

CLEAN ENERGY TASK FORCE MINUTES
SUBJECT TO APPROVAL
November 22, 2017
SPECIAL MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Commissioner Ray in Room 103 of Simsbury Town Hall, with the following members present: Jim Ray and Susan Van Kleef in person and Mark Scully and Bob Beinstein via teleconference. Mr. Michael Paine (Simsbury Board of Selectman and liaison to CETF) was also present.

1. REVIEW REQUEST FOR FUNDING IN SUPPORT OF THE SIMSBURY COMMUNITY MICROGRID PROJECT TO MEET THE REQUIRED DECEMBER 1ST DUE DATE:

Commissioner Scully provided an overview of the Simsbury community microgrid efforts. The process has had several iterations since the first discussions. Initially the Town Center was considered, but after discussions with Eversource, part of their criteria was that it would need to be built to sustain Category 1 wind conditions as well as ice storm conditions. That resulted in the need for underground utility connections and the distance between buildings in the center of town made that impractical from a cost perspective. With the Tobacco Valley Solar farm proposal and the near power station, that area was also considered, but it did not provide any necessary support for the Town buildings. Since Simsbury High School has been the designated location for an emergency shelter, that location ultimately became the focus of the investigation. With a near-by gas station that would be an asset to maintain a fuel source for emergency vehicles and the location of the Salter busses that could provide transportation, that provided a close enough connectivity that now could utilize underground installation of the utility connections. Discussions with Eversource along with help from Clean Coalition who has prepared microgrids in other locations, a basic plan was formulated. Eversource supported the effort with information and data and the Simsbury Board of Education approved going ahead with a feasibility plan, but finding sources to do the necessary preliminary engineering was not available at the last CETF meeting so it appeared the effort was not feasible at this time. Recently though, Waldron Engineering & Construction, Inc, provided a proposal to do the necessary work to allow submittal of the initial interconnection application to meet the Eversource defined December 1st deadline. Waldron agreed to provide the labor as part of their basic proposal preparation expenses, but indicated that they would need \$1,500 to cover their travel expenses, their administration costs to submit the interconnection application and Eversource's filing fees. Commissioner Scully indicated that this is just a first step, but it does keep the project going while the further development continues to progress. Prior to any final steps, formal agreements with all parties will need to occur.

Based on this background, Commissioner Scully moved that the Clean Energy Task Force approve \$1,500 from its available grant funds for completing the interconnection application for the Simsbury High School centered community microgrid project. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Van Kleef and unanimously approved.

Mr. Paine requested information explaining what was discussed/approved be sent to him in order to inform the Board of Selectman at their next meeting on November 27th. Commissioner Ray indicated he would provide him a copy of the minutes and Commissioner Scully will provide him some 'bullet points' that summarizes the project and this interconnection application step.

2. NEXT MEETING:

The next regularly scheduled meeting is December 11th.

3. ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Scully motioned to adjourn the meeting at approximately 5:30 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Van Kleef and unanimously approved.