

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

Montague Energy Committee

Town Hall, 1st Floor Meeting Room, 6:30-8PM

Present: Chris Mason, Sally Pick, Ariel Elan, Pam Hanold, Jason Burbank.

Chris facilitating; Sally taking minutes.

Approved minutes from 11/6/19.

Designate facilitator and scribe: Chris facilitator; Sally scribe.

Heating system options for Sheffield/Hillcrest school buildings

- Mid-November, Town sent questions to Tom Bowman.
- We will not get a different heat load calculation than initial report, that were based on current heating use data.
- Bowman's report was not able to take into account major waste from poor system.
- Current heating infrastructure not maintainable, and system cannot readily be replaced with a hot water system.
- Setting up meeting with key people and Tom Bowman to maximize useful information that may be added to the final report.

DPW Building

- Two different rates available: Time-of-use rate or flat rate, both with demand charge. Jason believes that TOU rate would add value by reducing demand charge. If have TOU rates, demand charge is only assessed during on-peak times. MEC needs to find out when Eversource on-peak times are.
- Jason recommends using heat pump heating during off-peak times, rather than boiler, to reduce demand charges. Heat pump is less costly to run than boiler if keep demand charges down.

Outdoor lighting upgrades to LED

- Active prudential districts involved in all Town's lighting districts and Town representative met last week.
- All are on board with moving forward together to shift to LED street lighting.
- Town will have to buy lights; districts not allowed to do it by state law.
- Prudential districts will lease LEDs from Town.
- Talked about maintenance avenues and funds for maintenance.

Report on CIC meeting if there was one since last meeting: No report.

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Town letters of support/testimony

- MA 100% Renewable Energy Act: tabled
- Rep. Benson's Carbon Pricing Bill:
 - Sally sent out draft resolution to MEC on December 5th.
 - MEC will decide next meeting on whether or not to endorse bringing this resolution to the select board.

Free Eversource EV public chargers for Turners Falls & Millers Falls: No report.

FRCOG Affordable Access Regional Coordination (AARC) grant

- Sally read FRCOG informational email she received from Walter Ramsey explaining that FRCOG has funds to promote and direct implementation of renewable energy options for low-income households and landlords renting to low-income residents.

Requesting that Town opt in to Commercial PACE (C-Property Assessed Clean Energy)

- Sally introduced topic of asking the Town to opt-in to C-PACE when it becomes available early 2020; it will be discussed further at next meeting. C-PACE is a financing option for energy efficiency and renewable energy upgrades to commercial buildings.
- C-PACE will be administered centrally through Mass Development. They expect to have their portal to apply for loans to be available the end of January, 2020.
- The Town would only be responsible for adding the bill for financing costs onto a borrower's property tax bill and passing payments along to the administrator of the program. They would not be responsible for collecting unpaid payments.
- C-PACE loans stay with the property if it's sold.

Discuss possible revisions to solar bylaws: Tabled.

Town buildings and energy infrastructure, including Sally's list of town energy: tabled

Discuss future directions, priorities of committee, building membership: tabled

Action items:

- Chris will email George Woodbury's LED lighting report.
- Chris or Ariel will research when Eversource on-peak times are.

Next meeting: Jan. 8, 2020, **Wednesday**