

MINUTES - GILL ENERGY COMMISSION  
15 December 2010

Committee: Claire, Tupper, Pam, Ivan  
Guests: Ray Purington, Ronnie LaChance

NOTE: No formal votes taken by commission at this meeting.

Agenda: add Winserts

(Nov. 17 minutes -- not reviewed at this meeting)

1. ESCO contract details and review:

Ray: Carl Ladd, School District Supt. thought contract looks more changed since last version --more references to maintenance; too much for them? Ray said its not much above and beyond what they're doing already, should be same or less.

Claire: Stipulated items can feel like more.

Ray: School district is not used to having money coming back to town.

January mtg. being set to review/discuss w/District and Ray; maybe Tupper, Claire

Claire: New ground on maintenance?

Ray: will check w/other school in same position

Tupper's concerns: After taking a closer look, he finds that too much of the wording in the contract is "awful." He cannot recommend to town that contract be signed in that form: The technical details are too confusing in a legal sense; "just doesn't work" in too many places--contract not clear on what to do. Tupper said he will speak to Siemens lawyers. This will make scheduling tight, but there is no strict schedule to adhere too. Badly written - can be fixed. Town counsel focused on business aspect, not details. For example: inconsistency in used of defined terms; Change Order procedures are not clear; Response to Delays procedure not clear.

Ray to followup on on language concerns with Donna (counsel), Beth (consultant)

2. WMECO energy audit details and review:

Pam: After her initial contact with WMECO, Marc Riel of WMECO audited all the town buildings --he needed info on buildings; he did assessment on Monday (Dec. 13).

WMECO wants to increase their contribution rate --now 0.02% efficiency rate (percentage of revenues going to energy projects as a funding mechanism) --will increase first of new year to 0.03%. Riel did find some things: esp. Riverside municipal building. He did a full Full audit: Included electric and heat (Ray said heat was not looked at). Riel is waiting until beginning of 2011 before submitting his report/results to get us the higher rate and to get placed in the pipeline quickly. Funds are available for entities with commercial meter.

Ray: Riel didn't go to Library--hours make it not worth it. Town Hall: motion/occupancy sensors. All buildings --next time buy 28W florescents instead of 32W. Public Safety Complex: he only did DPW, not fire or police.

Pam: will work on getting Riel's contact info for town commercial entities. Time sensitive.

Claire: Send MassSave contact info to town residential folks.

Pam: find creative ways to promote energy savings: contest, etc.

3. Green Communities Act criteria --as by right siting - Planning board meeting:

Claire: Peggy Smith of FRCOG is returning to Planning Board on Thursday, Jan. 13th at 7 pm to discuss "as of right siting" and solar overlay district (like New Salem).

4. Green Communities Act criteria - 5 yr plan for 20% reduction in energy use in town buildings:

Claire: Town needs inventory. Siemens work has given us a baseline. Towns needs a Plan. WMECO audits will help. Ray is cutting down on Town Hall costs--programmable thermostat. There is work the town can do--but costs are an issue--labor. Look at Montague's 5-yr plan.

Ray will email a copy.

Claire: Check Website?

5. Green Communities Act criteria - transportation reduction plan:

There are no numerical criteria --but must put in place enticements, mechanisms, etc.

Bike workshops; school-based projects (walking school-based)--needs creative thinking

Ivan: what seems or seemed fanciful now and in the past may appear less so as macro-level pressures increase.

6. Winserts:

Pam: she sent an email on the subject.

Claire: EC can organize a workshop for windows in Town Hall. February date?

Pam: agrees to help organize. Will talk to Brian at NQ Energy Coalition

Next EC Mtg: Tuesday, Jan 18 at 6 pm.