

## **Montague Energy Committee**

June 16, 2015 6:15-8:15 PM

Town Hall 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Meeting Room

**Present:** Chris Mason, Sally Pick, Jeff Singleton, Tim VanEgmond. Guests: voting machines.

### **Approve minutes 5/12/15 and 6/2/15.**

Approved as amended.

**Designate facilitator and scribe:** Chris facilitated; Sally took minutes.

### **Update on FRCOG outreach/marketing RFP**

FRCOG received one response to RFP from Coop Power.

Chris and Sally are planning to attend an interview with Coop Power on Friday.

### **Town energy issues:**

#### **Sheffield boiler/burner, Shea Theater Boiler Upgrade –update/next steps**

Town hired Bart Bales to work with utilities to come up with final bid spec for Shea Theater roofing work. Scheduled to be done in the spring.

- MEC concerned that roof will not be done early spring, in time for the Green Communities Grant to be spent before new grants are announced next spring.
- Delay in work could affect applying for Green Communities funds for Sheffield energy upgrades because current grant funds must be spent before town can apply for new funds.
- Walter will be ready to submit municipal technology assistance grant application to DOER June 23<sup>rd</sup> for Sheffield audit. Bart is preparing a proposal for doing the audit, to be included with the grant.
  - Chris will talk with Walter to come up with a timeline and will discuss how to make the Shea roofing process go faster to allow it to be completed before next Green Communities grant cycle.
- Note on Sheffield backup boiler to Chris from Jim Huber, school energy manager: School district has requested boiler and burner from Montague Center School for use as a backup.

New developer of Montague Center School requires town to keep boiler in building through this coming winter, so, unless a new heating system is

installed in the Montague Center School before this winter, that boiler will probably not be available for use as a Sheffield School backup.

### **New Issues to address**

#### **Town vote on Sheffield debt exclusion for windows**

For small portion of cost, most covered by MSBA

Motion: The Montague Energy Committee endorses the debt exclusion for roughly 25% of the cost of the Sheffield window project which would replace windows in the auditorium/gymnasium wing of the school. 75% of this project will be funded by a state grant. This project will significantly reduce ongoing energy use and costs going forward. Town meeting overwhelmingly voted in favor of this project.

Motion above re Sheffield debt exclusion approved.

Motion approved to make above above motion public.

#### **Franklin County Tech School**

Sally spoke with Russ Kaubris, business manager, re questions on ballot on replacing windows, doors, roof, and installing solar.

Russ suggested that MEC add them to future agenda.

MEC agreed that it would be positive to do so and to see if MEC has any possible input on energy efficiency concepts.

Sally will invite Russ and new Franklin Tech superintendent, Rich Martin, to meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday in July.

#### **K-M pipeline – update/next steps**

Jeff attended 6/11/15 DPU meeting in Greenfield and presented energy committee's stance; reported on DPU meeting at MEC meeting.

Steve Kulik was very critical of DPU not allowing him to be an intervener in DPU Precedent Agreement process re Berkshire Gas.

Montague anti-pipeline group asked Select board last night to support submitting a letter to the attorney general to meet about the DPU process.

#### **Next steps:**

Consider endorsing a statement that was submitted to FERC by a MA resident, that Jeff

will send to MEC.

FRCOG: Promoting intervention with FERC and possible Community Benefits Agreements. Jeff will try to get copy of FRCOG model agreement.

**Senior Center**

Nothing to report.

**FRTA**

In 2 weeks, the state study is coming out proposing route changes.

Chris reported that the New England Municipal Sustainability Group has run a program to bring in experts on an issue to better understand the issue and hold a public meeting. The experts then spend a day to develop a plan based on input from the public meeting and their expertise. Northampton is using this process for developing a climate action plan.

- Could this process be used for coming up with route changes?
- Jeff believes that the FRTA process is too far along to use this planning process.

**Report on Mass Save EEAC 3-Year Plan**

No report.

**Other topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of the meeting**

**Plan agenda for next meeting**

**Votes may be taken**