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TOWN OF GRANTHAM
GRANTHAM ENERGY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 4, 2016

Co-Chair Chenevert called the regular meeting of the Grantham Energy Committee ("GEC") to order at 5:05 p.m. on Monday, January 4, 2016. The meeting was held in the Jerry Whitney Memorial Conference Room at Grantham Town Hall, 300 Route 10 South in Grantham, NH.

Members Present: Paula Bresnick; Jenna Chenevert; Kristina Burgard; Donald Fitzpatrick; and Mike Salo.

Others Present: Fire Chief Jay Fountain

ADMINISTRATIVE

Approval of December Minutes: Chenevert asked if there were any additions, corrections, or modifications to the draft minutes of the December 7. 2015 meeting.

A motion was made by Fitzpatrick to approve the December 7, 2015 meeting minutes as presented; second by Chenevert. ***Approved and Accepted****.*

Correspondence: none

OLD BUSINESS

Renewable Energy Assessment Exemption Warrant Article: Chenevert inquired about the status of the renewable energy assessment exemption warrant article presented to the Board of Selectmen ("Selectman"). Burgard noted that the draft minutes from the last Selectmen's meeting appear to say that the Selectmen will themselves include the proposed warrant article on the Town Warrant. It is not clear whether the warrant article will be put on the Town Warrant as proposed, or if there will be a warrant article for each of the three renewable energy systems, i.e., solar, wood-heating, and wind. Chenevert noted that the Board of the Eastman Community Association ("ECA") is sending a letter to the Selectmen stating that the ECA supports the proposed assessment exemption for all three renewable energy systems.

Municipal Buildings Audit Results and Proposals: Chenevert advised that all of the completed initial audit results were received, including the final street lighting proposal. The LED street lighting proposal letter is *Attachment 1* hereto. Full audit reports and proposals are with Town Administrator White, and are very detailed. Chenevert reported that it was her understanding based on discussions with White that the Selectmen will present a separate warrant article for the costs

associated with the proposed LED lighting projects for the Town Office building, Fire Station, and street lights.

GVS Lighting Audit: Bresnick reported that just before Christmas, she and a representative from LighTec performed a lighting audit walk-through at Grantham Village School. She requested they provide their analysis and any proposals as soon as possible, and anticipates hearing from them some time in the next few weeks.

NEW BUSINESS

Meeting with Sarah Simonds of Vital Communities: Chenevert reported that she and Bresnick had a very informative meeting with Sarah Simonds of Vital Communities where they discussed various questions about a potential solar campaign in Grantham. Chenevert distributed copies of Ms. Simonds's responses to several outstanding questions and requests, which is *Attachment 2* hereto.

Potential Solarize Grantham Project: Burgard noted that New Hampshire Sustainable Energy Association ("NHSEA") is a good resource for information on relevant legislation related to sustainable energy. She advised that bills are pending that impact sustainable energy, and in particular net metering for solar systems, as well as NH Public Utilities Commission proposed rules. There is a hearing on the net metering bill scheduled for Wednesday of next week. It was agreed if time permits, a short piece would be submitted to Grantham News to inform the public.

GEC discussed various aspects of a potential Solarize Grantham campaign, and the timing for the same. Chenevert noted that the federal rebate was extended, so there is less pressure to complete the project by the end of 2016. Burgard said that the suggested schedules in the Vital Communities solarize campaign documents show a fairly long period of preparation work, and queried whether the GEC still wants to proceed with forming a solar working group, which would include several community volunteers. Chenevert suggested the GEC should proceed to form the working group, but noted it is possible that kick-off and/or build may not occur until 2017. There was consensus on proceeding with the solar working group. Burgard will draft and submit to Grantham News a short piece calling for solar working group volunteers.

