

MINUTES
Energy Committee
Thursday, August 19, 2010 @ 7:00PM
Norma Drummer Room/Seymour Town Hall

Members present: John Conroy, Phil Wilhelmy, Tom Wallace, Jon Szuch, Jim Garofolo, Tom Eighmie and First Selectman Paul Roy

Not present: Deirdre Caruso, Joe Deegan, and Rick Belden

Meeting was open at 7:07 PM by Chairman Conroy.

Item # 1 - Pledge of Allegiance. Everyone salutes the Flag and states the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item # 2 –Motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of June 24, 2010.

Motion by Tom Wallace 2nd by Jon Szuch

Vote: 4-Yes 0-No 3-Abstain (P. Wilhelmy, T. Eighmie, J. Garofolo)

Item # 3 – Presentation by Johnson Controls

Christopher Bleuher, Director of Public Sector Solutions for Johnson Controls, delivered a report based on follow-up efforts after the June 24, 2010 Energy Committee meeting. First discussed was an overall benchmarking, in terms of energy usage and cost per square foot, of all town facilities. The analysis was prepared based on actual current energy costs and usage data for each facility, with usage converted to Mbtu to makes all energy forms equivalent. This actual data for town buildings was then compared against a large database of similar facilities where energy conservation measures had already been executed, in order to determine (a) how Seymour’s buildings compared, and (b) the potential savings that could be achieved if standard energy efficiency measures were implemented in Seymour buildings.

Benchmark data indicates that, on average, for buildings of similar type, use and vintage, energy usage is typically 66.4 Mbtu per square foot. The average for all Seymour buildings was 83 Mbtu per square foot, with several buildings (Public Works, 98 Bank Street, Seymour High School, Bungay School and the Police Department) well above the norm. Although the Community Center was not included in the analysis because of the large amount of unoccupied square footage in that facility, analysis of usage for the portion of the building that is occupied indicates a very inefficient energy utilization pattern. The two fire houses, Town Hall and the Seymour Ambulance facilities all showed more efficient utilization patterns, even though there may still be energy savings opportunities in those buildings as well.

Next discussed was a set of preliminary recommendations at specific facilities based on a JCI walk through a few weeks ago. In particular, a JCI rep visited the Seymour Middle School, and walked through the building with the school facilities manager. Several high potential opportunities, mainly in the category of lighting, were identified. In addition, the school facilities manager shared several ideas relating to the high school and Bungay school with the JCI rep. At the Police Station, the JCI rep walked through the building with one of the officers, and identified several high potential opportunities, mainly in HVAC systems but also in the area of lighting.

JCI and the Committee then discussed potential next steps if the Committee and the Town wished to pursue a broad set of energy efficiency measures across multiple buildings using a performance contracting approach. The first step would be a detailed energy audit of each facility, identifying as many as eighteen different conservation measures that could be implemented cost efficiently at each site. If the Town then chose to implement all such recommendations under a performance contract, the costs associated with this detailed audit would be rolled in to the overall project. If the Town instead chose to not move ahead, or to move ahead with a different approach and perhaps different service entities, there would be a charge for the for the detailed audit. The Committee will look carefully at this path, among others, in making a final determination of recommended projects and implementation options.

A Representative from ProEnergy Lighting joined the meeting part way through the JCI discussion, and asked if it would be possible to make a short presentation to the Committee on its services.

Motion to add ProEnergy Lighting to the meeting agenda

Motion by Tom Eighmie 2nd by Jim Garofolo

Vote: 7-Yes 0-No 0-Abstain

Item # 4 – Presentation by Dan Mahoney, ProEnergy Lighting

Dan Mahoney of ProEnergy Lighting distributed an eight page summary of the services offered by his firm. ProEnergy is experienced in conducting energy audits, working with the local utilities in capturing rebates and incentives, and implementing lighting and HVAC energy efficiency measures. Some of the utility programs under which ProEnergy operates offer four year, interest free financing on selected energy efficiency projects. In addition, ProEnergy has partnered with Ameresco, another large energy solutions company, to offer additional programs, some of which can provide rebates and incentives at very high levels (up to 100%). In certain lighting programs, ProEnergy also incorporates “daylighting” technologies to maximize use of natural light and to minimize day time lighting system usage.

The Committee will seek further information, including references and case studies of projects that have been implemented, from ProEnergy, and use that information in reaching its final conclusions and recommendations on energy conservation projects.

First Selectman Roy left the meeting at 8:01PM to attend the Police Commission meeting.

Motion to go back to original agenda order

Motion by Tom Wallace 2nd by Jim Garofolo

Vote: 6-Yes 0-No 0-Abstain

