

Energy Committee Meeting Minutes for April 24, 2020

Attendance: Susan O'Connor, Alex Strycky, Jim VanNatta, Andrew Vernon, and Judy Wagner through a zoom meeting

Making decisions for Green Communities grant application

- The grant application is due May 1. While we have received the analysis on energy savings and cost savings from Ben Weil at UMass, we do not have information on incentives from Eversource. We reached out to Kim Kiernan at Eversource on April 13, and when we got no word back, UMass reached out to her supervisor Bill Bullock on April 17, who said he could get it done. As of today, we still don't have anything back, and Mark Rabinsky reached out to Bill to remind him this is for the grant due May 1. If we don't get the incentives, we are instructed to send the grant in without the information, and with an explanation of our efforts.
- Alyssa LaRose from FRCOG has reviewed our draft narratives for our projects and feels they are in pretty good shape. She will make suggested revisions via track changes, and Susan will review changes and send revised drafts out to the team member in charge of each project.
- Library Air Source Heat Pumps (ASHP): While the payback isn't competitive, Alyssa LaRose from FRCOG suggests we go ahead and submit this project as it makes good logical sense. Judy will work on some revisions, and check with Gates to see if they are an approved Project Expeditor (PEX), and have them send along specifications. In addition, Judy will need to review the Bowman study and reach out to Bob Pasteris to identify how much weatherization we have done at the library and capture why we can't do more as that is a requirement for ASHP.
- Vehicle: Alyssa suggests that we separate out the anti-idling campaign from the incentive for the hybrid police vehicle. Susan will also check in with Andrea Llamas about the final cost of the Hybrid police vehicle and specs as Andrea may have them in preparation for Town Meeting. We had a discussion about the cost of the vehicle, and how this might fare in Town Meeting. Alex and Andrew will make revisions.
- NES project. We have selected Ben Weil's path 2, which includes change from pneumatic to thermostatic controls, new Variable Frequency Drive motors (VFD), and heat recovery ventilators (HRV). This strategy has been energy savings relative to cost and set us up well for next phase of work with air source heat pumps. Jim will tackle these projects, adding in some of the additional information Ben Weil has provided over the last month. He may include controls and motors as one project and the HRV's as another project. Please note: It may be that these 3 strategies need to go together into one project to achieve competitive payback period. This will depend on what we learn from Eversource. If all 3 strategies are packaged together the total amount is about \$143,000 which means we would need to go through a procurement process and committee talked about the advantages and disadvantages of that.

- Susan will update the Select board on April 27 about our plan, and NES officials (Principal, facilities staff, and Building Committee chair) and gather their input on April 27 or 28th. They are on spring break this week, so aren't available for discussion till next week).
- Committee members will make revisions and return to Susan by Tuesday so she can make final changes and send along to Andrea Llamas by Wednesday around noon, to have time to send in---in case there are some techn glitches.

Jim VanNatta made a motion that the Northfield Energy Committee would submit a grant that includes an ASHP for the library, an incentive for a hybrid SUV for police department, an educational effort on anti-idling, \$5,000 for clerk-of-the works to manage the project, and for NES a change in controls, new VFD motors, and heat recovery ventilators. Andrew Vernon seconded and the vote was unanimous.

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:

Updates

Aggregation

On February 7, Department of Public Utilities approved 13 towns petition for municipal aggregation and then some revisions in a compliance filing by March 26. Colonial Power Group (CPG) asked a supplier to provide us with indicative pricing, which looks quite favorable given all-time lows in natural gas market. The Select Board is meeting April 27 to review indicative pricing, RFP timing, supply terms, and roll-out

- The proposal is that CPG will issue an RFP to suppliers on April 29 for a split term. There would be a phone call on May 13, and then sign-off would be needed by May 20, 3:30 p.m. by each town.
- Our committee discussed what to recommend as "base" rate and we agreed we would like to go over required 28% renewable and perhaps plus 5% or 25% MA Class 1 renewable, depending on how the numbers come in.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.