

## **Minutes Montague Energy Committee Meeting** December 9, 2014, Downstairs Meeting Room 6:15-8:15PM

**Present** – Pam Hanold, Chris Mason, Sally Pick, Jeff Singleton, Tim Van Egmond. Jason Burbank, Rich Adams.

**Designate facilitator and scribe:** Tim, facilitator, Sally taking minutes.

**Minutes** from Nov 18, 2014 meeting: after edit from Sally, minutes were approved as revised.

### **FRTA, other public transportation**

December 30<sup>th</sup>, meeting between FRTA and town regarding proposed route changes, a process to discuss proposed changes, & the economic impact on Montague residents (not a public meeting).

- Jeff wants to have them set a timeline to make changes, viable north/south bus to Amherst.
- Energy committee interested in issue because of energy implications of bus routes:
  - Improve schedule for existing ridership and expand ridership.
- Hoping for stronger oversight board from FRTA.
- New Amtrak railroad line supposed to start in Greenfield, December 29.

### **Town Energy Issues**

- Energy improvements: Sheffield & Hillcrest school buildings

Try to set up conference call between Alyssa Anderson of SAFFIRE program, Michael Sullivan, school superintendent, Walter Ramsey, and Bart Bales, energy consultant, to explore options for broad energy efficiency study.

- See if feasibility study from SAFFIRE could be used to include an energy efficiency study.
- Identify who on school or town staff will drive process.
- School backup boiler is not working, to our knowledge: incentive to get new system in place.
- PV on landfill proposal
  - December 8 Selectboard meeting: Discussed Revio Energy proposal to install PV on landfill. Voted to entertain the idea of a lease for PV with Revio.
  - Revio has several companies committed to be power off-takers.
  - $\frac{3}{4}$  MW on capped landfilled.
  - Lease agreement; town would not get any energy from it.
  - Selectboard stated at meeting that town was not interested in getting any of energy.
  - Chris will check with Walter to see if town has explored what other towns in WMECO area are getting for their PV on landfill.
    - Jason will check with a contact in Amherst about their landfill PV.
    - Rich will check on community solar project's model.

- Senior Center

Sally is affiliate member of committee looking at 3 possible sites. Committee met with architect. Pam attended 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting and is now on committee. The 3 locations are current location (former church), rectory connected with St. Anne's (which had fire), or take out garage attached to Town Hall and put in building with connector to elevator. Architect hasn't given any information yet on site attributes, possible costs, plans. Pam, Sally, and Walter did walk-through at Rectory. Sanctuary now owned by private party: possibility that sanctuary could be new location for library, with senior center on ground floor.

MEC will have real role to play once a possible site had been identified, but not until then. Pressure to have committee to look at all the capital issues (ex. DPW) together.

Possible that town will soon buy current location of senior center for \$1, to assure home for senior center (otherwise company will want to sell it). Chris said whatever site chosen would have to meet energy efficiency

standards.

Next agenda item – Consider making a policy recommendation regarding energy efficiency of whatever building will be used for senior center.

- Shea Walk-Through
  - To review an unsolicited HVAC renovation proposal received by Walter.

### **Proposed Natural Gas Pipeline**

As a member of Mount Grace's board, Pam attended Greenfield Chamber of Commerce meeting about pipeline.

- ISO- New England, Kinder Morgan, AIM, Berkshire Gas, Columbia Gas made a presentation.

**Draft letter to Governor-elect Baker:** tabled

**Energy Efficiency Outreach:** no update.

- MassCEC grant to FRCOG
- Multi-town collaboration

**Other topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of the meeting:**

Agreed to cancel meetings, if necessary, by email by 1pm the day of a meeting. Chris will continue to take lead on meeting cancelations and will email Deb Bourbeau to post.

**Agenda for next meeting:** Chris will send to Deb and Anne Clark at town.