

LEBANON ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Due to the Covid 19 Pandemic, the meeting was held virtually via MS Teams

November 19, 2020

4:00 PM

FINAL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Clifton Below (Chair, Council Representative), Greg Ames (Vice-Chair) Joan Monroe (Planning Board Representative), Meghan Butts, Jon Chaffee, Woody Rothe, Gene Homicki (alternate)

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: James Donison, Everett Hammond, Marc Morgan, Mark Goodwin, Rebecca Owens, Shaun Mulholland

GUESTS PRESENT: Sarah Riley, Evan Oxenham, Patricia McGovern

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order by Clifton Below at 4:04 PM. Clifton appointed Gene Homicki to fill the empty Lebanon High School student position.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES: Joan moved to accept the 10/15/2020 minutes as presented; Woody seconded. Approved unanimously by roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Solar Phase 2 Proposal for Lebanon Airport: Clifton gave an update on the proposal submitted by ReVision Energy (see proposal in meeting packet). The proposal includes a ground mount system and 2 hanger rooftop systems at the airport. PPA price is just under \$0.10/kWh, with a 2% annual escalator. The ground mount system is smaller than it could be, to not go over the 100kW AC limit (which has reduced net metering payback) and to minimize grid exports (exported power has less value than power used behind the meter). City can buy out the system in year 6. There is room to add additional solar behind the ground mount system in the future (possibly trackers). The projection shows that the estimated value of the solar production is slightly higher (\$0.1177/kWh) than the cost (\$0.11/kWh), so the project should be cash flow positive. There was further discussion on potential glare issues for incoming aircraft. Clifton noted that there is solar at the Burlington and Manchester airports (among others) and on the roof of Granite Air Center at the Lebanon Airport. The rooftop City Hall system original proposed is not included in the PPA, as the installation cost was too high to work as a PPA. Shaun mentioned that there is still ongoing radio interference at the Police Station and the Landfill Maintenance Building, and that these panels may be moved to City Hall.

Landfill Gas to Energy Project Update: Marc gave an update on the project. The planned City Council presentation did not happen, as the financial analysis was not complete in time. Marc presented the (now completed) analysis comparing direct sale of raw, unprocessed landfill gas and electric generation using microturbines (with and without REC sales). Net cash flow for sale of raw gas was estimated at \$3.7 to \$4.6 million over 20 years, while using the gas for electric generation was estimated at \$6.9 without REC sales, and \$11.2 million with sale of electric and thermal RECs. All returns were net of costs. Marc has a meeting next week at which they hope to determine a recommendation to the City Council, with a possible presentation in December.

City Manager Proposed Budget Elimination of Energy & Facilities Position & Budget (At Request of LEAC members Woody Rothe & Jon Chafee): Shaun gave an overview of budget shortfalls and his proposed cost savings, which include a loss of the Energy and Facilities Manager position (along with 2 other layoffs, one in DPW and one in Assessing). Jim gave an overview of plans to re-assign E&FM duties among the remaining DPW staff. After further discussion, Woody moved that LEAC recommend to the City Council that the EF&M position be funded. Gene seconded. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Other Business

A. Update on LED Streetlight Conversion Project - Phase 2 Options

Clifton gave an update on the streetlight conversion project. Lights on Main St, West Lebanon and Hanover Street, downtown Lebanon will be converted from high pressure sodium to LED, which will offer significant energy savings. The original plan of converting existing LED lighting in Colburn Park to warmer color temp (4000K to 3000K) and replacing/standardizing antique-style light posts around Colburn Park may be re-evaluated in light of budgetary conditions. Further discussion at December LEAC meeting.

B. Update on Community Power Aggregation Issues & PUC Proceedings

Clifton mentioned that much is happening in the area and requested to convene an Aggregation Subcommittee meeting. Subcommittee members agreed to meet on Monday, November 30, 2020 at 3pm.

OTHER & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – None

EV SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT – Rebecca has reached out to the EV subcommittee to discuss Planning Board questions around EV charging. The Subcommittee will schedule a future meeting to discuss the Planning Board's questions.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – Discussion on Building Codes updates and City Procurement policy deferred to a future meeting, probably after the first of the year.

NEXT MEETING:

Scheduled for Thursday, December 17th at 4pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Meghan to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 PM. The motion was seconded by Woody. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Gregory Ames