Chenevert suggested the GEC invite Kim Quirk from the Energy Emporium to talk at a meeting about how she would approach organizing one or more Grantham solar projects. There was consensus that Ms. Quirk be invited to an upcoming meeting. Bresnick indicated that if possible, it would be nice to have Ms. Quirk look at some municipal buildings in advance of the meeting to determine their viability for solar arrays. Chenevert will invite Ms. Quirk to the March meeting, and request that before the meeting, she come by and look at the municipal buildings.

Burgard noted that she was unable to meet up with the owners of the Post Office building to determine whether they have any interest in solar. She suggested the GEC send an inquiry letter. It was agreed Burgard should draft & send a letter inquiring about the owner's interest in solarizing the Post Office.

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Status of Revised Master Plan: Fitzpatrick advised that he followed up with Mike McCrory regarding the status of the revised Grantham Master Plan. McCrory indicated the draft was complete and submitted to the Selectmen. GEC will request a copy of the draft and review the same to determine what is currently proposed regard energy-related matters, and what, if any, revisions GEC might propose for the next update.

Publicity: Burgard noted that there are number of potential questions or issues that the public might submit to the Committee this year, and suggested the Committee begin compiling an "FAQ" or similar document. Bresnick proposed a working session to get started on a "talking points" document, with a goal of having the document done prior to Town Meeting.

Cancellation of February Meeting: Chenevert advised that she will be traveling in February and it seems a few others may have scheduling conflicts as well. It was agreed that the February meeting is cancelled. Chenevert will take care of necessary postings regarding cancellation.

ADJOURNMENT

Chenevert asked if there were any further business. There being none, Burgard moved to adjourn the meeting and Bresnick seconded the motion. **The Committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:07 p.m.**

NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Grantham Energy Committee will be held at **5:00 p.m.** in the Jerry Whitney Memorial Conference Room on **Monday, March 7, 2016**.

Respectfully submitted

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Kristina Burgard
Member

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ATTACHMENT 1

LighTec Proposal Letter for Street Lights

LighTec, Inc.
An Energy Services Company

December 28, 2015

Ms. Jenna Chenevert
Grantham Energy Committee
Town of Grantham
300 Route 10 South
Grantham, NH 03753

Dear Ms. Chenevert:

Thank you for giving LighTec, Inc. the opportunity to assist you with your street lighting project. This proposal describes our analysis of your current lighting and the cost to implement an LED retrofit for the purpose of energy cost savings.

The total project cost is **$12,790** after a 2016 Eversource rebate of **$2,600**.

We have selected a GE fixture as it is not only a quality manufacture but also a leader in the LED industry. Attached you will find a complete cost breakdown for the 26 street lighting fixtures.

I look forward to working with you on this worthwhile project. Please contact me with any questions. I can be reached at 603-424-2165 x17.

Sincerely,
Peter Mikolajczuk
Sales & Operations Manager

LighTec, Inc. · 37 Depot Street · Merrimack, NH 03054 · Phone: 603-424-2165 · Fax: 603-424-4312 · www.lightec.net

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Customer Assessment

Town of Grantham Street Lighting Proposal
24-Dec-15

	Installation Before	Installation After	Lifetime (yrs.)	Annual Hours of Operation	Labor $	Material $
Type:	Cobra Head - 50 Watt High Pressure Sodium	New 29 Watt LED Cobra Head with Photo Cell (GE ERL10A7B1402 GRAY)	13	4316	$3,124	$9,049
Qty:	24	24				
Type:	Cobra Head - 150 Watt High Pressure Sodium	New 51 Watt LED Cobra Head with Photo Cell (GE ERL10C7B1402 GRAY)	13	4316	$260	$883
Qty:	2	2				
	Two Flaggers 3 Days, 8 Hours per Day (estimated)				$1,056	
Other Costs & Benefits:	Bucket Truck					$814
	Universal Waste Disposal					$204
	Estimated Eversource Rebate					-$2,600
Subtotal:					**$4,440**	**$8,350**
Total Installed Cost:						**$12,790**

Notes: Labor includes 2 men approximately 45 minutes per fixture including time to relocate to each pole.

