

TOWN OF BECKET
ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date April 21, 2020
Minutes

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

Absent: Dan Parnell, Bob Gross.

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

1. Meeting called to order at 4:00pm.
2. Approved meeting minutes from March 31, 2020. Approved by roll call vote: Cathy DeFoe, Susan Purser, Garth Klimchuk, Katherine Hoak, Al Blake.
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). We just received another bid from Climate in Pittsfield and are waiting for 2 others. We hope to have this system installed this summer. 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 - This discussion was going to go before the BOS. The loan option could be problematic. The best option now may be that we pursue the new Smart Program with as much solar on the buildings at Town Hall as possible and apply as a PPA program. Bill will propose this new project which will require approval at the ATM. There is some concern that the snow slide off the roof will need to be addressed as part of the design. There are options to prevent damage when this occurs which will need to be addressed as part of 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. We now have power bills for 5 months and the energy savings has so far offset the costs.
- 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. Options for 2020 DOER competitive grant. Notes on this above regarding insulation on Firestation #1, ambulance garage, and heat pumps at both Firestations. Bill will submit this grant tomorrow, April 22.

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. Al had asked Chris Swindlehurst to join this meeting but he was not able to make it. Garth will check with a contact he has through Eversource on substation upgrades, etc. This has been a low priority again 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. A virtual ZOOM meeting will take place May 8. The consultants will be presenting the findings from the work done here in town. The grant application will follow. Susan mentioned that Smitty Pignatelli has offered to help with the submission of our application.

Next meeting 5/19 at 4pm via Zoom. Adjourned at 4:24pm.

____Al Blake_____

Al Blake, Chair