



City of Middletown
CLEAN ENERGY TASK FORCE

MINUTES
FEBRUARY 17, 2016

Present

Acting Chair Dmitri D'Alesandro, Councilman Gerry Daley, Larry Chatfield, Jeff Pugliese, Augie DeFrance

Absent

Chair Jennifer Kleindienst Councilwoman Deborah Kleckowski, John Hall, Audrey J. Scotti,

Also Present

Christopher M. Holden, PE, Staff, Michael Harris – Energy Coordinator

1. Chair Opens Meeting

The meeting opened at 12:40 P.M.

2. Approval of Minutes

Gerry Daley moved approval of the minutes for the January 20, 2016, seconded by Augie DeFrance, approved unanimously.

3. Public Comment

There were no members of the public present for comment.

4. Old Business

1. Greenskies Solar Power Purchase Agreement for Higby Water Treatment Plant

Dmitri D'Alesandro opened the discussion with a report of his activities researching possible cost reducing changes to the proposal. Two of the items were the length of the connection from the solar array and the water treatment plant and the location of the array.

Michael Harris reported on his research. His analysis determined that the present cost of the proposed project utilizing an inflation/discount rate of 2.5%, is approximately \$140,000 more than if the project was not undertaken. There are three variables that can be adjusted to bring the costs of the project closer to parity with the current situation. They are adjusting: the ZREC share the City receives; the initial cost of electricity produced by the system; and rate of annual escalation of the cost of electricity. There is no relief from the demand charges because of the fact that the water is pumped to the storage tank at night, while there is no offset from the solar array.

Gerry Daley moved that The Clean Energy Task Force recommends that the Greenskies solar power purchase agreement at the Higby Water Treatment site be amended as follows in order to be acceptable to the City of Middletown: The Clean Energy Task Force offers the following suggestions with regard to the Greenskies solar power purchase agreement at the Higby Water Treatment site:

- a. The project's construction costs be reduced by minimizing the transmission line between the solar panels and the facility tie-in by changing the location of the proposed system on the site, or reconfiguring the transmission line (such as above the ground routing);
- b. The reduced construction costs be reflected in the price proposal such that the escalation rate of future electricity does not exceed 2% per year for the 20-year period;
- c. The ZREC share granted to the City of Middletown be adjusted upward such that the 20-year costs of the project are commensurate with the costs of not installing the system; and
- d. If possible, the City of Middletown be protected from lost savings associated with falling energy costs.
- e.

The motion was seconded by Augie DeFrance. The motion was approved unanimously.

Gerry Daley left the meeting at 1:05

2. Meeting Location for Evening Meeting.

After some discussion it was determined that the night meeting, once per quarter, would be held in room B-19 of City Hall.

2. LEED Certification

There was some discussion as to the benefit of obtaining LEED certification to new construction. It was suggested that it adds 10-20% cost to the project. It was reported that the Senior Center rehabilitation design was completed using LEED and was successful.

Michael Harris said that LEED should be used on a case by case basis and not every project would lend itself to benefitting from this process.

3. Middletown Energy Plan

Dmitri D'Alesandro to convene sub-committee to review and update the plan.

5. New Business

None

The meeting adjourned at 1:24 P.M. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 16, 2016, to be held in Room B-19 of the Municipal Building at 7:00 PM.

Submitted for approval by:



Christopher M. Holden, PE
Deputy Director of Public Works