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ATTACHMENT 2

Vital Communities Post-Meeting Follow-Up

Federal 30% Tax Credit

- Get 30% of system cost back as a credit on your federal income taxes - you can take this over multiple years if you are unable to secure the entire value of your credit in year one. Always consult a tax expert to see how this would work in your case.
- Was set to expire on Dec. 31, 2016
- A bill is moving through congress to extend the 30% tax credit for three years - stay tuned but this is highly likely to go through!

New Hampshire Solar Rebate

- $0.50/watt up to 5,000 watts. That's up to $2,500 available per rebate. And since the average residential solar array is 6,000watts, you're likely to get that full $2,500.
- The rebate is first come first serve and we have no way to know if it will be extended past June into the next fiscal year.
- As soon as you sign a contract with an installer to go solar you can reserve your rebate. Then you have a year to complete your install. Fortunately, most installers do the necessary paperwork for you.

Net metering

- Most NH electric utilities have hit their "cap" for net metering and are no longer processing net metering applications.
- Net metering is a program required by law (until the utilities hit a pre-defined cap of total renewable energy) that dictates how the utility tracks solar energy produced by a home and compensates the homeowner for the value

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of that energy. With net metering, the utility tracks any extra power you produce and lets you use that credit later on when the sun isn't shining. Without net metering, you get to use the energy you produce in the moment, but any extra energy just flows back to the electric company and you don't get paid for it.

- There is a bill on the table in Concord that will raise the cap and bring back net metering, at least on an interim basis until the state can come up with a long term solution.

- Most utilities have a wait list for people who are ready to go solar when net metering returns
- New Hampshire Electric Coop is the only utility currently offering an alternative net metering program even though it has reached its cap. NHEC customers can go solar at any time.
- nhsea.org is the best resource for updates

Financing options: vitalcommunities.org/energy/solarize-financing

Energy efficiency - things to know about reducing your electric needs before you design your solar system - vitalcommunities.org/energy/solarize-efficiency

Online resources - vitalcommunities.org/energy/solarize-resources

Cost of Solar - To give you a sense of what this might cost - out of 181 contracts for solar signed through Solarize Upper Valley in the first part of 2015 (including many towns across the Upper Valley), the average gross cost (before incentives) was $23,810, and the average size was 6.01 kW, which works out to $4.01 per watt. In the solar industry, we talk about the cost of solar in terms of dollars per watt. The average cost of solar in New Hampshire since July 2014 was $3.76 per watt as of mid-March, and of course these numbers include regions throughout NH and vary from house to house.

Things to consider -

- Do you have an unshaded, south-facing (or SE/SW) roof? Or a good place for an unshaded, south-facing ground mount?
- Installers will need information about your electric usage and location to get

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the process going. It is helpful to have a recent electric bill handy so they can understand how much electricity you generally use. Is it likely that you might

Site Visits -

- Any installer can give you a sense of likely cost over the phone, a free site visit, and a free detailed quote. The best way to get started is to get site visits and quotes from one or more solar installers in the region. You'll find that each installer has a unique approach and pricing, so checking in with multiple installers will help you identify the best options and price for your specific situation.
- Before the site visit, the installer may ask you some questions over the phone or by email about your electricity usage, the orientation of your home, the age of your roof, whether there are large trees near your house, etc. The installer may also look at your home using satellite imagery.
- If the installer believes you may have a viable site, they will schedule a site visit. Your site visit will be free and will usually take between 30 and 60 minutes. The installer will take pictures and take measurements related to solar exposure. The installer may also want to look at your electric meter, past electric bills, and sometimes also your roof rafters if there is any question of whether they can support the additional weight of a solar array.
- If your site is better suited for a ground-mounted array, the installer will discuss possible locations with you.After the site visit, the installer will send you a detailed quote.

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Sarah Simonds
Energy Program Manager
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White River Junction, VT 05001