

TOWN OF SOUTHLINGTON
ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING
March 15, 2010

A meeting of the Energy Committee for the Town of Southington was held at the office of the Southington Water Department, 605 West Queen Street, Southington.
Present: Chairman Frederick Rogers, Sharon Vocke, Fred Cox, and Kalyani Baxi.

1.) CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman Rogers called the meeting to order at 7:14 PM.

2.) APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Sharon Vocke to approve the February 22, 2009 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Kalyani Baxi and passed unanimously.

3.) COMMUNICATIONS

a. *Communications from the Public-None*

b. *Communications from Committee Members-None*

New Business was taken out of order to allow a representative from Audicon, Karen Wheeler, to present her services. Topics discussed included lowering cost and increasing efficiency in telecommunication and utility billing. Ms. Wheeler's service would include reviewing all town utility bills to make sure metered accounts are being billed in the appropriate rate account. Chairman Rogers will contact the appropriate Town Departments seeking support for Ms. Wheeler to research billing data.

4.) OLD BUSINESS

a. *DBS energy study:*

DBS is currently working on an energy study for Southington High School, South End School, Plantsville School, Kelley School, Flanders School, Sewer Plant, and the Town Hall.

b.) *Update on 20% by 2010 Campaign:*

At the January Energy Committee Meeting, Chairman Rogers requested that each Town department submit a CL&P annual consumption request form which will enable Sterling Plant to calculate what it would cost the Town to purchase credits to meet the 20% by 2010 commitment. To date, Chairman Rogers has received the required form from Town Engineering but is still awaiting BOE's information from Committee member Fred Cox. Sharon Vocke reported 171 sign-ups to date. The Committee agreed to continue to seek out other opportunities to obtain credits for the Town's 20% by 2010 commitment.

c.) *EPA Energy Star Bench Mark Software*

Chairman Rogers asked Committee members who are Town employees to initiate this software program on one building from each Town Department. Chairman Rogers reiterated this software is a good benchmarking start point tool that will enable the Committee to evaluate the energy performance of Town buildings.

d.) Energy Committee Mission Statement Review

Chairman Rogers made a recommendation to not modify the current mission statement at this time. The committee members agreed.

5.) NEW BUSINESS

a.) CL&P Free Audit Programs

After further review, Chairman Rogers did not find a specific audit program that fits the Energy Committee's needs at this time. He will stay in contact with the Town of Southington's CL&P rep for other programs the committee can utilize.

b.) "Municipal Summit on Climate Change" Yale University, March 13, 2010

Chairman Rogers' committee members Sharon Vocke and Kalyani Baxi attended the summit and reported to the committee some of the topics discussed. Videos of the seminars will be available for viewing shortly.

c.) Governor Rell's proposal to use State Energy funds to balance the State Budget.

Sharon Vocke urged committee members at the February Energy Committee meeting to contact their state reps and oppose Governor Rell's proposal to use State Energy Funds to balance the state budget. Committee member Vocke explained this fund was created for towns like Southington to promote energy efficiency, sustainability and education, not balancing the State's budget. Chairman Rogers did contact Representative Zeke Zalaski and informed him that the Energy Committee opposes Governor Rell's request.

6.) ADJOURN

Committee member Vocke made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Committee member Baxi seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.