



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

November 12, 2024

Meeting held at the Stratham Municipal Center

Commission Members:

- Matthew O'Keefe
- Charlie Case
- Michael Welty
- Joe VanGombos not present
- Joe Anderson - Select Board Member not present
- Paul Deschaine

Call to Order: 6:10 PM

October 8, 2024 minutes approved

Municipal Solar

DPW Installation NHDOE Grant – The Town was notified that we were not selected as a grant recipient. Construction of the Salt Spreader Shed will continue, but the plan does not have a final approval from the Select Board.

PD Array Buy Out – David Moore reported that the Police Station solar array buy out from ReVision Energy is imminent

CENH meeting on Direct Pay – IRS requires a form 990 (Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax) filing for Municipal Direct Pay applications. Some entities in Maine have gone through this. At this point we are not familiar with form 990. Under 1 MW is a much simpler process for Direct Pay than over 1 MW.

Municipal Building Initiatives

The Town Municipal Center, including the Wiggin Memorial Library and Town Offices and the Police Department are serviced by a series of roof top heating, ventilation and cooling units that are beyond or nearing the end of their useful life. This project replaces these in-kind or with improved high-efficiency technology that is in keeping with the recommendations of the Energy Commission and our current HVAC vendor who provides regular service and maintenance of our HVAC units at all town-wide properties. An Energy Efficiency rebate of about \$7,000 is available through Utilil for this project. The Utilil evaluator for the two buildings affected determined that one mini split doesn't meet the efficiency requirement but



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the rooftop units do meet the requirements. The mini split evaluation will reduce the rebate by about \$200, but selection of the mini split provides the lowest overall cost.

Lighting proposals – put off until January meeting.

Sol Smart – Carol Ogilvie is the new Town Planner. Three resources for residents who wish to install a solar array are found on the Energy Commission web page 1) Solar Energy System Permit (residential) Application Checklist, 2) Conditional Use Permit Application and 3) Zoning Ordinance Excerpt Section 5.13 Solar Energy Systems. Sol Smart rates Towns and they are reviewing our solar information. The timeline to get proposed zoning changes for the March Town Meeting is tight with a proposed writeup in December, Public Hearings January, all to Town first week of February. Carol will meet with Sarah (Sol Smart contact) soon.

Freedom Energy – Freedom Energy has approached us again whereby the Town could decide to be an “off taker” for small solar generators to help them survive and get a small benefit for doing so. An earlier solicitation was for hydro power. This contract would provide about \$2K per year to Stratham. An issue is a required \$2K early termination fee. If Stratham joined, there would be no impact to Stratham Community Power. However, we would have to end participation if we wanted to do a group net metering system. No urgency – defer to December.

Community Power –

No change to the PUC Net Metering approach although the PUC will be meeting shortly to discuss issues raised by CPCNH. More Towns are joining CPCNH. Stratham customer savings from March to August is \$318K. It is noted that four member communities are building their own reserves which are funded by an increase in their electricity price. The Energy Commission has recommended that Stratham Community Power stick with the lowest cost approach for now and not build reserves. CPCNH is working on REC aggregation so there may be an opportunity for CPCNH to buy RECs from the Police Station solar. CPCNH is looking at a fixed product for 12 months for commercial and municipal accounts.

Stratham Memorial School – Architects are no longer involved. The new sub committee has looked for a pre construction Manager. Four good applicants were reviewed. Carino Construction was selected. The sub committee told them that they are looking at less than \$15M for the project and will go back to 1989 when SMS was built to see what variance were given at that time. The sub Committee includes Paul Ferini (lots of related experience), a rep from Dowling Co, and a rep from Emmanuel Engineering. The sub committee met with the Principal to discuss what needs to be done. Special Needs are a driver.

Adjourn 7:25