

ENERGY COMMITTEE

TOWN OF SOUTH WINDSOR

Revised Minutes

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March 30, 2021

Virtual Meeting Special Meeting

1. Call Meeting to Order

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

2. Roll Call

Members Present: Larry Brown, Resident
Darrell Crowley, Board of Education
Hank Cullinane, Resident
Jeff Doolittle, Town Engineer
Marek Kozikowski, Board of Education
Athena Loukellis, Resident
James MacPherson, Resident
Liz Pendleton (sitting for Andy Paterna) Town Council
Councilor Janice Snyder, Town Council
Stephen Wagner, Resident

Members Absent: Councilor Cesar Lopez, Town Council
Sherman Tarr, Resident

3. Approval of Minutes

Councilor Snyder made a motion to approve the September 8, 2020, December 4, 2020, and December 11, 2020 minutes. Mrs. Loukellis seconded the motion, and they were approved unanimously.

4. Next Meeting – To be determined

5. Business

A. Zoning Regulations Text Amendment for Electric Vehicle Charging

Note: The PZC public hearing for this item was started on March 23 but left open. Since, Chairman Wagner is a member of the PZC, and the item is open, we are not permitted to discuss this at today's Energy Committee meeting. Please do not comment on this. If you want to hear the first public hearing, it will be available soon at <https://southwindsorct.swagit.com/planning-zoning-commission>.

If you wish to comment to the PZC, watch for the April 13 PZC meeting agenda for instructions on how to comment, either by phone or email.

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ITEM:

5. Business (*Continued*)

B. Police Station Solar Canopies

Chairperson Wagner explained that the contract was approved by the Attorney for Greenskies and the Town Attorney and should be ready to be signed by Greenskies and the Town of South Windsor. Greenskies will be going to the State to apply for ZREC.

C. Update: School Rooftop Solar

Mr. Crowley informed the Committee that the solar projects at Orchard Hill Elementary School and Philip R. Smith Elementary School are complete and up and running. The schools are starting to receive credits from both projects. The first phase of the high school project will begin after the equipment is delivered. ZREC will be applied for future roof projects at the high school.

Chairperson Wagner explained that he tracks the Town's energy use through Portfolio Manager. Chairperson Wagner requested that Mr. Crowley have the bills from Greenskies automatically sent to him so he can keep track of what the solar is producing. Mr. Crowley stated that he would work with Karen to get those bills automatically sent to Chairperson Wagner, or have Karen send them to Chairperson Wagner when they come in.

Answering questions from the Council, Mr. Crowley explained that the schools are currently getting savings from Orchard Hill and Philip R. Smith projects. The high school project will produce savings after the installation of the panels. The Town has not received approval for ZREC for the Eli Terry School project but has for both the high school and Wapping School building. The Wapping School building project will begin after the roof is complete.

Mr. Crowley explained further that the high school has a very large roof, so projects have been broken down into phases. Each phase has a ZREC application.

The construction of Pleasant Valley School will not be constructed with solar on it. Some infrastructure for the solar will be done during the construction phase of Pleasant Valley to make array installation quicker and easier.

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ITEM:

5. C. (Continued)

Chairperson Wagner explained that the reason the solar will not be installed at the same time as the construction of the building is the solar projects are eligible for a federal tax credit, and income tax credit. Because the school doesn't pay income tax, there is no way of using that tax credit so the Town farms out to a private company who then sells the electricity from the solar project at a rate better than Eversource. That way, the price that the Town pays reflects that tax credit but does not see the tax credit directly.

D. Update: Virtual Net Metering Projects

- a. VNM Production Report – the latest monthly report will always be at:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Tz919TT0ipN9t0JxgMAIHhDiEFUHTtw0_MJlrUL_QfE/edit#gid=645503041
- b. Powder Hill Enfield project –
 - On line 12/11/2020
- c. Platt Hill, Winchester project
 - Reapplied to Siting Council
 - Rough Schedule

Chairperson Wagner informed the Committee that the NorCap South Virtual Meter Project is in its fourth year. In 2020, the electric rates went down for approximately five months. This was reported to the Council that there had been some minor losses from NorCap South for those five months. Currently, it is back to producing savings.

The Powder Hill facility came online on December 11, 2020. The credits will go to the schools. There has been a savings from December 11, 2020 to January 17, 2021, of \$1,500, and a savings of approximately \$3,000 in the month of January.

The Platt Hill, Winchester project credits will be applied to the Sewer Treatment Plant. Unfortunately, there was a delay in this project with the Siting Council. Hopefully this project will be online by the end of the year.

ITEM:

5. Business (*Continued*)

E. Possible school display of solar energy production

Chairperson Wagner suggested that the schools install some type of display that the kids could see to show what the projects are doing. Maybe an aerial photo of the rooftop.

