



TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER, MASSACHUSETTS ENERGY COMMITTEE

FINAL MINUTES: NOVEMBER 2, 2017

Members Present: ✓ Tom Hall, ✓ Carlton D. Hunt, ☐ TBD

Guests: Jason Tanko, TankoLighting; Lisa Sullivan, CED; Michael Dutton, Town Manager; Kim Williams, Assistant Town Manager

The November 2, 2017 Energy Committee (EC) meeting was called to order at 3:05 PM in Room 201b of the Academy Building with a quorum present. The agenda was approved with a correction for the draft minutes for approval (Sep. 9, 2017 rather than January 2017). There were no announcements or public comments. Approval of the Sep. 9, 2017 meeting minutes was postponed until the next meeting.

The committee entered a discussion regarding energy and cost savings if the of the Town converted its streetlights to LED fixture. TankoLighting contacted the Town in October 2017 regarding conversion of our street lights the LED fixtures. Conversations with TankoLighting and the EC Chair made the Town aware that Massachusetts DOER had a grant program and that NGRID gave incentives for street light conversion. The grant program ends in December 2018.

Conversion transfers ownership of the street lights to the Town from NGRID. The Town must take on maintenance responsibility. This is typically through a competitively procured service contract. Given the Town's interest in reducing our energy consumption footprint, TankoLighting requested to meet with the Town to address questions on the program and present its qualifications and experience.

The Energy Committee Chair confirmed with MAPC (Metropolitan Area Planning Council), which manages the program for the DOER, that the conversion grant program is available. In addition to a 30% of cost grant for conversion from DOER, there are NGRID incentives; also Green Community funds are available through its competitive procurement process.

MAPC indicated they conduct a group-buy procurement for the conversion process. The conversion process consists of 1) a detailed audit of all street lights in the town, 2) a detailed conversion design, 3) the Town acquiring the street light fixtures 4) installation, and 5) a log-term maintenance program. To participate in the conversion, the Town must indicate an interest in participating to MAPC and indicate availability of funds to cover the audit and design phases. The next round of MAPC procurements is schedule for mid-November 2017 and the project must be completed by December 31, 2018.

Prior to the meeting MAPC and TankoLighting each provided ballpark estimates of the program cost, energy savings, and payback period for conversion based on a current street light list provided and current annual electrical demand from our street lights. The MAPC conversation project estimate is ~\$~470K. Incentives and grants reduce net cost to ~\$305K. Green Communities grants are capped at ~\$250K. If granted, the cost to the Town for conversion could be ~\$55K. The MAPC estimated annual energy cost savings from the conversion is \$154K.

Town officials raised concerns about staffing to support conversion (record keeping, responding to notifications of failed lights, etc.) plus insurance and replacement costs. The audit deliverable would likely be a GIS layer that includes up to 36 parameters per light fixture for every streetlight fixture in the Town. A qualified GIS technician would be required to maintain the GIS data which



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would add staff costs to the Town. Maintenance costs would be covered through a third-party vendor contract. Insurance concerns need to be resolved.

The Town Manager will review the concept with Finance Director and communicate to MAPC of the Town's interest. The Assistant Town Manager agreed to discuss the concept with the MAPC contact to better understand a loan program that is available through MAPC and clarify the procurement and insurance cost concerns. The committee thank Mr. Tanko for providing technical information.

The Chair provided the Town Manager with energy use trends since joining the Green Communities program. Energy use in our buildings has been reduced by 19%; this reduction is offset by a 44% increase in the gasoline and diesel fuel use in the vehicle fleet. Our energy cost since 2009 have increased by ~6% against and planned reduction of 20%.

The Chair also provided a summary of the Town's electrical energy cost reduction from the purchase of solar power from the Marina field on Fireworks Circle. A 14.3 percent reduction in the town's electrical energy cost has been experienced since the field went into production in August 2015 (28 months). Also noted was the delivery of less than 100% of the Town's electrical demand by the Marina Solar field; the field has cumulatively provided 83.7 percent of demand since startup.

Consideration of energy aggregation concepts were postponed.

Town Manager indicated he will work on an RFP to secure a solar design company to develop recommendations for installing solar power at the golf course.

Discussion of other items not forthcoming, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for 4PM, January 2018 in Room 201B of the Academy Building.

Submitted by Carlton D. Hunt, Ph.D.,
EC Chair