

## Energy Committee Meeting Minutes for February 25, 2020

Attendance: Susan O'Connor, Alex Strysky, Jim VanNatta, Andrew Vernon, and Judy Wagner (on phone).

Review and approval of January 27, 2020 meeting minutes. Andrew made motion and Judy seconded that with one correction, minutes voted approved as is.

Preparing for Green Communities Grant application (e.g. audits needed to get cost estimates, Eversource incentives, payback period) on possible projects

Northfield Elementary School (heat recovery ventilators, Air Source Heat Pumps Thermostatic valves, curriculum and outreach events). Following a walk through with Ben Weil from Clean Energy Extension, with EMCOR on February 19, and a conference call on with Ben and EMCOR on February 24, Ben created this summary with 3 scenarios:

All scenarios require the following base components:

- Boiler controls and improved firing controls to allow most turndown ratio possible
- Outdoor Reset water temperature control
- Thermostatically controlled valves for all heat emitters
- $\Delta P$  controlled VFDs for all three zone pumps. Delta P is pressure. *Do the pumps there stay and VFD? Is it an add on. Wikipedia helps. And there is a back-up pump.*

The Committee decided to ask EMCOR to do the analysis for the maximal strategy with the exception of buffer tank as EMCOR feels it can't tackle this in the time frame before the grant. It is the scenario that makes sense given our longer-term plan to move away from fossil fuels and to renewables. EMCOR will work to get numbers done by March 10 (e.g. cost, incentives, energy savings, payback). Once we have the numbers, we will involve Ben for his insights on what is optimum and what is best sequencing.

Vehicles (hybrid vehicles or idling strategies, charging stations, educational effort)

- What about an automated fuel management system, cards to track each vehicle track mileage?
- 2 idle kits are about \$34,000. After 2 minutes of idling, it shuts down but battery provides lights and heat. Maintenance savings on oil, and engine wear. For every hour a car idles, adds 33 miles to wear and tear. Add heat for snowplows. Heat option is \$2,000 extra and A/C is \$4,000. There is a calculator on the web site. They come out to do the installation. 15 towns have used this. Idleright by Havis is one company used and another is Smartway. Belchertown did a pilot project. Stealth power is on state contract. Alex mentioned Mark Rabinsky who said that towns have taken out anti-idling equipment. Reach out to Belchertown to learn more.
- Data plan: only \$400 per year for police data plan.
- Anti-idling education could include signs at the schools, transfer station, and do education. Workshop with town department staff.
- What about hybrid for police department.

Library

- Mini split for front office and curtain air block, so when only staff are in the building, they are comfortable, but don't have to turn on furnace for whole building.
- Control system is old.
- A/C and heating systems are separate and issues with each of them
- 3 compressors on back on building, could be replaced.
- Heating in Community room was discussed and how to make it more efficient. Ben Weil suggested using hot water tanks. Take a heating loop off water heater and circulate it through existing duct work. .
- Need to keep Sam, the Town Maintenance person, in the loop to do all of the physical plant caretaking.

#### Dividing up writing tasks and other next steps

- Select board approval March 9.
- School Committee meeting
- Judy will talk to Gates about sending along some numbers as well given they are an approved installer.
- Judy, Jim and Susan will divide up the writing of the NES and library strategies and Alex and Andrew the vehicle strategies.

#### Updates

- January 30 NES Building and Grounds Committee. This meeting was attended by chairperson Kathy Wright, Megan Desmarais (Principal), Kevin Seaman and Peter Blake. It was primarily about electrical project, but Susan filled them in on our tentative plan for Green Communities and hopes to have more to share for their next meeting at March 5, 10:30. We will stay in ongoing contact with Megan, Kevin and Peter as well, to be sure they have a say about our strategies.
- Earthlight's contract and electrical work: work at both schools is completed and the library with exception of 2 small items. Susan has requested that we hold off on other buildings until GC grant is complete.
- Additional items since agenda submitted
  - Aggregation plan was approved by the DPU, but they have some required changes. Colonial Pow`er group will help with the changes. There will be a meeting of the 13 towns March 26 at 6 p.m . in Whately as well. Can someone put it in their calendar in case I am still working on the grant? (Jim and Andrew might be able to go).
- Municipal Vulnerability Project meeting is here on Thursday, February 27, 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall. Grant is given to Northfield and Warwick.

Meeting was adjourned around 8:10 and next meeting will be March 12, once EMCOR analysis is completed.