

TOWN OF BECKET  
ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date March 31, 2020  
Minutes

**In Attendance (All via Zoom):** Cathy DeFoe, Garth Klimchuk, Bill Caldwell, Susan Purser, Katherine Hoak, Al Blake, Bob Gross.

**Absent:** Dan Parnell.

**NOTE: we need to take a roll call to accept minutes or any other vote.**

1. Meeting called to order at 4:02pm.
2. Approved meeting minutes from February 18, 2020. Approved by role call vote: Cathy DeFoe, Susan Purser, Garth Klimchuk.
3. Current business items:
  - a. Status of town HVAC replacement. We received the quote from Mirabito for propane with 3 options, heat (\$30,000) , heat w/coils (\$45,000), heat with A/C (\$60,000). The town can borrow up to \$120,000. There are other installation costs as well, but the boiler room conversion work is included. The Minisplit options were all over \$130,000.
  - b. Discussion on town solar – including discussion with Resonant Energy (Isaac Baker). We spoke with Isaac about 6 months ago. We have had 2 previous RFP's, one for a town owned system and one for PPA. We received no bids on either of these RFPs. We cannot use current second round Green Energy funds for PV systems. The PPA system was for a ground tracker system and these systems are never funded with the current financial landscape. A roof mounted system might be a more financially viable but it is still borderline. The town owned RFP was too onerous requiring numerous up front requirements. There may be no interest loans available from a resource in California to help fund a small system. There are other sources that may also offer

donations to help fund a PV system. There are similar sized projects in Greenfield that have used these funding sources successfully. Our next step would be to get approval from the Selectboard to proceed with this project. Resonant Energy would be interested in doing the preliminary feasibility work. We need to decide if the town is interested in pursuing the loan for this project.

- c. Status of Energy audit lighting work. This work has all been done except replacing the lights in fire station #1 due to lack of savings. This work at fire station #1 may be done as part of the Green Communities grant along with insulation. The deadline for this work was due at the end of March, but this deadline has been pushed out.
- d. Status of UU Mass municipal fuel use reduction through trialing telematics software. The contract has been submitted and we are waiting for delivery and installation. This work is also still on hold with UMass closure.
- e. Update on Eversource assessment. Work for this is ongoing and staff have been on site doing background work.
- f. Municipal Aggregation status and makeup of committee. The Berkshire County communities are all working together on this and Becket is going to offer 21% clean energy sources with a net price less than Eversource. There is more information to come to in the fall with the first meter read in January 2021. The energy committee will hold an information meeting for community members.
- g. Options for 2020 DOER competitive grant. Notes on this above regarding insulation on Firestation #1, ambulance garage, and heat pumps at both Firestations. We have more time to submit this.

#### 4. Other business

- a. Discussion on potential wind turbine (suggested by BOS). The town of Otis has installed their own 1.6 megawatt wind turbine which is very beneficial financially. This is under exploration by the selectboard. Garth will check with a contact he has through Eversource on substation upgrades, etc. This has been a low priority this month.

- b. Other potential projects for this year: The street light project has been on hold. Bill has a new source of information and will pursue this.
- c. MVP status. Susan and Al went to the most recent meeting. All the major information is now with the consultant.

Next meeting 4/21 at 4pm via Zoom. Adjourned at 5:05 pm.

\_\_\_\_Al Blake\_\_\_\_\_

Al Blake, Chair