

FINAL

**LEBANON ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CITY HALL MEETING ROOM OR
REMOTE VIA VIRTUAL PLATFORM
4:00PM, THURSDAY OCTOBER 19, 2023**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Greg Ames (Chair), Jon Chaffee (Vice Chair), Woody Rothe, Clifton Below (City Council Rep.), James Mashal, Sherry Boschert (REMOTE)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Henry Bromberg, Devin Wilkie (Alt. Council Rep), Meghan Butts (alt)

STAFF PRESENT: Tad Montgomery (Energy & Facilities Manager)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Ames called the meeting to order at 4:07pm.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 21, 2023

A MOTION was made by Jon Chaffee to approve the September 21, 2023 Meeting Minutes. The Motion was seconded by James Mashal.

Amendments: Page 2 Line 9: change “Chair Ames” to “Mr. Montgomery”

**** The Vote on the Motion was approved as amended: (5-0). Sherry Boschert was not present at the meeting for the vote.***

3. OLD BUSINESS

A. Legislation/PUC Regulations/CPCNH Updates

Mr. Below said the Data Platform Governance Council has gotten approval from the PUC to engage a consultant to develop a \$3-6 million GRIP (Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnership) grant proposal. He said this kind of grant helps accelerate applications and targets programs that use data from data platforms and service Justice 40 communities. He said he’s going to ask if the Coalition can be a collaborator on the grant application.

Mr. Below said the Coalition will be onboarding several new staff members, including a Regulatory and Legislative Affairs Director, who will be able to help with the application. He said Andrew Hatch is networking full-time for the Coalition and will also be able to contribute to the effort as well.

He said there was a Commission Ruling that usage data, for Community Power regulation rules, that utilities provide must include negative usage data exports to the grid for net-metered customers.

He said the testimony on new net-metering tariffs is due December 1. He said Eversource has declined to respond to requests for utility data responses and a motion may have to be filed to compel Eversource to provide the data. He said he's been in discussions with Clean Energy NH and NH Regulatory Affairs Committee on the proposal that will enable pilot projects for limited producers (generators under 5 megawatts). He said the timetable for the Commission to hold the hearing for this case is February/March, and, if the Commission makes a decision by June, new tariffs could go into effect possibly by next September. He said Representative Tom Cormen, state representative from Lebanon, is sponsoring a drafting of a bill to help secure this legislation.

Sherry Boschert (REMOTE) arrived at the meeting at 4:26pm.

Mr. Below said the Coalition now has 45 members. He said Grantham is one of the towns joining the Coalition. He said the Coalition CEO was part of the impetus behind the first utility vehicle-to-grid pilot that the Electric COOP did. He said that initiative realized about \$4,000 in additional value payments per vehicle. He said that's a product the Coalition hopes to bring to market.

B. Landfill Gas to Energy Updates

Mr. Below said at the last meeting with Liberty, he reminded them that, before the next cost benefit analysis update is completed, they need to determine what additional federal funding opportunities exist that the City could qualify for. He said engineers are working on the plans for the direct charge EV building and islanding, but also to add a DC Fast Charging station for electric fleet vehicles. He said they will need to update the City Council on the addition of the charging station and get additional appropriations for it. He said construction is still slated to begin in the spring.

C. Municipal Solar Updates

No update

D. Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Grant Application

Ms. Boschert said she heard that the announcement of who will be awarded CFI grants will happen by the end of 2023.

E. SHARC Energy Wastewater Heat Recovery

Mr. Montgomery said he has sent preliminary schematics for the proposed new fire station and building plans for DPW garage area to SHARC representatives.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. EV Subcommittee Report

- **EV Expo Review**

Ms. Boschert said the 2023 Upper Valley EV Expo on September 30 went well and about 400 people attended. She thanked all the volunteers and the tech team,

as well as the presenters, for all their hard work. She said the event came in under budget.

- **EV Street Sweepers Grant**

Mr. Montgomery said the application was submitted for the Granite State Clean Fleet grant for a total of approximately \$3 million. He said they should hear if Lebanon is awarded grant funds within a couple of months. He said City Manager Mulholland has been considering contracting out the street sweeping labor/operation, and he said he did not know how that will work if the City owns EV street sweepers. Mr. Below suggested that perhaps the City could own the street sweepers and contract out the labor.

Ms. Boschert said she met with the new Lebanon School Superintendent to discuss electric buses. She said there is a lot of federal money available to pay for the buses, the charging stations, solar panels or battery back-up, etc., and there would not have to be a match for the funding.

She also said local drivers education instructors contacted her to learn more about EVs because some students are learning to drive using EVs and they don't know that much about how they operate. She said there is a state-wide conference for drivers education teachers on October 21 and she said a few volunteers agreed to bring their EVs to the conference to demonstrate for the teachers.

B. Draft letter to the Zoning Board of Adjustments Re: The request for a variance at the Element Hotel

Ms. Boschert said the developers who own the former Element Hotel have been renting the rooms in the hotel for 30 or 90 days at a time. They are asking the Zoning Board of Adjustments for a variance so it can become residential property and to allow them to rent the rooms for a longer period of time. She said last January, the zoning ordinance was amended, saying that any new residential developments must include EV charging. She said the EV Subcommittee drafted a letter (included in the meeting's agenda packet) and is asking LEAC to send it to the ZBA urging it to include the requirement for EV Charging if it decides to grant the variance.

A MOTION was made by Sherry Boschert that the Lebanon Energy Advisory Committee send the letter to the Lebanon Zoning Board of Adjustments as presented in the meeting agenda packet. The Motion was seconded by Woody Rothe.

