

# Meeting Minutes

## Saco Energy & Sustainability Committee

### July 7, 2020

**Present:** Howard Carter, Jackie McDonough, Ted Gagnon, Andrew Dickinson, Pat Fox, Rick Milliard, Jodi MacPhail, Mike Garrity, Miles Walker, Don Roth, Andrew Goldberg, Mike Cook, Glenys Salas, Emily Cole-Prescott, Ryan Sommer

#### **ENGIE Utility Billing Software Update**

- Update given by Jackie McDonough and Glenys Salas
- On June 23<sup>rd</sup> ENGIE was awarded a contract with the City of Saco for automated utility bill pay
- Total cost for year one will be \$14,544 (\$11,700 yearly ongoing cost + year one set up fees \$2,844)
- Kim Kennedy is currently working with ENGIE to move forward with the set-up process, would like to have ENGIE's services fully implemented by August 2020
- Mike Garrity said the school department has decided to join the city in contracting with ENGIE for automated utility bill pay

#### **Zoning Ordinance Updates**

- Update given by Emily Cole-Prescott
- Currently working with the planning board on the zoning ordinance updates, looking to present to council in October
- Emily Cole-Prescott recently attended the Conservation Commission meeting, they are still working on their climate emergency declaration, she will give comments as to how the declaration fits into the city's comp plan to help connect the plan with some of our existing polices

#### **Facility Updates**

- Update given by Don Roth
- Recently hired an additional facilities maintenance employee
- Completed the LED upgrade and removed the obsolete computerized lighting system at the Train Station
- Don Roth worked with Marcel Desrosiers and Ed Profenno to update the lighting zones at the Train Station so they don't need to leave as many lights on
- The air conditioning system at the police station is twenty-two years old and needs to be replaced, currently running a sprinkler underneath the compressors to bring the temperature down, received some prices from Mechanical Services to install a new air conditioning system, considering mini splits
- Ordered an 18,000btu mini split for the Police Department dispatch center due to the heat created from all of the computers and screens, will be installed by Ed Profenno and Marcel Desrosiers
- Don Roth believes that the city has already saved between \$8,000-\$10,000 with the new heating system at Parks and Recreation

- Installing a couple of mini splits at the city owned property on School Street to regulate the building temperature, will most likely convert to natural gas in the near future, Unutil has agreed to run the natural gas line to the property at no charge
- Saco public beaches and restrooms are now open
- Summer programs at Parks and Recreation are now in session, outdoor portable sinks have been installed by the facilities department to encourage frequent hand washing

### **School LED Lighting Project**

- Update given by Mike Garrity
- Project is still on hold, incentives have been extended

### **Streetlight Conversion**

- Update given by Pat Fox and Jackie McDonough
- A number of communities have already converted their streetlights to LED, a law was passed a few years ago that allows municipalities to take ownership of the streetlights in their city/town
- The City of Saco pays over \$260,000 a year to lease streetlights from Central Maine Power, roughly 1,600 light fixtures throughout the city
- The savings potential for the city taking ownership of the streetlights is significant, but the city would have to buy the infrastructure that is already there and establish some way to perform maintenance
- There are streetlight conversion companies that offer maintenance packages as well as financing
- Could go out to bond to purchase the existing lighting infrastructure from CMP or include in the RFP and finance as part of the conversion process
- Working with CMP on the streetlight conversion to LEDs would be the easiest route, don't need to purchase the existing infrastructure but only yields a savings of roughly \$75,000 a year, CMP would most likely want a ten or twenty year commitment, the long term payback isn't as significant as purchasing the existing infrastructure
- Jackie McDonough compared the costs and savings of CMP versus Tanko Lighting:
  - CMP
    - No upfront costs
    - No maintenance and repair costs
    - Continue to receive tax revenue on CMP owned assets, roughly \$6,570 per year
    - Estimated annual cost savings (including tax revenue) **\$78,416**
  - Tanko Lighting
    - Upfront project cost of \$608,586
    - Annual maintenance fee of \$38,040
    - City would own the streetlights, no tax revenue
    - Estimated annual cost savings (less maintenance fee) **\$205,786**
- Pat Fox to contact Scarborough, Biddeford, South Portland and Falmouth Public Works Directors to get more information on the streetlight conversion process since they have converted or are in the process of converting their streetlights to LED

### **Committee Media Coverage**

- Update given by Andrew Dickinson
- Andrew Dickinson to post Energy Committee updates on Facebook

**New Business**

- Community solar, to address at next meeting
- Saco Middle School LED project, to address at next meeting

**Action Items**

- Pat Fox to contact Scarborough, Biddeford, South Portland and Falmouth Public Works Directors to get more information on the streetlight conversion process since they have converted or are in the process of converting their streetlights to LED
- Andrew Dickinson to post Energy Committee updates on Facebook

**Next meeting August 4, 2020**