

TOWN OF HAMDEN

ENERGY USE & CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION MEETING
DECEMBER 17, 2012
7:00 PM

MAIN FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
HAMDEN GOVERNMENT CENTER
HAMDEN

Commissioners in attendance: Frank Gasparro, Chairman
Frederick Schramm, Vice Chairman
Dave Bruhn
David Cooper
Matt Corcoran
Martin Mador
Amy Sowitcky

Others in attendance: Chris Marchand
Peggy Craft, Commission Clerk
Benjamin S. Parvey II, CEO, Blue Sky Power

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Schramm called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER MEETING

Commissioner Corcoran motioned to approve the Minutes of the November 2012 meeting as presented. Mr. Bruhn seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Marchand brought up the subject of Microgrids.

Benjamin S. Parvey II, CEO Blue Sky Power was in attendance to discuss this subject. Mr. Schramm said Mr. Parvey will be preparing three applications for grants from the State for microgrids.

The three applications to be submitted are:

1. Hamden Middle School, Hamden Government Center, the Miller Memorial Library and the Town Hall, which includes the Police and Fire Department.

The second is for Hamden High School and Shop Rite Grocery Store.

The third is for the Dixwell Avenue island which includes a Gulf Gas Station, a BP Gas Station and Popeye's Chicken.

Mr. Mador asked what the Board of Education's feeling is on this proposal. Mr. Schramm said they are in favor of the proposal.

There was a discussion regarding choosing a vendor if Hamden is selected to receive the grant.

Mr. Schramm said the application is a two step process. The Application must be submitted by January 3, 2013. The list will be narrowed to viable choices on February 21, 2013, and the recipients will be chosen from that list.

Next, there was a discussion regarding the creation of an Energy Corporation by this Commission. This was discussed at length by Mr. Cooper. There was continued discussion regarding how this Corporation would be formed and administered. Commissioner Corcoran is researching the legal aspects and requirements of the formation and administration of the Corporation if it is formed.

Mr. Mador asked for Mr. Schramm to explained the process for preparing the application for January 3, 2013. Mr. Schramm gave an overview of how this would be accomplished. He said the Commission will be working very closely with Mr. Parvey.

Mr. Cooper asked how energy would be supplied at the microgrid sites. Mr. Schramm said co-generation.

Next, Mr. Parvey was invited to address the Commission. Mr. Parvey explained what a microgrid does, and how this could be applied to the three site chosen. Mr. Parvey said that he feels the Commission has a well conceived plan. He said his firm has started queuing up the document, He feels this is coming together nicely. He also explained the work his company does.

There was further discussion regarding microgrids and the application that will be presented to the State.

There was also a discussion regrading micro-turbines.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding trenching.

Mr. Mador asked about business other than the ones that Mr. Schramm has chosen filing lawsuits for being excluded. Mr. Marchand said since this is a pilot program that there probably would be lawsuits. There was a discussion regarding this question. Mr. Mador again asked if there are other commercial entities in the area, then isn't there a potential for lawsuits. He cited the two grocery stores in the Town, and could the other store – Stop & Shop - have a lawsuit. Mr. Parvey explained that since including Stop & Shop would require crossing the road this would prevent including Stop & Shop at this time, and also eliminate the basis for a lawsuit.

There was also a discussion regarding including Quinnipiac University in the microgrid program.

There was also a discussion regarding who would own the generating facility. Mr. Schramm said the Municipal Corporation would.

Ms. Sowitcky said she has concerns regarding the space required for generating facility at the Dixwell Avenue Island site. Mr. Schramm discussed the three lots contained on this island, and where the generating facility could be placed.

Mr. Cooper said he feels more confident about the Hamden High School/Shop Rite application then he does about the other two. He added that he feels the Commission should vote on the choice of sites for the applications. He pointed out that nothing has been contracted for with Blue Sky Power. Mr. Gasparro pointed out that this Commission does not have the authority to contract with anyone.

Mr. Parvey was asked if there is time to prepare three applications by January 3rd. He said there is, and they always get done what they need to. He added that this is not actually a contract it is more like a Request for Proposal (RFP).

The Mayor has supported the Commission doing the work to apply for this grant application. The Mayor will sign the application. Mr. Mador said if the State accepts the application, then it has to be the Commission that approves the application not Mr. Schramm.

There was a discussion regarding the necessity for another meeting to review the applications before January 3rd. Mr. Schramm pointed out that this would only be going over the answers to the questions on the first phase of the application. There was further discussion regarding this subject.

Mr. Corcoran said he does not want to vote on an application that has not been prepared yet. Mr. Mador

Mr. Gasparro motioned that the Commission recommend to the Town that proceed with the three applications to the State for the Microgrid Project Feasibility Application. Mr. Bruhn seconded the motion. There was a lengthy discussion regarding this motion. The vote was five in favor, two opposed. The motion carried.

Mr. Parvey pointed out that there is information that is necessary to receive from UI before the application can be completed.

NEW BUSINESS

The proposed Meeting scheduled for 2013 was presented by the Commission Clerk. **Commissioner Corcoran motioned to accept the Schedule of Meeting for 2013 as presented. Commissioner Bruhn seconded the motion that passed unanimously.**

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business to come before the Commission and Vice Chairman called for a motion to adjourn. **Commissioner Gasparro motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Sowitcky seconded the motion that passed unanimously.** Vice Chairman Schramm adjourned the meeting at 8:54 PM.

Submitted by: _____
Peggy Craft, Commission Clerk