



TOWN OF STRATHAM

INCORPORATED 1716

10 BUNKER HILL AVENUE STRATHAM NH 03885

VOICE (603) 772-4741 FAX (603) 775-0517

ACCEPTED MINUTES FOR STRATHAM ENERGY COMMISSION MEETING

July 9, 2024

Meeting held at the Stratham Municipal Center

Commission Members:

- Matthew O'Keefe
- Charlie Case
- Michael Welty
- Joe VanGombos - absent
- Joe Anderson - Select Board Member
- Paul Deschaine

Call to Order: 6:00 PM

June 11, 2024 minutes approved

Municipal Solar – The Select Board provided feedback on potential Town owned sites for Municipal Solar which were identified at the June Energy Commission meeting.

- a) **Prioritize looking at solar panels mounted above the new DPW shed which will be built to store salt spreaders; and look at ground mounted solar panels at the Transfer Station on the 2.5 acre capped landfill. Tim Stevens and Joe Anderson have walked the landfill site.**
- b) **Don't consider solar panels on the Gifford Farm Land near Stratham Hill Park, or the field behind the Municipal Center**

New DPW Shed Solar – Tim Stevens will be getting pricing for the proposed 20 x 80 foot shed. Matt will recommend to David Moore and the Select Board that we put together an application under the NH Municipal Solar Grant Program (funded by the US DOE Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program) for 100K to fund a proposed 30 KW solar installation. The application is due to the NH DOE by noon Aug 1, 2024. The Select Board must approve the final application before submission. It was noted that Katrin Kasper from Clean Energy New Hampshire has offered to help.

Police Department Solar Array buy out – Matt has contacted Alec Morrison (solar asset manager at ReVision Energy) to discuss the possibility of a Town buy out of the Police Station solar array which ReVision Energy installed in 2018 under a Power Purchase Agreement. The earliest the Town can execute a buy out is September 2024 for a price of \$26,264, which is a substantial discount from the actual installation cost. The Capital Reserve Fund has \$20,000



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earmarked for this expense. The Town will see if additional buy out money needed can be found elsewhere, possibly from the Buildings and Grounds Trust Fund. A buy out would mean all of the solar generated by the Police Station solar array would be “free” versus the 9.24 cents per kwh we are now paying ReVision Energy. After a buy out, the Town can also sell Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) through the Northeast REC Pool.

Hydro Net Metering Opportunity Revisit – This was discussed at the June meeting. A second group net metering program for hydro generation has been proposed. The program would support New Hampshire Hydro Generation facilities and make them economically viable while providing the Town a very small benefit. The Town would have joined the first group in 2022 but it was quickly fully subscribed. Consensus again was not to pursue the second group.

Community Power; New Rate Review – The new Stratham Community Power rate from CPCNH for the six month period starting August 1, 2024 will be 8.6 cents per kwh, a small increase (from current 8.1 cents) due to higher costs normally encountered in this time frame. It is noted that this rate is lower than Unitil, Eversource, Liberty and the Co-op for the same period. We will track Stratham community participation.

EV Chargers – The Select Board has provided direction to not install Town owned EV Chargers. Residents typically charge their vehicles at home and visitors can use a commercial charger near Planet Fitness.

Municipal Building Initiatives – The RFP for HVAC improvements to the Municipal Building was sent out on June 13 with Energy Commission recommendations. Three proposals were expected, but only one was received. The Town may request bids again. Tim Stevens is also looking at lighting improvements in Municipal Buildings with Affinity LED Lighting. They provided a bid to convert municipal lighting to LED, but we could not verify that Affinity’s proposed incentives from Unitil were correct. Mike will follow up.

Stratham Memorial School Construction Project Review – Mike Welty volunteered to be an SMS Sub Committee representative and was accepted. The first meeting of the Sub Committee will be in late July.

Adjourned: 7:25 PM