

## Minutes

Chester Energy Team

February 22, 2016

Members: Sandy Prisloe, Peter Harding, Justin Hardy, Pat Woomer, Lauren Gister (ex officio).

Minutes of January 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting approved.

1. No Audience of citizens.
2. Lauren Gister provided an update on energy and other improvements to the Meeting House. The Town has contracted with Marcus Abbott to address immediate electrical safety issues. The upgraded curtain supports, floor structural issues and energy saving opportunities will be addressed by an outside firm that would be able to also determine if there would be any State financing and energy incentives to be available. The Energy Team will make recommendations to the BOS on potential firms.
3. An update on the Town Garage project will be addressed at the next meeting.
4. The Town is now using Eversource for electrical supply. With the recent rate increase, it becomes necessary to look at alternative suppliers that will provide savings, guarantee rates for a minimum of six months and are on the approved supplier lists. It was suggested that in order to avoid the hassle of changing suppliers for all the Town accounts, we just monitor and change the three major users: Town Hall, Fire House and Street Lights. Sandy will pursue what and who would make these changes and Pat will check with CCM to see if they have a recommended supplier to consider. Monitoring this will continue to be an agenda item for all future meetings.
5. Lauren and Pat reported on meeting with David Rackie, Eversource Account Executive focused on Street Lights. Chester received an estimate on the cost of purchasing our street lights from Eversource in September, 2015. This estimate is valid through March 8, 2016 (six months). The discussion determined that : a)Chester is eligible for installation of up to 50 LED replacement street lights as part of a pilot program. b)If we decide to purchase our street lights, these would be priced at a new street light cost. c)Chester would be eligible for conversion of all our street lights, but this would not happen for 3-4 years. If we wait for Eversource to convert, we would have little input into the type of LED fixtures installed, other than wattage.d)Either way, Chester will have LED street lights, it just depends on how fast do we realize the savings and how much input we have in the process.
6. Based on this information and the savings projected by preliminary proposals from three approved contractors, the group, with Lauren's approval, agreed that Chester should proceed to immediately begin the approval process of purchasing our street lights and converting them to LED. It was also agreed that we should take advantage of the current purchase price estimate from Eversource, since we were told that it would increase (possibly "significantly") if we needed to obtain a new estimate.
7. Continuing with street lights, three action steps were decided:
  - a. Lauren to contact Eversource to clarify the details of our current estimate and to determine if the current estimate time period could be extended 30 days in order to present the proposal to the Finance Committee and a Town Meeting for approval.
  - b. The Energy team would proceed to firm up costs of maintenance, insurance and other areas associated with the project.

- c. When there is approval for the project with firm purchase numbers, the Energy Team will develop a RFP for the project to be sent to the approved vendors.
8. A meeting will be scheduled with the Principle and Facilities Manager at the Chester Elementary School to discuss and analyze the recent MAP audit of the facility. This will be used in order to develop for the Finance Committee a five year capital plan for CES. Lauren Gister will be asked to participate in this discussion.
9. There was no update from Peter Harding on progress from the Library Building Committee.
10. The MAP format and outline will be used to generate information for budgeting and capital plans for the next 5 years.

Adjournment : 10:45AM

Next Meeting March 14, 2016