



TOWN OF VERNON

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**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
ENERGY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT BOARD
THURSDAY, JULY 10, 2014
6:30 PM**

RECEIVED
VERNON TOWN CLERK
14 AUG - 4 AM 10: 54

1. CALL TO ORDER

Members Present: Jeff Boulrice, Chair, Dr. Russell Kunz, Thomas Aitkin, and Elma Alikhanov.
Members Absent: Mark St. Germain
Staff Liaison: John D. Ward, Town Administrator
Recording Secretary: Leslie Campolongo
Guests: Dr. Prabhakar Singh and Dr. Ugur Pasaogullari, UConn School of Engineering Center for Clean Energy Engineering (C2E2)

Meeting opened at 6:30 pm. Town Administrator Ward requested introductions of guests and board commission members, and provided a background on the purpose of the Energy Improvement District Board.

2. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Approval of Minutes April 28, 2014
- B. Approval of Minutes May 27, 2014

There were no minutes presented for approval by the Board.

3. NEW BUSINESS

- Mr. Boulrice requested that a sample RFP for the pending solar project be provided. Mr. Ward will send this template.
- Mr. Kunz has made contact with Fuel Cell Energy regarding products and services related to energy savings at the Water Pollution Control Department. Board has requested that representatives from Fuel Cell Energy be present at the EIDB meeting on July 28, 2014.
- Dr. Singh invited the board to tour the Center for Clean Energy Engineering (C2E2) facilities at UConn.

4. PRESENTATIONS

- A. CONN Center for Clean Energy Engineering (C2E2)

Guests: Dr. Ugur Pasaogullari, Dr. Prabhakar Singh.

The Board moved into the Council Chambers to view the presentation. Discussion took place regarding information presented:

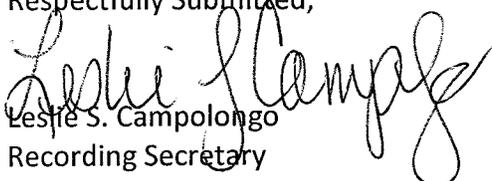
- Mr. Ward expressed appreciation for Dr. Singh's and Dr. Pasaogullari's attendance at the meeting, and inquired as to the possibility of assistance from the C2E2 for the EIDB. Dr. Singh expressed that a "team" could be assembled from the business school, engineering, to bring findings to state (D.E.E.P) or perhaps federal agencies.
- Mr. Ward expressed that town had made recent application with state DECD Brownfields regarding the use hydropower (micro-turbine) at Amerbelle Mill. He also inquired as to the effectiveness of turbine applications for use at Water Treatment Plant to harness power from water discharge. Based on discharge amounts, Dr. Singh expressed that hydropower would not be appropriate application for WPCA but mentioned that methane capture could be a possibility. Mr. Ward shared that methane capture is not possible, as the plant uses activated carbon. He also mentioned that Water Treatment plant will experiencing a significant upgrade in the next few years, and that the board would like to incorporate clean energy into the planning process.
- Dr. Singh expressed that Lynn McHale (Waterbury) is making a presentation on Phosphorus removal at UConn, and that he will provide this information to Mr. Ward for distribution to the EIDB. He also expressed the possibility of the town engaging the services of UConn Engineering intern dedicated to conducting a hydro study, and the possibility of employing his colleagues for a methane reciprocating turbine for Water Treatment plant.
- Dr. Singh's presentation concluded at 7:37 pm. He then entertained questions from the EIDB members.
- Mr. Aitkin inquired regarding energy usage in town buildings and if UConn could assist in compile/assess data for EIDB use. Dr. Singh indicated that UConn students/intern could conduct this research and provide recommendations. Mr. Aitkin inquired how the program is funded. Dr. Singh expressed that state/university funds may be available for research projects.
- Mr. Boulrice expressed that a \$10,000 benchmarking grant could be discussed at the next meeting.
- Dr. Singh indicated that the university would be open to long-term collaboration for analysis and research between UConn and the town.
- Mr. Aitkin suggested that the board include funding in next year's budget for these projects.
- Dr. Singh expressed that the use of a micro-turbine in Vernon is a feasible concept, and that a comparative assessment could be performed on other clean energy applications.

- The board returned to Mayor Champagne's office at 7:45 pm to conclude business.
- Mr. Ward expressed that he would like the EIDB to tour the Center for Clean Energy Engineering at UConn, and invite Economic Development, Water Pollution Control and Public Works. He also expressed that the upgrade to the Water Treatment plant is a 4 year project, and that in contracting with a design engineer, a clean/green energy component will be required and included. He inquired if this may be an opportunity to use assistance from UConn Engineering.
- Mr. Ward will assemble a description of the project to be provided to UConn in the fall.
- Mr. Boulrice expressed that the Board begin focusing on small projects that are easily addressed in order to gain monetary savings and promote the functions of the Board. He expressed that the benchmarking study could lead to significant savings for the town.
- Mr. Ward expressed that he had attended a recent meeting with a vendor who performs energy efficiency studies for several town buildings.
- Mr. Aitkin inquired as to whether school buildings were included in this assessment, and as to what town buildings are the largest consumers of energy. He also asked if the town maintained records on energy usage for buildings. Mr. Ward indicated that information could be extracted from various town departments but it is not compiled in one report.
- Mr. Ward expressed that the next agenda include discussion of the following topics:
 - i. Benchmark grant application
Mr. Boulrice will provide background information.
 - ii. Schedule Fuel Cell Energy (Danbury, CT) to meet with EIDB
 - iii. A thank you to Dr's Singh and Pasaogullar
 - iv. Schedule a tour of UConn's Center for Clean Energy Engineering by EIDB
 - v. Possibility of UConn conducting a feasibility study for use of hydro/micro-turbine power.
 - vi. UConn/ Economic Development/Rockville General Hospital participating in C-PACE program.
 - vii. Mr. Ward will also send to Dr. Singh the EIDB email addresses in order to receive his presentation.
 - viii. Mr. Kunz will make contact with Fuel Cell Energy regarding attendance at the July 28th meeting.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 8:07 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,


Leslie S. Campolongo
Recording Secretary