Meeting Minutes
Saco Energy & Sustainability Committee
June 28, 2016

Present: Howard Carter, Eric Cote, Rick Millard, Alex Mouzas, Andrew Goldberg, Charlie Cotsis, Joe Hirsch, Pat Fox, Cheryl Fournier, Jackie McDonough

Natural Gas Expansion Update
- Update given by Pat Fox
- Four Unitil crews working in Saco, Industrial Park Road is almost complete and night work on highway ramps will begin soon, also working on side streets downtown, using our camera truck to look for utility systems
- One Unitil crew has started working on connecting buildings to natural gas downtown
- The congregational church and a couple of houses on North Street have recently been hooked up to natural gas
- Unitil is looking to connect fifty residential and non-residential properties to natural gas this construction season
- Two natural gas systems in Saco, Ocean Park Road runs on a different system than downtown
- Unitil gave public works a good training session on natural gas, informed the department where the gas lines are located and to treat all lines as charged
- The police department will be hooked up to natural gas

School Heating System Upgrade Status and Update
- Howard Carter said many designs came in and should have pricing next week
- Heating system upgrade is on track to be completed this summer

Police Department Heating System Update
- June 29, 2016 at 11am, bid opening for police department heating system per Bruce Cote
- The cost of the police department heating system will determine the amount of money that will be allocated to the building LED conversion project

Saco Middle School Parking Lot Lighting
- Pat Fox said the materials have been ordered and are waiting for delivery
- Middle school parking lot lighting project on track to be completed by the end of summer

Building LED Conversion Update
- Pat Fox said city hall still needs LED conversion as well as parks and recreation
- Efficiency Maine LED rebates are now available
- Ed Profenno is now certified by Efficiency Maine
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
- The accounts payable specialist for the Saco school department, Karen Merrill, has prepared an Excel spreadsheet of the schools fuel data for FYE 2016
- Jackie McDonough included the schools fuel data in the fuel usage spreadsheet that was emailed to the committee
- Going forward, Jackie McDonough will work with Karen Merrill on a monthly basis to keep the schools fuel usage data up to date

Solar Farm Update
- Did not address at this meeting

Electric Car Charging Stations
- Cheryl Fournier said three electric vehicles are registered in the city of Saco
- The city of Saco doesn’t have data on how many visitors have electric cars
- Cheryl Fournier mentioned that the registry doesn’t note if a hybrid vehicle is chargeable via electric

Energy Plan Update
- Will address at next meeting

Scarborough Town Hall Tour
- Did not address at this meeting

New Business

Fuel bid
- Howard Carter said the city is holding off on fuel bids until the first of next year to see who’s switching to natural gas and when
- Holding off on going out to bid because each department included in the bid contract must purchase 5-10% of the estimated quantity stated in contract or they will be charged a fee
- Pat Fox mentioned public works has locked in next year’s gas and diesel prices for vehicles
- City will just go month to month with heating oil and propane prices for now

Train Station Heating System
- Pat Fox mentioned that the city should consider a new heating system at the train station, budget of $55,000 a year just enough to keep station running, would need funding for heating system
- Current open loop geothermal system not good, supplemental munchkin boiler has been primary
• Replaced well pump last summer
• Circulator pumps constantly running, being worn inside by matter
• Rick Millard mentioned filtering the water could help slow down the wearing of the circulator pumps
• Howard Carter thinks a professional should look at the system
• Andrew Goldberg said to consider a closed loop system
• Look into outdoor air source unit, abandon geothermal, talk to Jim Godbout about cost of conversion, look at cost savings
• Andrew Goldberg said there is state money out there for commercial heat pump systems
• If natural gas line runs to train station can have gas supplement geothermal or heat pump
• Howard Carter would like to see train station energy independent

Wind Turbine
• Howard Carter said the wind turbine has been shut down for a while
• Howard Carter mentioned when the wind hits 50mph or changes direction the turbine shuts down, then he has to manually reset it
• Larkin Enterprises of Lincoln, ME inspects and conducts maintenance on the wind turbine
• Cost to inspect wind turbine around $3,000
• Cheryl Fournier said we only save around $1,500 a year from the use of the wind turbine
• The wind turbine is not producing more energy than consumed
• Currently, even when the wind is blowing the turbine is not spinning at all
• Howard Carter mentioned that we should decide as a committee what to replace the wind turbine with before going to council
• Cheryl Fournier thinks it should be brought to council to decide to fix it or take it down
• Howard Carter thinks we should reuse the site for something else that is energy producing
• Andrew Goldberg thinks a solar car port charging station should be installed once the wind turbine is removed
• Howard Carter thinks a gazebo should be built on the platform once the wind turbine is removed
• Howard Carter mentioned we should make it a community project, ask for ideas
• Eric Cote would like to see how much it would cost to move the wind turbine somewhere else in the city
• Cheryl Fournier would like to see how much it would cost to scrap the wind turbine
• Pat Fox thinks a wind study should have been done
• Rick Millard said he thinks the wind turbine wasn’t a bad investment
• Howard Carter said the wind turbine in the city of Saco is one of the first wind turbines in the state
• Rick Millard thinks the positive aspects of the wind turbine should be highlighted before we take it down, he will prepare a memo for the council
• Eric Cote will make phone calls to see how much a new turbine costs
• Howard Carter recommended looking for rebates on turbine
Dyer Library Heating System
- Dyer library looking to put in a new heating system

Field Lights at Young School
- Consider upgrading field lights at Young school to LEDs, Joe Hirsch said lights get shut off for the season in September/October
- Alex Mousas said Pika Energy is taking old hybrid batteries and turning them into a residential source of energy, can be charged by solar
- The cost of a battery used to be $3,000, prices are coming down because of a need to recycle old car batteries
- Alex Mousas said consider residential batteries for sport field lighting

Anti-Idling Policy
- Howard Carter said the city has an anti-idling policy
- Andrew Goldberg would like to see if new police cars could have batteries in them to run their technology (computer, radio, etc.) instead of letting the vehicle idle
- Pat Fox said committee should look into anti-idling policy more and what can be done to improve it

Action Items
- Look into outdoor air source unit for train station heating system, abandon geothermal, talk to Jim Godbout about cost of conversion, look at cost savings
- Decide as a committee what to replace the wind turbine with before going to council
- Rick Millard thinks the positive aspects of the wind turbine should be highlighted before we take it down, he will prepare a memo for the council
- Eric Cote will make phone calls to see how much a new turbine costs
- Ask Bruce Cote why police cars are constantly idling
- Committee to look into anti-idling policy more and what can be done to improve it