

TOWN OF CAPE ELIZABETH MEETING MINUTES

MEETING: Energy Committee
DATE: Thursday, January 21st, 2021
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
PLACE: Zoom Meeting

Roll Call

Present:
Sam Milton
Sam Lipman
Carrie Gilbert
Richard Parker
Barbara Toomey
John Voltz
Thomas Murley

Absent:

Public Comment

- ❖ No public present.

Minutes

- ❖ Although there wasn't anyone from the public present, Perry informed the committee of the interest from a high school student on the idea of collaborating at some point with the school's Environmental Group. Sam Milton was going to reach out to his contact with an invitation to attend an Energy Committee meeting.
- ❖ A motion was made for the approval of the November meeting minutes by Barbara Toomey and was seconded by John Voltz. All were in favor of the approval of the draft.
- ❖ Perry Schwarz had provided the group a copy of the Freedom of Access Act as the group had a brief discussion about it. John Voltz had requested that the town look at the idea of providing all committee members with a town email address.
- ❖ Sam Milton started the discussion on the 5 bids received back from solar developers. Sam Lipman presented the figures and some values with each individual proposal. Sam Lipman did note that he felt Encore's offer was the most generous.

- ❖ If Encore were to keep the RECs, they were offering a 32% discount rate or a 9.1 PPA rate set at a 0% escalator, or an 8.2 cent rate at a 1.5% escalator. If the town were to keep the RECs, Encore was offering a 21% discount, 10.2 cents PPA at 1.5% escalator, and a 11.2 cent PPA rate with a 0% escalator. The offer from Encore also includes a COD of the 4th quarter in 2021.
- ❖ Sam Lipman noted that he had spoken with Charlie Agnew from Competitive Energy and had recommended buying the RECs and selling them, that the RECs were currently up to about 4 cents.
- ❖ Carrie Gilbert recommended that we contact the top few and ask questions such as where they are in the permitting process, how many customers do they have signed up, where are they in the interconnection process. Sam Lipman thought that if the town was given a 4th quarter 2021 quote, then you should expect they are pretty far along in the process. However, asking about the amount of subscribers is a good question to pose.
- ❖ John Voltz had added the question of what would happen if the provider doesn't complete on time.
- ❖ Richard Parker asked the question as to what would happen if the total town demand drops below the subscribed amount. Sam Lipman agreed that this should be a concern with the commitment. Carrie Gilbert noted that we also don't know exactly how well our solar project will perform and the effect on the overall demand. Sam Lipman suggested a ceiling/floor in the contract, and John Voltz recommended just a flat discount rate, where the town's load would not make a difference.
- ❖ Moving onto the next agenda item, Sam Milton started the conversation of the committee's event scheduled with the Thomas Memorial Library, and the layout of the presentation.
- ❖ Richard Parker had given a brief description of how the applications were submitted for the EV charging station and the documents included for the grant. The town has been awarded all project locations that were submitted and installation costs have been included in the town's budget for FY2022.
- ❖ The committee proceeded to discuss the options available for conducting energy audits on some of the town owned buildings. The depth of the scope and cost are still some questions unanswered.
- ❖ John Voltz had asked Perry if the town or school have any ongoing records of life expectancies on things such as equipment or buildings. Perry responded that we have nothing avail at this time.
- ❖ Richard Parker suggested that the school look into the possibility of the designing firm working collaboratively with companies such as Siemens or Ameresco for example, with a focus on the future and technologies that may be out there. Thomas Murley also added names such as Schneider Electric, Johnson Controls, Honeywell, Noresco, Trane, Con Edison, ESG Energy Systems, and McKinstry Energy.

Public Comment

❖ No public present.

Adjournment

After hearing no further comments, John Voltz made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Thomas Murley. The meeting was adjourned without objection at 8:45 p.m.

Next Meeting

❖ Thursday 2/18/2021 at 6:30pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Perry J. Schwarz