Meeting Minutes
Saco Energy & Sustainability Committee
March 21, 2017

Present: Howard Carter, Pat Fox, Joe Hirsch, James Ferguson, Eric Cote, Jacqueline McDonough, Alex Mouzas, Andrew Goldberg, Mike Garrity, Bruce Cote, Norman Davidson, Nathan Johnston

Wind Turbine
- Howard Carter recently contacted T Buck Construction and they said they will come look at the wind turbine and give the city a cost estimate to take it down
- Declaring city surplus property is on the city council agenda for June 2017
- The wind turbine will be removed most likely in summer 2017

Fuel Usage Spreadsheet
- Jackie McDonough has been working with Dor Bender on a biweekly basis to keep the fuel database up to date
- The up to date fuel usage spreadsheet was sent via email to the committee
- The spreadsheet includes a percent variance which compares the current fiscal year to the prior fiscal year, also included is the usage in therms
- Currently, the most significant fuel usage variance is the heating oil usage at the North Saco fire station, which is up 209% compared to last year
- Due to the significant increase in heating oil usage, the city of Saco should look at the insulation currently at the North Saco fire station to see if it needs to be replaced
- Pat Fox thinks that improvements in the road system as well as GPS trackers and energy efficient vehicles have brought down the city’s automobile fuel costs, a savings of over $10,000, compared to the previous year
- Alex Mouzas mentioned that the cost of the Nissan Leaf has dropped significantly, down to between $6,000-$7,000 each, the city of Saco should maybe consider purchasing a Nissan Leaf when there is a need for a passenger vehicle

Police Department Heating System Update
- Update given by Bruce Cote
- Bruce Cote set up the purchase order for the police department heating system, did not set up a project start date, he is going to ask Cheryl Fournier if the bond money needs to be used before July 1, 2017

Building LED Conversion Update
- Update given by Pat Fox
- A public works equipment operator that has his residential electrical license has been doing in-house electrical projects for the city
- The State of Maine has informed the city of Saco that they will no longer allow a residential licensed electrician to do electrical work for the city unless the electrician obtains a commercial license, this complicates some of the LED projects because there will be increased labor costs from hiring outside commercial licensed electricians
The public works employee can still work on traffic lights because he has a separate electrical license to do so.
The city’s electrical inspector, Marcel Desrosier, would have to be physically present at all times for the city to continue to have the public works employee work on electrical projects until the equipment operator obtains their commercial license.
The public works employee can still get materials at cost and do prep that is not hands-on electrical work.
Public works is preparing a twelve month electrical services bid, which they will be releasing soon, currently having Marcel Desrosier look it over.
Pat Fox said look at rates once bids are received and go from there for the LED project.

**Sustainability Plan**
- Update given by Howard Carter
- Sustainability plan is being worked on as part of the comprehensive plan

**Municipally Owned Street Lights**
- Update given by Pat Fox
- Pat Fox attended a Portland Area Transportation Committee event last week, he spoke with Tex Haeuser, the city of South Portland Planning and Development Director, about the city of South Portland street light conversion process.
- Pat Fox mentioned to Tex Haeuser that the city of Saco is currently holding off on the street light conversion process to see how other cities and towns negotiate with Central Maine Power and RealTerm Energy.
- The city of South Portland is currently in the middle of a street light cost study, all costs are rolled into a full package, the city doesn’t need much money up front but they are tied to RealTerm Energy for at least six years, Tex Haeuser said he will give the city of Saco updates on the street light conversion process.
- In the future, if the city of Saco moves forward with the street light conversion process there is a potential savings of $14-$20 a month per street light, the city would need to negotiate a buy out of the street lights with Central Maine Power.

**Street Lighting Ordinance Change**
- Did not address at this meeting

**School Heating System Updates**
- Update given by Mike Garrity
- Mike Garrity advertised for engineering service bids for two weeks.
- Mike Garrity will be interviewing the following engineering companies that submitted bids: Oak Point Associates, DiGiorgio Associates and Harriman Associates
- The middle school heating system is planned to be worked on in summer 2018 and should be completed by the end of next fiscal year (2018)
- The city put in a request to the state of Maine for school renovation funds and was approved for $980,000
- $400,000 of the $980,000 will be considered a grant by the state of Maine and will be forgiven, the city will have to finance the remaining $580,000 (minus the bond appropriation) over ten years.
Andrew Goldberg said the Saco school department should consider adding a cooling unit when upgrading the middle school boiler.

**Solar Assessment with ReVision Energy**
- Update given by Howard Carter
- Jo Sorrell and Geoff Sparrow of ReVision Energy met with Howard Carter on Friday, March 17th
- Jacqueline McDonough provided to Jo Sorrell the city’s Central Maine Power invoices for fiscal year 2016 to current
- Jo Sorrell said the solar array provides the best cost savings for small users, mainly the pump stations, not medium sized accounts
- ReVision Energy has not looked at the schools yet
- Howard Carter had ReVision Energy look at the following pump stations as considerations for a solar farm location: Bearbrook pump station on Cumberland Ave, Cascade Brook pump station on Waterfall Lane and Industrial Park pump station on Industrial Park Rd
- ReVision Energy also looked at the Saco Transfer Station as a consideration for a solar farm location: near the new guard shack, far landfill big cap was too steep, might be able to do a megawatt on the first capped landfill
- Another consideration that ReVision Energy looked at is property owned by the city at 29 Lund Rd
- Saco Steel used to shred cars at 29 Lund Rd then in 2007 the city of Saco took the property over and capped it, public works now uses the property for cold storage
- ReVision Energy thought the following areas would be suitable for a solar farm: Industrial Park pump station which has quite a bit of uncleared land behind the pump station as well as the rooftop on the building located at 29 Lund Rd
- Pat Fox to gather data for ReVision Energy on the building located at 29 Lund Rd
- A solar farm at Industrial Park pump station will cost an estimated $3 a kW, if the city decided to do a 100kW solar farm the total cost would be around $300,000, ReVision Energy would purchase the solar farm system upfront and then the city would pay the same rate they are currently paying for electricity for six years, after six years the city would have the option to buyout the solar farm system at half price, about a twelve year payback, a formal proposal will be forthcoming

**Mini Split at Camp Ellis Fire Station**
- Camp Ellis fire station uses propane Modine heaters to heat the building and is currently 14% below last year’s fuel usage
- Chief John Duross spoke to Howard Carter and informed him that the insulation lacks energy efficiency at the Camp Ellis fire station, the city should have the insulation looked at by a professional, going to hold off until the city has a building assessment

**Action Items**
- Bruce Cote to ask Cheryl Fournier if the bond money needs to be used before July 1st
- Pat Fox to gather data for ReVision Energy on the building located at 29 Lund Rd

Next meeting April 25, 2017