

Montague Energy Committee

January 13, 2015

Town Hall 1st Floor Meeting Room, 6:15-8:15pm

Present: Pam Hanold, Chris Mason, Rich Adams, Sally Pick; guest: Jim Huber, Gill-Montague Regional School District Facilities/Energy Manager

Approve minutes 12/23/14: approved with addition of selectboard meeting date mentioned in minutes.

Reminder:

Conflict Law test receipts due to Deb Bourbeau, Town Clerk, Feb. 2.

Proposed Natural Gas Pipeline/communication w/ state

Tabled for next meeting: talk about Low Gas Demand Analysis

Deerfield attorney challenging pipeline: if gas for export, does FERC have jurisdiction?

Look at partnering with other organizations working on this issue? E.g. Mt Grace Land Trust, Conservation Law Foundation.

Be a vocal representative for their efforts.

Be in communication with selectboard, agricultural committee, conservation commission?

Reach out to other town energy committees: Do they have a position? What are they doing about it?

Town Energy Issues

○ **Energy improvements at Sheffield & Hillcrest school buildings:**

Jim Huber acknowledged that school heating systems inefficient and complex. Multiple systems.

Replaced boiler in #2 but put old burner in.

Use natural gas and oil.

Admin bldg. is oil steam boiler.

Sheffield: new boiler & old boiler producing steam converted to hot water.

When temps below 10 degrees, doesn't work well.

Jim has been in design/construction business for 30 years and was a selectman. Started energy committee in Pelham. Did energy efficient and renewable energy construction.

Update on MSBA:

Need to set aside \$ for architect design. Fees for design reduced. Architect had until end of 2014 to do design.

Realized that boiler project not feasible for entire re-do of system:

Recommend that they replace boiler #1, both burners, replace whole boiler with hot water boiler, re-do piping (steam side of system).

#2 boiler for Sheffield ~\$80,000 for boiler replacement, some pipes, based on engineering study by architect. Because project scope changed, MSBA required them to do a second engineering design not covered by MSBA. School decided against boiler work under MSBA project: assumed town would not

provide funds for re-do of entire heating system (~\$500,000), and school agreed that it didn't make sense **not** to do a comprehensive re-do of heating systems. Now only asking MSBA for replacement windows.

Hillcrest has no backup boiler. Not able to revisit boiler replacement with MSBA.
Looking at replacing boiler to have backup.

Jim not aware of SAFFIRE program. Chris explained it to him.

Jim thinking about centralized co-generation system between all three buildings, with multiple fuel options for redundancy. Co-generation system would provide heat and power. Chris noted that a boiler with district heating only would be more cost-effective, especially when no use in summer. Would need to convince neighborhood that pellets will not negatively affect their health.

Pellet concerns: storage, availability, sustainability.

Jim looking at what's required to keep buildings safe and heated and wants to explore a long-term loan or grant for expansive new heating design and to make a long-term plan.

Montague Center School has steam system boiler that could be used to rebuild Hillcrest boiler.

Jim will pursue getting boiler fixed in meantime, to get through the winter.

Jim is willing to come to meetings to assist and help with developing a comprehensive plan for all buildings on that site with one central system. Buildings are close together and have space in between to have a centralized system. **Need to give him 1 week plus notice if MEC wants him to come to meetings.**

Other town energy issues:

- **Shea Theater:** Jason has not heard anything about it going forward.
- **PV on Landfill:** Sally reported that she sent a request to Walter with a statement from MEC clarifying that it supports the exploration of PV on the landfill. MEC asked that the statement be read at a selectboard meeting, so that MEC goes on record as supporting this effort.

Energy Efficiency outreach:

MassCEC grant to FRCOG: Coming soon.

FRTA

Next meeting: report from Jeff

Next meeting Tuesday, 1/27/15, 6:15pm-8:15pm.