

**TOWN OF SOUTHLINGTON  
ENERGY COMMITTEE  
Regular Meeting  
November 17, 2008**

The regular meeting of the Energy Committee of the town of Southington was held on November 17, 2008 in the Town Council chambers of the Southington Town Hall at 75 Main Street, Southington, CT. The meeting was called to order at 7:30PM by Councilman David Zoni, Chairperson.

**Roll Call**

Fred Cox, Sharon Vocke, Councilman Nicholas DePaola, Councilman David Zoni, Chairperson.

A quorum is determined.

**Councilman David Zoni, assuming the Chair:**

**Approval of Minutes for March 31, 2008.**

Mr. Cox presented a motion to approve the minutes of the March 31, 2008 meeting. Ms. Vocke seconded and the motion passed on a voice vote.

**Guest Presentation - KVAR Energy**

Mr. Carl Borzage of Century Contractors demonstrated a device designed to cut energy use by electric motors through the use of capacitors. This patented system has been successfully marketed in other parts of the country and he cited its use in municipal settings. Mr. Borzage entertained and answered questions from the members of the committee. KVAR is an international company. The device is UL approved and it has residential applications.

The Chair will arrange a demonstration for the Town Engineer.

**Energy Committee Communications**

There had been a question at the last meeting about what happens to funds saved on projects due to value engineering. The Town Attorney has ruled on this, information included in the packet.

Arthur Cyr has submitted information on Plainville's use of solar equipment at the Linden St. School.

Mr. Cox reported on present consideration of the use of solar energy in new facility projects. Projects in progress are difficult to alter once they are approved by the state. The South End project has no financial latitude following the bidding procedure, the Plantsville project is in renovation status and there is no funding to alter basic wiring or structural changes. Natural gas heat is planned for both projects. Solar energy will certainly be considered in new school projects from inception.

## **ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION AND REVIEW**

### **Update on 20% by 2010 Campaign**

Southington's initial commitment to recruit 100 residences to clean energy has increased from 83 to 91. The requirement has now escalated to include a commitment to meet an EPA goal. The energy will be monitored in municipal buildings, with a goal of a decrease in energy use.

### **Public Building and Facilities Energy Conservation Issues**

Councilman Zoni explained that in August of 2008 he undertook a personal project to monitor night lighting of public buildings. With a photographer he cruised the town beginning at 1AM on a Sunday morning. He presents for review of the committee members a photo booklet. A discussion followed airing issues of vandalism and public safety. Perhaps the committee needs to have some input from the fire department and the police department on this. Mr. Cox talked about these issues in regard to school facilities. He explained that some of the older buildings were planned with 24-7 lighting arrangements and they were hard-wired for this. He is exploring changing the lighting system and procedures to keep pace with evolving energy issues. Motion sensor lighting and dusk to dawn lighting was discussed.

Mr. Cox reported on a program he recently held with custodians, principals and technology department staff to review and make recommendations for daily "best energy practices" in the school facilities. Recommendations range from daily diligence in the use of area and classroom lighting, to maintenance of equipment and turning off technological equipment when not in use in order to attain best efficiency has been recommended. His informal random visits to facilities reveals that staff is complying with these principles. He awaits updated utility bills to evaluate accumulated savings. Mr. Cox presented for the committee's review, his conservation guidelines for energy usage. The energy committee recommends his habit retraining guidelines for school facilities to be shared with the town manager for consideration of implementation in all municipal buildings.

Lighting practices in municipal buildings was discussed at some length.

Councilman Zoni has asked the Town Engineer to prepare a list of all municipal facilities making note of heating fuel used. Availability of gas at facilities currently using oil should be noted, as well.

Mr. Cox discussed with the committee South End and Plantsville Schools. The oil tanks have been pulled. They will be using natural gas when the projects are complete. The school projects benefited from the gas line brought in for the sewer

plant. Dual fuels arrangements had been entertained but the limited savings did not warrant installation at these facilities. Mr. Cox is working on adding gas at Kennedy and Derynoski. He anticipates a dual fuel arrangement in these schools should pay back nicely. There was a discussion about the electric schools. They present special challenges in today's energy environment but continue to be addressed.

The consortium energy contract for municipal facilities was discussed. The Board of Education contract with Constellation Energy is up for bid in 2009. Municipal building contract for gas and electricity has 3 years to run.

Councilman Zoni announced that the Town Engineer is scheduling energy audits with CL&P on all municipal buildings.

Mr. Cox announced that the Board of Education has approved changing to higher efficiency lighting at the remaining schools—the two middle schools and the remaining elementary schools on a special program with CL&P. This plan has proved to provide a savings at the high school.

#### **EPA Energy Challenge Program Update**

There was a discussion about making a short video about saving energy and airing it on the public access station at the suggestion of Ms. Vocke. Councilman Zoni has spoken with Kathy McGrath at the high school who suggests contacting the Environmental Club. They would be interested in working on this.

The committee has received copious information about ways in which to promote environmental concerns. Ms. Vocke will review the data and report back to the committee.

#### **Public Communications**

Arthur Cyr, 103 Berlin Avenue spoke from the floor. He spoke about solar energy and his company's connection to it. He reported on some area solar projects planned or in progress.

#### **Review and Approval of 2009 Meeting Schedule**

Going forward, a schedule of meetings for 2009 are presented to the committee. Councilman DePaola made a motion that a monthly meeting of the Energy Committee be scheduled as proposed on the third Monday each month. This was seconded by Ms. Vocke and then passed on a voice vote.

#### **Miscellaneous Business**

Ms. Nevelos has resigned, having been appointed to the Police Commission. Jerry Belanger has expressed a desire to serve on this committee and it is anticipated that he will be appointed before the next meeting.

**Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was proposed by Councilman DePaola at 5:22 and seconded by Mr. Cox. All were in favor of adjournment.

Councilman David Zoni  
Chairman, Energy Committee