



Town of Groton, Connecticut

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Town Council Committee of the Whole

45 Fort Hill Road
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Town Clerk 860-441-6640
Town Manager
860-441-6630

Mayor James L. Streeter, Councilors Bruce S. Flax, Bill Johnson, Catherine Kolnaski, Deborah B. Monteiro, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Deborah L. Peruzzotti, Paulann H. Sheets, and Harry A. Watson

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

7:00 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

SPECIAL MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Streeter called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mayor Streeter, Councilor Flax, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Peruzzotti, Councilor Sheets and Councilor Watson
Members Absent: Councilor Johnson

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger and Executive Assistant Nicki Bresnyan.

3. NEW BUSINESS

2011-0041 Lease of Photovoltaic Solar Electric System

Discussed

Zell Steever, Chairman of the Task Force for Climate Change and Sustainable Community, submitted a letter to the Council describing an opportunity to put solar panels on town buildings at no cost to the town. Mr. Steever described the proposal by DCS Energy for a no-cost lease with a five-year duration. At the end of five years, the systems can be purchased for a dollar each or removed by DCS. Mr. Steever suggested this would be a good demonstration project for the community. DCS Energy has received a \$3 million U.S. Treasury grant under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Mr. Steever spoke with a representative from the Town of Lebanon who indicated they are pleased with their system.

Mayor Streeter asked how long the process would take to have the panels installed. Mr. Steever explained that a form is sent by the Town Manager listing eligible buildings and addresses. The company reviews the sites and they recommend a meeting to lay out the lease arrangements and sign a lease. It then takes about 90 days to have the panels up and running. The buildings must have a southern exposure and can not have a slate or steel roof. There is a cost associated with digging trenches for lines to the building and other engineering costs. DCS would expect fees for permits to be waived, but they would go through the necessary approval processes.

The PV panels would be on the roof or the ground. Mr. Steever reviewed buildings that may be eligible. The buildings must have internet access because the information from the panels is sent to the company via the internet.

Noank has indicated that they would like their firehouse added to the list.

Councilor Peruzzotti asked if staff has had time to estimate the costs to the Town. The Town Manager indicated not yet, but there will be time to figure out the costs. He concurred that time is of the essence due to limited funds available.

A motion was made by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., seconded by Councilor Sheets, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.

Councilor Monteiro asked for reassurance that the savings over five years will outweigh any costs to the Town. Mr. Steever stated that he does not know how much the systems will save. The Town

will also have to cover insurance. Town Manager Oefinger stated that details will be available before the lease is entered into. Councilor Flax questioned excess energy generated and Mr. Steever stated that any credit goes to the Town. Whether or not there is an excess will depend on the energy demands of the building.

The motion carried unanimously

4. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilor Monteiro, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.