

**TOWN OF SOUTHTON**  
**ENERGY COMMITTEE**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**June 15, 2009**

The regular meeting of the Energy Committee of the Town of Southington was held on June 15, 2009 in the Town Council Chambers of the Town Hall, 75 Main Street, Southington, CT. The meeting was called to order at 7:05PM by Councilman David Zoni, Chairman.

**I.) Roll Call**

Present at roll call: Councilman David Zoni, Sharon Vocke, Dennis Vachon, Jerry Belanger and Fred Cox. A quorum is determined.

**II.) Approve of April 20, 2009 Minutes**

Commissioner Vachon made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. It was seconded by Commissioner Belanger and the motion was passed on a voice vote.

**III.) Energy Committee Communications**

Chairman Zoni reported on the presentation by DBS to the Council. There was a discussion about conservation planning and creative funding in surrounding towns. West Hartford has an aggressive, effective energy conservation plan.

**IV.) Issues for Discussion and Review**

a.) Update on 20% by 2010 Campaign

**1. Discussion of Comprehensive Energy Plan**

Chairman Zoni questioned whether the Town of Southington is close to goals set for this campaign. Commissioner Vocke reported that the formula for compliance has been changed midstream and a point system has been instituted addressing the varied program facets involved. Southington is doing well on their clean energy CL&P sign ups and the goal is coming in sight on other areas. The prize is a free solar system to be placed on a town building. Commissioner Vocke is working with a volunteer group interested in promoting this. The present task is to begin monitoring energy use in town buildings so that it can be tracked for compliance. Commissioner Tranquillo has the benchmarking information from the town buildings and Commissioner Cox has it for the school facilities. Commissioner Vachon explained the procedure to secure this information on line. One of the requirements to comply is for the town to commit to purchasing 20% of the town's energy from a clean source. Commissioner Vocke explained the procedure to explore this. Chairman Zoni feels that this may become a political issue, since it probably will involve extra expense. Commissioner Vocke pointed out that the town has made a commitment to purchase 20% of its energy from renewable sources by 2010. That has been decided. The state legislature also has mandated that all towns purchase a percentage of their energy from clean sources. Commissioner Vocke will research what Southington's committed goal is and where efforts are at present in relationship to that goal. A plan can then be formulated to achieve compliance.

Mr. Cox suggested that the program needs to be made clear to citizens and to town staff. It appears that it is not all about conservation and financial savings. He read the Energy Committee's Mission Statement and suggested that this be used as a guide in decisions made here. All agreed that this committee can make recommendations to the Council regarding energy decisions, but the fact remains that the Council has agreed to work toward the use of 20% renewable energy by 2010. Producing a video about this program encouraging citizens to sign up for clean energy on their CL&P bill was discussed. Chairman Zoni suggested that the \$2000 grant from the Clean Air Fund be used to produce such a video to be aired on the town's website. He has an idea about someone who may be willing to help. There was a question about sending information on the 20% by 2010 fund being inserted into tax bills. The legality of this would need to be explored. He also said that the authority of this committee is ultimately limited to what the Town Council will allow.

### **2.) Community Innovation Grant Program**

In the absence of Commissioner Tranquillo, the Chair reported that the first half of the \$2000 grant has been received and it has been deposited as required by the grant conditions. There are specific intentions for its use and regulations regarding accountability.

### **3.) New Wave Renewable Energy Program**

No report on this.

#### **b.) Public Building and Facilities Energy Conservation Issues**

##### **1.) Facilities/Site Energy Guidelines/Energy Savings Report**

Commissioner Cox reports on the school facilities. Derynoski will be completed during this summer. It will undergo updating of lamps, ballast, occupancy sensors and motion sensors. Gymnasium lighting will be updated, as will the classrooms. All school district buildings will then be complete. Energy auditing will be a continuing program. DBS has been notified that the Southington School District is on board for upcoming conservation programs as they become available. Chairman Zoni spoke about the DBS presentation for town buildings and that will move forward.

##### **2.) Status of Energy Audits**

Commissioner Tranquillo sent a report that the Energy Conservation Guidelines have been mailed to all departments for comment. If there is no comment, the Guidelines will be instituted. The committee was happy with the recommendations. Commissioner Vocke questioned why the voltaic system is being placed on the firehouse as opposed to a school, specifically the high school where there is a huge roof. Commissioner Cox stated that the schools were not included in the program. The school system is being financially assisted by CL&P at about 50%, the other 50% is repaid from savings. There is no payback on the town's deal, it is totally a block grant. Commissioner Vocke questioned if the town could take advantage of the CL&P program. Commissioner Cox feels that they could have, on the lighting aspect of the update. Chairman Zoni will question Mr. Tranquillo. Commissioner Cox explained

that PV technology needs to be placed on a new roof so that the life expectancy would support the investment. South End School is presently being investigated for this type of program. There is now a reverse-metering program to allow for back feeding excess energy to the system. New roofing projects need to always be considered for PV technology.

c.) EPA Energy Challenge Program Update

**1.) Benchmarking Date**

This is being gathered.

**2.) Renewable Energy on Brownfield sites**

A report from Commissioner Tranquillo is pending. Commissioner Vocke asked if there were brownfield sites upon which renewable energy technology could be placed. Art Cyr offered from the floor that there is a membrane 4' below the surface and other than mowing, it is prudent to stay off it.

d.) KVAR/Capacitance Device Update

The only real benefit of this is for older motors that are not efficient. There might be a couple of applications at the sewer plant where there are a few older large motors. Consensus was that most new motors are extraordinarily efficient and this technology is bordering on obsolete. There is also a problem with the inability of the purveyors to provide a price for their product.

c.) Rescue-a-Buck

Four items have been received for review of the Energy Committee.

It was suggested that we turn all of the street lights and all of the flood lights off, after "bar time."

There is apparently another situation on Johanna Circle where a street light is always "on." Whether it is "on" or "off" the town pays the same amount. However, this is wasting energy, if not money, so this was passed along to those who will correct it.

There is a lengthy letter about how the lighting is handled in the parks, particularly during baseball season; and tennis courts that are lighted during pouring rain. The Parks Department has been asked to research this.

At the Vo-Ag Center there seemed to be fans running in an empty greenhouse. It could be that they are used to move air while seedlings are being started to return naturally-rising heat to the seed beds. Mr. Cox will share this with the administration at Vo-Ag.

f.) Federal Energy Grant Review

Commissioner Vachon explained this. The feeling was that if there had been a meeting last month to hear the DBS presentation, there would have been an opportunity to ask why the school facilities were not considered in the distribution of the grant money awarded to the town.

**V.) PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

**VI.) MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

Chairman Zoni threatened to do another Luminocity Study during the summer months. Commissioner Cox is monitoring this in the schools on an ongoing basis. Zoni did report that he had complaints about night lighting at Hatton School. He checked it out recently and drove right past the school in the darkness.

**VII.) Adjourn**

Commissioner Belanger called for adjournment at 8:15PM. This was seconded by Commissioner Vocke and all agreed on a voice vote.

David Zoni  
Chairman  
Energy Committee  
Town of Southington