Meeting Minutes

Saco Energy & Sustainability Committee

May 31, 2016

Present: Howard Carter, Pat Fox, Andrew Goldberg, Mike Garrity, Charlie Cotsis, Eric Cote, Jacqueline McDonough, Bruce Cote, Bill Mann, Rick Millard, Kevin Sutherland and City Interns: Grant, Kristen, Indiana & Margot

Natural Gas Expansion Update

- Update given by Pat Fox
- Unitil’s target was to complete downtown main roads by Memorial Day, NEWCO is currently working on Elm Street and Pepperell Square, NEWCO should be done with main roads by the end of June
- Unitil has not hooked up any new residential home services yet, the goal is to hook up fifty new residential home services this year and two hundred next year
- In the next couple of weeks, Unitil is going to provide training for public works employees regarding digging and the natural gas lines
- Unitil installs all residential home services up to the meter and a local HVAC contractor handles all work beyond meter and inside home
- Andrew Goldberg mentioned Unitil does a standard final pressure test inside home
- Bill Mann said HVAC contractor must be licensed and approved by Unitil, Mike Garrity said school HVAC contractor is natural gas certified
- Pat Fox mentioned that the biggest complaint from the city residents regarding the natural gas expansion project is the noise during the night work
- Pat Fox mentioned NEWCO is a little behind on Industrial Park Road, Unitil is happy with NEWCO’s production rate
- Eric Cote doesn’t agree with the natural gas expansion, he thinks heat pumps are a better source for heating and cooling, he thinks the project has made the roads dirty but thinks NEWCO did a good job installing the gas lines

School Heating System Upgrade Status and Update

- Update given by Mike Garrity
- School heating system upgrade is right on schedule
- $250,000-$270,000 of bond money allocated to school heating system upgrade, enough money to upgrade boiler room only
- May use some of the money allocated to LED lights conversion for school heating system upgrade, if needed
- Mike Garrity mentioned he will look to the state of Maine for renovation funds outside of boiler room
- Boiler room upgrade expected to be completed by Labor Day 2016
- Mike Garrity is going though Efficiency Maine for rebates on the middle school boiler
**Police Department Heating System Update**
- Update given by Bruce Cote
- Emailed copy of RFP to committee
- Obtained most of the specifications for the RFP from Jim Godbout
- A pre-bid meeting will take place at the Saco Police Department, 20 Storer Street, Saco, ME on June 8, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.
- Bids will be accepted at the Finance Office, Saco City Hall, 300 Main Street, Saco, Maine 04072 until 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 29, 2016
- Bruce Cote hopes to have project completed by October 1, 2016
- Pat Fox said he will coordinate with Unitil to complete natural gas lines down Storer Street sooner than later
- Eric Cote is curious about the idea of heat pumps installed at the police department, Bruce Cote did not talk about heat pumps to Jim Godbout, will ask Jim Godbout
- Andrew Goldberg said heat pumps could potentially tie into existing duct work at police department, ask bidders their input, could write an addendum after pre-bid
- Police department currently has forced hot air, large air exchanger on roof for AC

**Saco Middle School Parking Lot Lighting**
- Plan is to begin Saco Middle School parking lot lighting project in June or July once school is out for summer vacation and when the LED rebates are available
- Project will cause lights to be out for a week or so
- Pat Fox to look into date LED rebates will be available

**Building LED Conversion Update**
- Waiting to see what is left over for bond money after police department and school heating system upgrades
- Pat Fox said we can afford to do a lot of LED upgrades with the rebates

**Fuel and Electricity Spreadsheet Update**
- 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 as an attachment with the meeting agenda
- Jackie McDonough and Dor Bender are still working to bring the electricity database to current
- Need to obtain fuel information for the schools from Karen Merrill, per Mike Garrity
- Pat Fox said we don’t have a bid for next heating season yet with Maine Power Options
- Howard Carter will send fuel usage sheet out to department heads to review
- Pat Fox mentioned to keep in mind this year was a low fuel usage year

**Solar Farm Update**
- John Kerry would like to see a solar farm at the old transfer station
- Howard Carter said solar legislation may be reintroduced next session after a veto this session by the Governor
- Bill Mann said veto override was close at last legislative session, missed by one vote
Electric Car Charging Stations

- Andrew Goldberg said train station, area behind post office and area behind city hall, would be good spots to install electric car charging stations
- Hannaford had their first electric car charging station installed at their Topsham location near the building, doing well, shows up on car charging station phone applications
- Tesla installs chargers where they want, must have at least six charging stations and a fence, Tesla has a lot of requirements
- Hannaford electric car charging stations can charge the following: Ford, Nissan, BMW, Chevy; currently don’t have the charging capabilities for Prius and Tesla
- Some electric vehicles can use adapters, but charge slower
- Hannaford has two level two chargers, one in Camden and one in Scarborough, charging cord looks like a dryer cord, 220 volt
- Andrew Goldberg to follow up with ReVision Energy regarding the installation of electric car charging stations in the City of Saco
- Level two charger costs around $2,600
- Andrew Goldberg mentioned charging unit doesn't collect data
- Bill Mann said we should be able to find out about electric vehicle registrations in Saco, Howard Carter to ask Cheryl Fournier
- Bill Mann thinks the train station would be a good place for chargers

Facility Manager Position Update

- Facility Manager position did not get approved in the budget this year, money was reallocated to transfer station
- Kevin Sutherland to work with staff we have to prioritize and find savings

New Business

Public Utility District

- The city of Biddeford and Doug Sanford are looking to install a tri-generation system at the Biddeford mill complex
- Tri-generation is the production of electricity, heat and cooling in the one process, typically this means a gas fired generator producing electricity and heat with the exhaust heat going to an absorption chiller which produces chilled water and hot water for air conditioning or alternatively the heat is used to heat a building, the ratio of electricity produced and exhaust heat for the absorption chiller and then the ratio of cooling to heating can be varied to meet the specific site requirements
- Back up boiler and grid would be used when the tri-generation system is down
- Must have enough interested parties
- Kevin Sutherland mentioned electricity costs could drop to three to four cents a kWh
- Kevin Sutherland said that the tri-generation unit is working very well at Scarborough City Hall, they have a mini tri-generation facility and the public utility district maintains the unit
- Kevin Sutherland to look into having committee go see tri-generation unit at Scarborough City Hall
- Have Biddeford and Saco cities as finance backers of tri-generation system
• Tri-generation system runs off of natural gas
• Kevin Sutherland will take lead on this project
• City owns unit 91 at Saco Island, boiler in Chinburg building needs to be upgraded and a tri-generation system may be a possible solution

Action Items
• Bruce Cote to ask bidders their input on heat pump installation at police department at pre-bid meeting
• Pat Fox to look into date LED rebates will be available
• Jackie McDonough to contact Karen Merrill to obtain school fuel and electricity data
• Howard Carter to send fuel usage sheet out to department heads to review
• Andrew Goldberg to follow up with ReVision Energy regarding the installation of electric car charging stations in the City of Saco
• Howard Carter to ask Cheryl Fournier about electric vehicle registrations in Saco
• Kevin Sutherland to look into having committee go see tri-generation unit at Scarborough City Hall

Next meeting June 28, 2016