



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

August 13, 2024

Meeting held at the Stratham Municipal Center

Commission Members:

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

Also Attending: David Moore – Town Administrator

Call to Order: 6:00 PM

July 9, 2024 minutes approved

Municipal Solar

Stratham's NH Municipal Solar Grant application was submitted to the NH Department of Energy on Aug 1, 2024 to fund 70% of a proposed 33.6 KW roof mounted solar array as part of a new DPW Shed planned to improve crew safety by properly storing road salt/sand spreaders.

The remaining 30% could be funded under a separate federal grant program for Municipalities called Direct Pay. The total estimated cost for the solar array is \$100K. The NHDOE plans to announce grant awards in October. Stratham is considered by the state as an economically advantaged Town which could hurt our chances for an award, but it is believed there are other important criteria that the DOE will take into account. NHDOE reported receiving 30 grant submittals.

Police Department Solar Array Buy Out from ReVision Energy – 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 Select Board approved pursuing the buy out from ReVision using Capital Reserve Funds. After the buy out is complete, all of the solar energy generated by the Police Station solar array would be “free” versus the 9.24 cents per kwh we have been paying ReVision Energy. In addition,



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the Town can sell Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) through the Northeast REC Pool. ReVision Energy can sell RECs for us, or we can do it ourselves. CPCNH could also do it if they decide to start a REC sales program. It is noted that CPCNH already buys RECs to cover the required renewable energy percentage for power in NH. Matt will follow up.

Municipal Building Initiatives – The Town Municipal Center, including the Wiggin Memorial Library and Town Offices as well as 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. Energy Efficiency Rebates are available through Unitil for this project – Joe V and Matt will arrange to reserve those rebates, but the Town must still apply for them. David Moore and Tim Stevens will follow up.

The Energy Commission also recommends that the Police Station hybrid heat pump thermostats be programmed to switch from heat pump heating to furnace heating at a temperature of 40 degrees.

SolSmart Program Enrollment – Mark Connors (Town Planner) and Matt have looked at this program which provides support to Municipalities in implementing solar projects. This support would include review of the Town regulations and training of Town staff. The EC supports joining the SolSmart program and Matt will write an enrollment statement for the Town. Funding for the program is from the Federal DOE. Sarah Yeager will be our SolSmart contact.

Community Power Updates – Paul Deschaine will provide Community Power updates at the September meeting. Mike received a memo about an “opt up” challenge for CPCNH member municipalities. The challenge urges residents to opt up to higher levels of renewable energy. Consensus was not to participate at this time based on the priority for lower cost by the residents.

Stratham Memorial School construction project review – The Stratham Memorial School subcommittee met in late July. Mike will update us at an upcoming meeting.

Affinity Lighting Proposal – In following up on the Affinity rebate issue with Unitil, the Energy Commission learned that another company has made inquiries about an LED lighting project for Stratham. Mike will follow up.

Rockingham Planning Commission Power Contract – Our Constellation Energy aggregation contract with Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC) partners is expiring October 2025. While we are positioned well to transition to the default supplier for the Town with Stratham Community Power (through CPCNH). We may be able to use our leverage as the leading load



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with the Constellation Energy RPC contract to see if our pending departure can attract a competitive rate for our aggregation group. David Moore will reach out to the RPC – Jill Longval & Tim Roche.

Adjourned: 7:15 PM