



# TOWN OF VERNON

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## SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES ENERGY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT BOARD

14 Park Place, Third Floor, Vernon, Connecticut

Monday, August 18, 2014

7:30 PM

### AGENDA

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

**Members Present:** Jeff Boulrice, Chair and Dr. Russell Kunz

**Members Absent:** Thomas Aitkin, Elmar Alikhanov, and Mark St. Germaine

**Staff Liaison:** John D. Ward, Town Administrator

**Recording Secretary:** Leslie Campolongo

**Guests:** Robert Kleinhans, Director of Public Works

Meeting opened at 7:45pm. Town Administrator Ward introduced Mr. Kleinhans to board members. As no quorum was present, Mr. Ward reminded EIDB that no votes on items may be taken.

Mr. Ward also noted that the time of next meeting would return to 6:30 pm.

**Approval of Minutes July 27, 2014:** A vote on the minutes was not taken, as no quorum was present.

#### 2. PENDING BUSINESS

a. **Upcoming Tour Clean Energy Engineering Center @UConn:** A time to tour C2E2 has not been finalized with Dr. Singh to date. Mr. Ward will advise Board members when a date has been selected.

b. **Clean Energy Community Pledge:** Discussion took place regarding the town's clean energy pledge. Mr. Ward indicated that Administration continued to research the towns obligations under the pledge, and that this item will be presented to the Town Council for a vote on the September 2014 Agenda. Mr. Ward also mentioned that the town's participation in the C-PACE program accounts for 10% (or ½) of the requirements for purchase of energy. Mr. Ward

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expressed that Mr. Kleinhans will be a part of any energy conservation measures/analysis and research the town intends to investigate for implementation.

Mr. Ward expressed that baseline energy consumption must be conducted and that potential grant funds would be used to conduct benchmark study and then used for implementation and purchase of software. He confirmed the Boards desire to incorporate solar power. The group discussed meeting with Stafford to discuss the successful implementation of the community pledge town wide.

Mr. Kleinhans indicated that benchmarking had been completed at Rockville High School through a program with CL & P. Mr. Ward mentioned the towns retrofitting of light fixtures town buildings through World Energy (2013). Mr. Boulrice indicated that perhaps the energy consumption indicators gathered prior to World Energy's actions and then the post retrofit could be used as part of baseline.

- c. **100K Solar:** Discussion took place regarding the Greenskies program, and the Board received clarification on whether the installation of solar panels is complicated to remove if needed. The Board also made several suggestions for the placement of these panels. Suggestions included both municipal land, and available commercial land.

### 3. **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. **Street Light Replacements:** Mr. Kleinhans discussed his involvement with a streetlight program for towns through the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM). He expressed that three vendors had been selected. The following details were provided about the program:

- Poles and Street lights are owned by CL &P
- Municipalities can purchase them from CL &P, but incur the maintenance. The benefit is the towns can "re-lamp" with newer technology.
- Vendors can select and assist with asset inventory and negotiate purchase of poles, develop specs and act as general contractor for maintenance.
- There is no current verification for energy savings using LED. Lifespan of technology is 25 years. Estimates based on 15-20% usage with 80% savings then acquisition of poles and re-lamping is paid for.

Mr. Ward inquired as to whether CL &P runs its own program. Mr. Kleinhans indicated that they offer credits for fixtures. Discussion took place regarding LED technology, the length of its capability, and whether it is affected by lightning. Also clarified was that unlike incandescent bulbs, if one light goes out, a sole replacement cannot be made, with LED technology, the entire unit must be replaced.

Mr. Ward estimates that the town spends approximately \$247,000 for streetlights. It is unknown the number of streetlights that exist in Vernon.

Discussion took place regarding the terms of the agreements: loans vs. payback and whether other towns had participated. Discussion also took place regarding potential cost savings after an initial expenditure, based on current usage, is estimated to be approximately \$200,000.

Mr. Kleinhans indicated CCM would be announcing this program to towns, perhaps this fall.

- b. **RFP:** Mr. Boulrice thanked Mr. Ward for the assistance with the RFP process. Mr. Ward inquired as to whether the document could be sent as a Word document versus a pdf file. Mr. Boulrice indicated this was not possible.

4. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Ward summarized items for next meeting as follows:

- Discussion of meeting with Stafford
- A Special Meeting will be called to tour the C2E2 Facility at UCONN when plans are finalized with Dr. Singh
- A vote on the town's involvement with the Street Light program through CCM.
- Mr. Boulrice expressed his desire to see the Clean Energy Community pledge voted on by the Council
- Next Scheduled Regular meetings is October 20, 2014 at 6:30 pm

Meeting closed at 8:48 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Leslie S. Campolongo