

From: Susan Mazurski December 10, 2008 11:35:51 AM
Subject: Clean Energy Task Force Minutes 11/12/2008
To: SimsburyCT_EnergyMin
Cc:

CLEAN ENERGY TASK FORCE MINUTES
November 12, 2008
REGULAR MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 6:42 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room of Simsbury Town Hall. The following members were present: Lori Fernand, Patrick Boeshans, Susan Van Kleef and Al Weisbrich.

1. APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 29, 2008.

Chairman Boeshans requested a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of October 29, 2008. Commissioner Weisbrich made the motion and Commissioner Van Kleef seconded the motion.

2. PRESENTATION BY MR. ROBERT PICO, CEO OF OPEL, INC.

Chairman Boeshans introduced Mr. Pico, relating his current position with Opel and the nature of his presentation regarding the current solar installation project at Plainville's Linden Elementary School.

Mr. Pico utilized an electronic presentation to outline the history of Opel, Inc. The company's corporate headquarters are located in Shelton, Connecticut and they also maintain a development lab at the University of Connecticut in Storrs.

Mr. Pico described the project at Plainville's Linden Elementary School. He outlined the available Connecticut Solar incentives, explained the available technologies, Concentrating Photovoltaic Panels (CVP) and tracking Photovoltaic Panels (PV), the latter being utilized at Linden Elementary.

Mr. Pico also discussed the options to either purchase the equipment or enter into a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) featuring no capital costs to the town. The standard PPA entails OPEL assuming all costs of the materials, installation and maintenance of the solar equipment. Opel can then act as the utility, if the client so chooses, providing solar power to the host building at a low, fixed cost. This option allows the contracting party to begin collecting and utilizing clean power at the host location while also realizing a savings over previous power costs. A buy-out agreement can be negotiated on a PPA, for example, the town of

Plainville opted for a purchase option after year six (6).

Commissioner Weisbrich requested more information on the kilowatt-hour production variance between static and tracking panels. Mr. Pico entered into a general discussion outlining the system components of each, the basic roof mounting details and the increased efficiency of the solar tracker frames, which track the sun's position throughout the day.

Commissioners Weisbrich and Van Kleef requested more information about the motor, which powers the tracking functionality and Mr. Pico provided details including confirmation that the motor was also solar and utilized a minimal drain on the power being collected. He also explained that a standard, small battery back-up was utilized in most installations.

Commissioner Weisbrich questioned whether or not Opel produced the PV panels. Mr. Pico responded that they produced the CPV panels but were a supplier for the PV panels.

Commissioner Van Kleef questioned whether or not Opel designed the tracking frames. Mr. Pico responded affirmatively.

Chairman Boeshans questioned the inclement weather feasibility of the solar installation and Mr. Pico explained that the sun's direct exposure, in combination with the tracking movement, eliminated the need for snow or ice removal.

Mr. Pico discussed the anchoring methods for the solar solutions, including details on the hybrid ballast method that was utilized in Plainville, which did not include penetrating the roof's membrane. He also described the 90-day installation process and shared his thoughts that the next similar installation may take less time. He concluded by offering, upon request, to have his company prepare a proposal for consideration by the Town of Simsbury.

3. ACTION STEPS

After the departure of Mr. Pico of Opel, a general discussion was held regarding the next logical step in pursuing a PPA. Chairman Boeshans shared that he had also contacted Sun Edison, another provider of similar technology that has previously used power purchase agreements. Commissioner Van Kleef provided accurate information on the various schools that may be available for solar conversion and Chairman Boeshans offered to research the schools surroundings to aid in determining the most viable locations for a potential solar company consideration.

Chairman Boeshans also requested a motion to solicit a proposal from Opel for a PPA. Commissioner Van Kleef made the motion and Commissioner

Weisbrich seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Van Kleef updated the task force on actionable items that she had completed from the previous meeting including contacting the Simsbury Land Trust, Farmington River Watershed Association, Keep the Woods and Simsbury school district.

4. NEXT MEETING/FUTURE MEETINGS

After reviewing schedules and denoting the date of the upcoming holiday, the Commission agreed the next meeting would be Wednesday, December 3, at 6:30 p.m. Chairman Boeshans will contact Selectman Hampton to research meeting space and ensure that either the Main Meeting Room or some other option will be available.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Weisbrich motioned to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:45 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Van Kleef and unanimously approved.