Mr. Crowley explained that he has been working on some type of display but instead of displaying what is happening at each school separately, his goal is to have a rotating display showing what is happening at each school. Mr. Crowley stated that he is working with the IT Department on this project.

Chairperson Wagner suggested adding a picture of what the rooftops look like in the rotation because the students can't see it from the ground.

F. Live Green CT's Municipal EV Readiness Toolkit 9 Month Program

• Program Overview

• Staff Participant: Jeff Doolittle

- ___ : Module 1: Community Members
- ___ : Module 2: Municipal Fleet (with Jeff Doolittle)
- ___ : Module 3: Zoning (we will contribute to others)
- ___ : Module 4: Building & Permitting
- ___ : Module 5: MUD Charging (with Councilor Hockenberry)
- ___ : Module 6: Public & Destination Charging
- ___ : Module 7: Parking & Enforcement
- ___ : Module 8: First Responders
- ___ : Module 9: Shuttle Buses (with Karen Wagner)

Chairperson Wagner explained that an organization called Live Green Connecticut is setting up a series of seminars called Municipal EV Readiness Toolkit 9 Month Program. The program consists of nine Modules. Chairperson Wagner reviewed each Module and explained that Jeff Doolittle would work on Module 2: Municipal Fleet, Councilor Hockenberry has expressed interest in Module 5: MUD charging, Karen Johnson, who is the representative from Charter Realty for Evergreen Walk, has expressed interest in Module 6: Public & Destination Charging, and Karen Wagner, Chairperson of Mass Transit and Highway Advisory is interested in Module 9: Shuttle Buses.

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ITEM:

5. F. (Continued)

Chairperson Wagner stated that he is looking for people to join the teams. If someone joins a team, a recording of what happened back in March will be given to them. There will be more training in May and July for team members. By the end of November, there should be a plan that has been accepted by the municipality, and it will move forward. If it is decided to move forward with Municipal Fleet, it may only be one vehicle this year, but moving forward, the Energy Committee could look at a list of fleet vehicles to see when each will reach their end of life and if it would be beneficial to make the next vehicle electric and apply for a grant.

Mr. Doolittle explained that he is reviewing vehicles to see which ones may be ready to be retired and replaced and how they could be converted over to electric vehicles. The Streets Department was looking at a grant to potentially convert a dump truck over to electric. Mr. Doolittle stated that he had seen ads about lawnmowers, so this goes beyond cars and light trucks.

Chairperson Wagner requested a volunteer to fill out a spreadsheet that is needed as part of the participation of these Modules? Mr. James MacPherson and Mr. Doolittle will work together to fill out the spreadsheet.

Mr. Brown stated that he is interested in Module 6: Public & Destination Charging. Chairperson Wagner stated he would work with Councilor Hockenberry on Module 5: MUD Charging.

Chairperson Wagner explained that parking would be discussed during other Modules, as will subjects from each Module will most likely be discussed in various Modules. As far as enforcement, when fueled powered vehicles park in a parking spot that is meant for an electric vehicle, at first, warnings will probably be issued. The Police will eventually hand out actual tickets.

Chairperson Wagner informed the Committee that Module 8: First Responders will also include the Fire Department and asked if anyone was interested in reaching out to Chief Cooney in the Fire Department? Mrs. Loukellis said she would reach out to the Fire Department.

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5. F. (Continued)

Mr. Crowley questioned if someone parks in these spaces overnight, will it create an issue for the Town as far as plowing areas? Chairperson Wagner stated that in the case of a school, you could limit the parking to a particular group of people, such as employees only. It should also be considered that someone will have to pay for the electricity and will need a way to collect the money. In some areas, people will be parking outside, as they do now, and the Town will have to work around that.

Chairperson Wagner reviewed the members who will be working on each Module as follows:

- James MacPherson – Module 2: Municipal Fleet (work with Jeff Doolittle to fill out spreadsheet).
- Steve Wagner - Module 5: MUD Charging (work with Councilor Hockenberry).
- Larry Brown – Module 6: Public & Destination Charging.
- Athena Loukellis – Module 8: First Responders (will talk with the Fire Department).

6. Miscellaneous

Committee members discussed when it would be a good time to review the Energy Plan. Chairperson Wagner explained that at the next meeting, it can be discussed briefly. The Energy Committee can decide at that time when this item should be scheduled to be put on an agenda. Councilor Snyder requested that the agenda be very light when this discussion item comes up so that it can be the main focus of the meeting.

7. Adjournment

At 5:20 p.m., Councilor Snyder made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Brown seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah W. Reid
Clerk of the Council