

TOWN OF HAMDEN

ENERGY USE & CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION MEETING

March 21, 2011

MAIN CONFERENCE ROOM
HAMDEN GOVERNMENT CENTER
2750 DIXWELL AVENUE

Commissioners in Attendance: Frank Gasparro, Chairman
Matt Corcoran
Frederick Schramm
Giovanni Zinn

Others in Attendance: Chris Marchand
Peggy Craft, Clerk of the Commission

Visitors: Andrew Kufta, Quinnipiac University Journalism Student

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Gasparro called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Gasparro asked if there were any additions, deletions or changes to the Minutes of the February 28, 2011 Minutes. It was noted that Commissioner Corcoran was mistakenly identified as Commissioner Cameron. Commissioner Schramm pointed out that on the second page the word Manager was misspelled as manger. There were no further changes to the Minutes and **Commissioner Corcoran motioned to accept the Minutes as amended. Commissioner Zinn seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

Next, there was a discussion regarding the Town's electricity bills and electricity use in Town owned buildings. Mr. Zinn explained how this is done in New Haven and felt that this is probably the same way it is done in Hamden. Mr. Marchand said it would be difficult to break down specific electricity use.

Mr. Schramm will continue to work on a report to show what the Town spends on energy. Mr. Zinn said that he believes that someone in Town would be in possession of this information.

Next there was a short discussion regarding gas used by town vehicles.

OLD BUSINESS

There was a discussion regarding the Fuel Cell.

Mr. Marchand said he was part of an hour plus conference call with UTC, the Board of Education, the attorneys, and Mark Albanese to discuss the terms of use. The Council has given

approval for the Mayor to enter into an energy agreement. Mr. Marchand added that concerns included renewable energy credits, down time and liability issues.

Mr. Marchand also said the object is to get an agreement signed by April 5th. It is hoped to get this done by April so that the work can be done during the summer when school is not in session. The fuel cell must be up and running by March 31, 2012. The fuel cell will be located behind the building on an unused grassy area.

Mr. Zinn explained renewable energy. Mr. Zinn further said that renewable energy credits green attributes of electricity. There is a demand for renewable energy credits because this shows a commitment to sustainable energy.

Further discussion included selling the recs and where they could be sold and at what price.

Mr. Marchand said this is moving along, and is now in the hands of the attorneys. Mr. Schramm asked why it has taken so long. Mr. Marchand and Mr. Zinn said there have been many factors that contributed to this.

Mr. Gasparro is having a meeting next week with the Head of Trustees of Hamden Hall and the owner of a Marina who uses solar energy. He asked how this could be used regarding Hamden Hall. There was a discussion regarding what would be the best use.

Power Point has an open ended consulting agreement contract with the Town to do specific projects. Mr. Marchand explained past projects. Mr. Corcoran asked if this is exclusive to Power Point or if another company can come in. Mr. Zinn said the benefit of this is that this company is in place when needed, and it is not necessary to issue an RFP.

DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

Mr. Zinn explained the installation of the Demonstration Project at Bassett Field. There will be a sign describing the installation. There was a discussion regarding the vendor and the cost of this project. This commission will have input into the wording of the sign.

There was a discussion regarding “Big Belly” trash compactors.

EARTH DAY

Earth Day will be held on April 30th. Mr. Gasparro said he can assist with set up and a few hours in the morning. Mr. Zinn will also be available. Signups for specific times will be done next month.

Mr. Schramm displayed the items that were donated by Home Depot. These included a flood light and fifty four packs of CFL bulbs for signups. All present applauded Mr. Schramm for his efforts.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Marchand was asked if there was any opportunity to take ownership of the street lighting. Mr. Marchand reported that UI continues to say no. Mr. Marchand has spoken with a person from CCM, who told him that CL&P has a contract that allows towns to shut down street lights from 12 AM to 5 AM. There was a lengthy discussion regarding this topic.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business to come before the Commission and Chairman Gasparro called for a motion to adjourn. **Commission Zinn motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Corcoran seconded the motion that passed unanimously.** Chairman Gasparro adjourned the meeting at 8:16 PM.

Submitted by:

Peggy Craft, Clerk of the Commission