



TOWN OF STRATHAM

INCORPORATED 1716

10 BUNKER HILL AVENUE STRATHAM NH 03885

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

APPROVED MINUTES FOR STRATHAM ENERGY COMMISSION MEETING

September 10, 2024

Meeting held at the Stratham Municipal Center

Commission Members:

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

Call to Order: 6:00 PM

August 13, 2024 minutes discussed but not approved due to only 2 members present who attended that meeting. Defer to October meeting.

Municipal Solar - Stratham's NH Municipal Solar Grant application was submitted to the NH Department of Energy on Aug 1, 2024. DOE staff reached out to David Moore for a clarifying statement that funds would not cover operating costs after installation if awarded. David submitted an accepted email statement on 9/3. Will await final selection notice in October. Paul D shared with Christiane McAllister summary documentation from regional municipal working group on processes for Direct Pay program, which would allow the town to recoup 30% of project installed costs from IRS as part of the Federal Inflation Reduction Act funding earmarked for tax exempt entities pursuing renewable energy projects.

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 buyout is September 2024 for a price of \$26,264. ReVision sent a purchase template for review. David Moore has shared with town legal team for review and is awaiting next steps with ReVision to begin the purchase process.

Municipal Building Initiatives – **HVAC Projects** - 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 units 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.



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Energy Efficiency Rebates are available through Unifil for this project – Matt will work with Tim Stevens and Britt Fowle to capture invoices paid and product specifications to complete NH Saves efficiency incentive applications.

Municipal Lighting Projects – Town received an unsolicited proposal for LED replacements of various municipal facilities. Mike W to look into competitive proposals for comparison. No action from last month. Defer to October meeting.

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. Funding for the program is from the Federal DOE. Sarah Yeager will be our SolSmart contact. Matt to provide Mark with SEC recommendation and bullets for inclusion in the application statement. Mark already highlighted zoning and land use barrier assistance, along with municipal facility solar use as focus sections for assistance. Recommend including training for municipal staff on code and solar regulations.

Community Power Updates – Paul Deschaine provided Community Power updates, including monthly statistics on community participation and membership activity. CPCNH now has 63 members representing 75 communities, accounting for 35% of NH population. Matt to draft language to include in upcoming Sect Board newsletter with steps for those residents not enrolled in Stratham Community Power but on a 3rd party supplier to enroll once the current contract expires if interested. CPCNH also seeking support for open PUC docket on net-metering legislation. Defer to October meeting.

Stratham Memorial School construction project review – The Stratham Memorial School subcommittee met recently and are currently reviewing various scope items including lighting, HVAC, and thermal envelope improvements as part of the project. Mike will update us on an ongoing basis as the subcommittee is meeting approximately once per month.

Rockingham Planning Commission Power Contract – Our Constellation Energy aggregation contract with Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC) partners is expiring October 2025. David M discuss with RPC staff on interest to continue once expired but with the ability to move municipal accounts to CPCNH as well, assuming it would be beneficial to do so. David will keep the commission updated on next steps and SEC will have a rep available for those discussions when applicable.

Adjourned: 7:15 PM