherman Tarr, Resident
Stephen Wagner, Resident

Members Absent: Larry Brown, Resident
Richard Grigorian, Resident
Patrick Hankard, Board of Education
Councilor Edward Havens, Town Council
Councilor Janice Snyder, Town Council
Richard Stahr, Board of Education

Others Present: Keith Yagaloff, Town Attorney
Robert Dickinson

5. New Business

A. Virtual Net Metering Update

Committee members reviewed a proposal from Lodestar. Mr. Galligan will be talking to C-TECH also to see which company can negotiate a better deal. At this time Lodestar does not have an approved project but is working on getting one and would probably be the better candidate for the Town to work with because C-TECH has already sold half of their credits. The Town needs to hear from Eversource.

Answering questions from the Committee, Mr. Wagner explained that the project would be located in East Windsor.

ITEM:

5. New Business (Continued)

C. Council Action on the Barber Hill Project

a. Possible project on private land

Mr. Wagner explained the Greenskies came in and proposed to put a solar project in the Barber Hill Road area. Greenskies wanted to have a lease with the Town to put the solar farm on the property. The Council voted this proposal down. Commission members discussed this proposal for a short time.

Town Attorney Yagaloff stated that he has heard of a number of proposed solar farm projects in that area. Mr. Wagner explained that any project that is over a megawatt is approved by the Siting Counsel which is a State Agency, not the local Planning & Zoning Commission.

Mr. Wagner stated that there is another site in Town off of Governors Highway that is being offered by Tim Sheppard where there is approximately 100 acres which is hidden from everything. There is a substation close so it may be a good location.

B. LED Streetlights Update

a. New Phase Plan

b. Lights to abandon/not abandon on Phase 1 state roads

Mr. Wagner explained that when Ameresco did their audit, any lights they found were put onto a map and information was also put on a spreadsheet. The spreadsheet explains the type of light found in a particular area. Mr. Wagner explained that not all of the lights found on the map are actually street lights. A plan to do all of the street lights except those on the State roads was proposed to the Town Council. The Town Council liked the idea and eventually all lights on the State roads would be discontinued. Eversource explained that it had to be a contiguous geographical area and the plan presented was not acceptable to Eversource. A new plan has been suggested working with the Town Attorney which seems to be accepted by Eversource. The plan consists of two phases. It may be helpful to keep lights on in intersections.

(Discussion Continued on Next Page)

ITEM:

5. B. (Continued)

Mr. Wagner reviewed the different lights that the Town is paying for and the different ones the State is paying for.

Town Attorney Yagaloff explained to the Committee that if the Committee votes to take street lights away you might want to consider having a professional review of what is being proposed for liability reasons. Most of the time there will not be a problem but there may be that one time where there is and the Town could be found liable for turning a light off. The Town should make the State aware of the lights that the Town will not pay for any longer. The Town can let the State know they can pay for them or they can make the decision to shut those lights off. The State may not agree to do that, and if the State refuses within the five years to purchase those lights, the Town will be forced to purchase the lights in Phase II.

Mr. Wagner stated that in one instance throughout Town, out of 300 lights that are on State roads, it is being proposed to keep approximately 20 of them. Town Attorney questioned if it is clear that Eversource is not going to make the Town convert the lights that are shut off because the Town will still own them. The Town has to get out of the ownership part of it. Mr. Wagner stated that the Town does not own the lights. Mr. Wagner suggested that the Town ask the State to turn them off and then buy what is left. Mr. Gantick explained that it is called abandonment under which the Town will be subject to a premature abandonment charge for any light that is not 14 years or older. The Committee discussed the option of abandoning the lights. Town Attorney Yagaloff stated he feels the Town should abandon the lights rather than turn them off because of saving money on electricity. Mr. Gantick explained that the Town of Torrington is abandoning lights in their Town so Attorney Yagaloff may want to speak to their Town Attorney. Town Attorney Yagaloff reiterated that it makes sense to have someone review the areas where the Town would suggest abandoning street lights. Going forward the Energy Committee should vote on the abandonment of street lights as part of the street light strategy and have someone review those suggestions.

Committee members discussed further the different lights that would be proposed to be abandoned. Mr. Wagner felt that all of the State lights could be dealt with in Phase I. The Town will still have to buy 417 lights in the future.

(Discussion Continued on Next Page)

ITEM:

5. B. **(Continued)**

Mr. Gantick stated that for this process there could be workshops as a way to inform the public. Other ways of informing the public were also discussed. Another item that will need public input is the color of the LED light. This issue will be brought back to the Council once there is approval to move forward from a safety standpoint from a professional.

D. **Wapping & Other Efficiency Projects**

Mr. Wagner reported on a meeting with Steve Gibson of Eversource's EnergizeCT group and Clay Major, the Town's Facilities Manager. The Town is working with Eversource to identify possible incentives for the HVAC upgrades to Wapping School and to create a comprehensive energy efficiency project to maximize incentives for that effort and the LED streetlights.

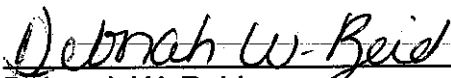
7. **Miscellaneous**

None

8. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Deborah W. Reid
Clerk of the Council