

Energy & Technology committee meeting minutes, October 8, 2024

Present:

Committee members: Howard Marshall (chair), Jim Bebarski, David Anthony, Ken Drake, Jack Rowland, Jeremy Jones.

Town staff: Dave Chipman (select board)

Called to order at 6:05PM, 8 Oct 2024

Recycling Center & Transfer Station Manager Chuck Perow was present in person and answered some questions about the project updating the Recycling Center. Work to start next Spring. The roof will be strong enough to support solar panels, roughly 30 KW worth of panels. The electrical system will be updated to 3-phase, 208V/120V, 400A service. A generator and solar panels are NOT part of this project, but are listed as optional and some provisions will be made to accommodate either or both in the future.

Curtis Robinson of Port City Architecture joined via Zoom to give an overview of the work toward a new Emergency Services building and to answer some questions. The office and living quarters will have heat pumps, but the equipment bays will have their own separate unit heaters (probably fueled by propane) because that is more suitable given the lower temperature they will be maintained at in the winter time, as well as the abrupt loss of heated air when the garage doors are opened; both make heat pumps less than ideal. There were some other discussions on more general topics not so much on Energy & Technology, but to satisfy the curiosity of the committee members (e.g. suitability as an EOC/Emergency Operations Center, expandability, and some questions about the impact on the existing fire stations).

The chair raised the question of requesting money in the next town budget for a consultant to help sort out the many issues around the idea of the town owning its own solar array to provide the electricity used by town facilities. Jim Bebarski moved, and Ken Drake seconded:

That the committee request \$12K for solar power consulting services in the current round of budget requests.

The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

The final item on the agenda was a discussion to move the committee's regular meeting time to 6pm on the THIRD TUESDAY of each month (instead of the current second Tuesday). This was agreed to by everyone present, the 6 committee members and Selectman Chipman.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30PM.