Ms. Boschert said she is attending remotely out of family health concerns because of COVID.

**** The Vote on the Motion was approved by roll call vote: Boschert: aye; Mashal: aye; Rothe: aye; Chaffee: aye; Below: aye; Ames: aye (6-0).***

Mr. Below said Chair Ames should sign the letter and have it sent to the ZBA through the Planning Department. He said the letter would get added to the next ZBA meeting agenda packet.

C. Proposed Parkhurst EV charging station

Mr. Montgomery said he was asked to compile data about the cost, expected usage, and potential revenue for the four proposed Level 2 Chargers (of which the proposed Parkhurst EV charging station is one). He said the average data in the U.S for this kind of location shows average use of .4 uses per day and 6-kilowatt hours per day. He said based on these projections, the City's \$4,236 would be paid back in five years if 12 cents are added to the G3 Electric rate as the cost of charging. Ms. Boschert said the data was calculated based on national usage data, and rates can vary greatly from state to state. She said the data calculation will probably be simplified once they get to the RFP stage.

Ms. Boschert asked if the group could discuss the EV Charger Reliability & Accessibility Accelerator-APD item next.

D. EV Charger Reliability & Accessibility Accelerator-APD

Ms. Boschert said she had heard the charger at APD was broken, but she said it's not actually broken. She said APD shut it down because they are afraid it's too close to the building and they are concerned about stationary EV fires. Mr. Montgomery said he has heard this concern a couple of times about fires and EVs recently.

E. Review Fleet Electrification Plan and EV Subcommittee comments

Mr. Montgomery said the City Managers have asked that the LEAC come up with policy recommendations for the Fleet Electrification Plan. He said City Manager Mulholland wants this plan to be part of the new City procurement policy, which will include a green purchasing aspect.

The group discussed the plan document, which was included in the meeting's agenda materials. Mr. Montgomery said City policies can be edited or adapted as needed. Ms. Boschert asked Mr. Montgomery to write a draft policy that the LEAC could then review and edit.

Chair Ames suggested that EV manufacturers might have policies already drawn up that are used by municipalities. Ms. Boschert said there are examples that the EV Subcommittee suggested that could be used as templates for Lebanon.

Mr. Montgomery said the City's fleet superintendent, Jesse Dumayne, would prefer if the entire City fleet were one make, Ford, so fewer tools and mechanic training are needed to service them. Mr. Montgomery said EVs take a lot less maintenance than gas-powered vehicles of any make/model. He said Mr. Dumayne has been involved in the Granite State Clean Fleet grant application and is onboard with the idea of EVs for the City's fleet.

The group discussed the following DRAFT policy language:

In accordance with the City's policy of reducing its carbon footprint, the City will seek to transition to EVs wherever it is cost effective, and where the new vehicle meets the needs of the user.

Overall policy statement: If a new vehicle is to be purchased for the City, it must be an electric vehicle unless there is a justified reason otherwise.

If an EV cannot be purchased now because of financial considerations, a plan will be made to purchase it in the future.

Even if an EV costs more upfront, if there's a lower life cycle cost, purchase the vehicle that has lower life cycle cost.

[Separate item – not included in Fleet Electrification policy: Staff use of EV Chargers – add as an employee benefit]

Mr. Below said Liberty Utilities is proposing to modify their existing EV charging rates for fast charging and medium use. They are proposing options to get rid of the demand charge by time of use.

F. Clean Energy NH Local Energy Solutions Conference

Mr. Chaffee asked if other LEAC members would attend this conference. He, Mr. Below, and Mr. Montgomery expressed interest in attending.

G. Recent and Upcoming Conferences or Webinars of Note

- NH DOE about their Solar Lottery Nov 20 at 9:00am to disperse the subsidies for residential solar. Mr. Below said the funding is for new applications and there is a limited amount of funding available.
- Dartmouth College Energy and Climate Week by the Energy Justice Clinic - Mr. Montgomery said he gave a talk at the event. He said someone came up to him after the talk and said he is working to try to pass legislation to put a price on carbon. He said Europe is doing this and American will someday be at a disadvantage if we are not doing it.
- NH Public Works Association on October 26 - Mr. Montgomery said he's been asked to give a talk at the about municipal development of EV fleets and charging infrastructure.

- Amy Lovins of the Rocky Mountain Institute is coming to Dartmouth College on Oct 28 at 4:15pm at Cook Auditorium.

H. EFM Report

Mr. Montgomery said the streetlight project is almost completed. He said the recent phases of the project involve the conversion of 15 floodlights and seven roadway luminaries, and the addition of several new streetlights at crosswalks.

Mr. Montgomery said Lebanon Airport Manager Carl Gross suggested a National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure grant to help get EV chargers up at the airport.

Mr. Montgomery said there's internet connection to Valley Cemetery and the Civic Memorial Fieldhouse so real-time monitoring can be set up and the Phase II Solar project can be finished.

Mr. Montgomery congratulated Mr. Rothe on his reappointment to LEAC.

Mr. Montgomery said Dr. Jackson Caspari asked about how the City budgets for electricity purchasing. He said he will meet with him this week. Mr. Below suggested Andrew Hatch be included in that meeting.

5. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Chair Ames said this is his last meeting with LEAC. He said he is not seeking reappointment so he can finish his degree. He thanked everyone for their hard work.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

7. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by James Mashal to adjourn the meeting at 5:52pm. The Motion was seconded by Sherry Boschert.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:52pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Paula Roux
Recording Secretary