

**TOWN OF SOUTHLINGTON
ENERGY COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting
January 21, 2009**

The regular meeting of the Energy Committee of the Town of Southington was held on February 21, 2009 at Firehouse Co. #1. The meeting was called to order at 7:30PM by Councilman David Zoni, Chairperson.

I.) Roll Call

Dennis Vachon, Jerry Belanger, Fred Rodgers, Fred Cox and Councilman David Zoni, Chairperson.

A quorum is determined.

Councilman David Zoni, assuming the Chair:

II.) Approval of Minutes for November 17, 2008.

Mr. Cox made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2008 meeting. Second came from Mr. Vachon and the motion was passed on a voice vote.

III.) Energy Committee Communications

Mr. Vachon reported that he has some information on an upcoming interesting energy conference in Boston. There was some interest expressed by other committee members. He also reported that CL&P is providing some information on energy issues, including predictions of trends. He will share this by email with other commissioners.

Chairman Zoni reported that the town has made a bulk purchase of gasoline at \$1.28 per gallon. Mr. Rodgers questioned him about its availability to the Water Dept. vehicles.

Mr. Cox reported that the school district has signed up the high school for the 30 minute response program offered by CL&P, to be in place during the summer months. The financial return on this is substantial and returned more than \$100,000 between 2005 and 2007, with relatively little inconvenience. Mr. Cox explained the program in great detail and an interactive discussion was entertained about feasibility in town offices and the Water Department.

Mr. Cox spoke about the current conservation measures in the schools. The Middle Schools are being reevaluated in relation to relighting, relamping and retrofitting fixtures with new technology achieving much improved illumination for less cost. The difference is astounding in the two gyms. The program is funded in concert with CL&P with a guaranteed return.

There was some discussion about instituting this program at the Police Department and the Waste Water Treatment plant. Chairman Zoni will ask the Town Engineer to be present at the next meeting so that it can be discussed.

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

a.) Update on 20% by 2010 Campaign

Chairman Zoni reports that Ms. Vocke is working with the Principal at the High School and has an appointment to meet with the Conservation Club soon, to discuss producing a video highlighting local conservation efforts. The plan is to air it on the local TV network to raise awareness of the 2010 Campaign. Mr. Cox suggested that the school has a class and a studio and he will provide the name of the teacher in charge of this.

Mr. Belanger agreed that the greater the participation of residential homes, the greater the benefits of this program for the Town. He spoke of a CL&P website that monitors the participation of each town and suggested an announcement, to be aired on Channel 14, would at least bring this issue to the public quickly.

b.) Public Building and Facilities Energy Conservation Issues

1.) **Luminosity Audit 08-10-08 (Feedback)**

Chairman Zoni had some suggestions from the *Rescue a Buck* program: Install heat and air on timers. Also, someone reported the light on all night in the dog park, even though it closes at dusk.

Chairman Zoni feels that it is important to invite a representative of the Fire and Police Departments to discuss safety issues relating to night lighting of public buildings.

Mr. Belanger discussed the use of motion lighting.

Mr. Cox suggested a study of night lighting in all of the Town parks.

Mr. Rodgers reported there had been a review of night lighting use at the Water Company. Unfortunately the lights are wired together, which doesn't allow for much control of individual groups. The Water Company has taken steps to minimize night lighting as much as is possible.

Mr. Cox is having the schools gradually rewired, as time permits, to gain better control over the lighting systems.

2.) **Facilities/Site Energy Guidelines**

Mr. Cox made a report on the progress of his Energy Conservation Guidelines implemented on October 20, 2008. The staff is positive and all are taking responsibility for using lighting and equipment to conserve energy. He will have a report at the next meeting regarding actual dollar savings town wide in the school facilities.

Chairman Zoni said he spoke about this with The Town Engineer and there had been some discussion about whether the man hours involved didn't offset the savings. Mr. Cox said that it adds up and one

hour of electricity a day, 180 days a year is worthwhile. He feels that the effort is minimal.

Mr. Rodgers assigns individual employees to check lights and equipment at the end of the day.

Mr. Cox explained that change in attitude and routine regarding use of utilities must come from the top down and supervisory employees must be on board to make it work.

3.) **Facilities Oil vs Gas Status Review**

Chairman Zoni shared a grid that the Town has produced, revealing the mode of heat being used. Mr. Vachon had information about a study which compares oil vs gas, considering historical usage and pointing out the advantages/disadvantages involved. There was a discussion at some length about this. Chairman Zoni felt that this subject should be discussed when the Town Engineer attends. Mr. Vachon will share this information with the committee on line.

Mr. Rodgers shared some information and his positive experience with a private energy audit firm, Steve Bolles, Process Energy Services.

Mr. Belanger noted that the Town has made a commitment to an energy audit of town buildings.

c.) EPA Energy Challenge Program Update (Rodgers/Vocke)

A commitment has been made to take part in this program. Ms. Vocke is heading this with Mr. Rodgers. Chairman Zoni reported that this a grant program. Mr. Rodgers had a positive experience with this at the Water Department. Chairman Zoni will be certain that the Town Engineer gets the information.

Mr. Cox reports that the schools have kept up with the review of lighting systems, maintaining the highest efficiency lighting technology, at no cost through the use of available programs, most from CL&P.

Mr. Vachon shared the name of Winslow-Fuller Consultants, with whom he has had a positive experience.

There was an interactive discussion about this project.

d.) KVAR Update

Chairman Zoni has spoken with the Town Engineer about the presentation of this product (Power-factor Phasing Capacitor) at the last meeting. The Town Engineer has done some research on the subject and it has come to light that there are other vendors for this product. Mr. Rodgers explained how the system works, since he is familiar with it. After some discussion the Energy Committee felt that it could not recommend this to the Town. Chairman Zoni will ask the Town Engineer to send a memo to the vendor to that effect, thank them for their time and interest in energy conservation.

V.) **Public Communications**

Arthur Cyr spoke about the KVAR product presentation. He did not recommend that the Town consider this for several reasons which he outlined for the Committee.

VI.) **Miscellaneous Business**

None.

VII.) **Adjournment**

Adjournment was called for at 8:44PM by Mr. Belanger, seconded by Mr. Vachon. All were in favor of adjournment.

Councilman David Zoni
Chairman, Energy Committee