

**TOWN OF BEDFORD**  
**August 27, 2020**  
**ENERGY COMMISSION MINUTES**

A meeting of the Bedford Energy Commission was held on Thursday, August 27, 2020 via the Zoom Meeting Platform.

Present: Tim Paradis (Chair), John Russell (Vice Chair), Denise Ricciardi (Town Council Liaison), Lori Radke (Town Council Alternate), John Schneller (School Board Liaison) Bill Foote (School Board Liaison Alternate), Bing Lu, Tom Elwood.

Absent: Andrew Gillis, Sarah Braese, Bart Fromuth

Call to Order: Chairman Paradis opened the meeting at 7:00 PM and read the following notice:

- *Due to the state of emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.*
- *Please note that there is no physical location to observe this meeting which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's emergency order; however, in accordance with the emergency order I am confirming that: A) We are providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access live on BCTV Comcast Channel 22, or streaming online by going to the town website and choosing "BCTV" under "Departments" and clicking on "Channel 22". We are utilizing an online platform called Zoom for this electronic meeting. All members of the Commission have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform. The public can call into this meeting via the instructions that are being shown on the BCTV broadcast. B) We previously gave notice to the public of the necessary information for accessing the meeting, including how to access the meeting using the telephone which is listed at the top of the agenda on the town website; C) If anybody has a problem accessing the meeting via the phone, please email us at [rsawyer@bedfordnh.org](mailto:rsawyer@bedfordnh.org). In the event the public is unable to access the meeting, the meeting will be adjourned and rescheduled.*
- *Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by roll call vote. Let's start the meeting by taking roll call attendance. When each member states their presence please also state whether there's also anyone in the room with you during this meeting which is required under The Right to Know Law:  
John Russell (alone); Denise Ricciardi (alone); Bill Foote (alone); Bing Lu (alone); Lori Radke (alone); Tom Elwood (alone); John Schneller (alone); Tim Paradis (alone)*

I. Quorum Count: (5)

II. Approval of Minutes – July 23, 2020

**MOTION by Ms. Ricciardi to approve the July 23, 2020 minutes. Seconded by no one. Roll call vote taken – All in favor – Motion Passed 5-0.**

### III. Reports of Members and Committees

#### a. Legislative update

Ms. Ricciardi said that SB 122, SB 124, and HB 1410 are still out there, but most likely nothing will happen on them until November because the legislature is not in session right now and nothing will happen until then. During the COVID-19 crisis the legislature put together a lot of bills together in what is called an omnibus, so those bills are not voted on individually; they are voted on together. It is possible they could get vetoed, which would mean the bills could then be voted on individually. She explained each of the bills based on her research, and notes from speaking with people: 1) SB 122 is a bill that repeals the rebate that electricity customers receive from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). It is a very long, complicated funding of how carbon trading in the Northeast raises dollars from customers for so-called energy efficiency projects. Previously in New Hampshire it protected customers by rebating most of the funds raised by RGGI and brought it back to the customers. The rebate was repealed which means higher electric rates and small hikes. This bill is still on the table for discussion; 2) SB 124 is a bill that increases fairly significantly the subsidies for renewable electric energy. While renewable was worthwhile with our high prices, this increase which would be significant; 3) HB 1410 is a compromise on net metering that the Governor supports, but some people think it is not good enough, and they reject it. Net metering means an owner-installed renewable source of energy (such as solar) that produces more power than the owner consumes and the electricity goes back to the grid and the owner gets a credit. This bill would have expanded opportunities for towns to increase the amount of power they can produce, which lowers their power costs and helps local taxpayers.

It was noted that HB 1410 is a bill that has to do with vaping. It was determined that Ms. Ricciardi was quoting the wrong bill number and that the correct bill number is actually HB 1218.

Mr. Russell wondered if there was any chance of rewriting the veto on net metering. Ms. Ricciardi said that legislatively even if a bill is vetoed, it can be brought back again. Given that we have two legislative candidates on the energy committee, Mr. Russell said he just wanted to bring their attention to HB 1218 and make them aware that it would be wonderful to get that bill reopened. Ms. Ricciardi said that she would look into the possibilities of when and how we could do something like that. Currently, she does not know anything about HB 1218.

Ms. Radke shared a summary of what HB 1218 is. Chairman Paradis indicated that we want to follow HB 1218 and see if it gets brought up again in November because it ties into some of our committee work and things at the transfer station. Ms. Radke noted that the Town of Enfield is soliciting for proposals to operate and install a field mounted solar array (approximately 72 kilowatts producing an estimated 76,000 kilowatts per year). She asked if this is less than what we want to do with the solar array we would like to put at Bedford's transfer station. Mr. Foote indicated that we were looking at something bigger, around 2 megawatts. Ms. Radke will keep their proposal on file in case we want to look at it in the future.

#### b. School projects

Mr. Schneller noted that the schools have been a little overwhelmed with the re-entry of students and sports team during the pandemic, so school projects have dropped to the bottom of their to-do list in the near term.

#### IV. Old Business

##### a. Solsmart – [www.thesolarfoundation.org](http://www.thesolarfoundation.org)

###### 1. Start with Bronze level

Ms. Radke said she and Ms. Braese spoke briefly on this but will be meeting next week to talk about the process to apply to Solsmart. After doing a little research, she said it is not as easy as she initially thought it would be. She said there are numerous steps that have to occur and it is an involved process:

- 1) Visit the website – done
- 2) Read the program guide – done
- 3) Consultation call required with Solsmart
- 4) Submit a written commitment which posts a public statement of solar goals, and begin tracking key solar metrics to get to our goals
- 5) Utilize technical assistance working with our solar experts
- 6) Submit the application

Ms. Radke and Ms. Braese will meet and come up with a game plan which they will share with the Energy Commission.

##### b. Electricity Usage

1. Library big electricity consumer
2. DPW has purchased an Eyedro 3 phase energy monitor with web interface. Peter Barbuto set the system up in March to get baseline data during April.
3. Tennis Court Lights Electricity Usage Schools

Mr. Lu shared the Eyedro website with the group which shows the information that the Eyedro 3 energy monitor provides for us. It is a 3-phase meter (if you add the 3 phases together you get the total energy consumption). The group looked at the energy usage at the library both when the energy is on during the day, and when it is off during the nighttime. There are some spikes. Mr. Lu explained what is happening is that the energy company is charging a demand charge for anything above 5-kilowatts. At its highest, the meter is showing usage of 8-kilowatts, and a total of 24-kilowatts over a 30-minute duration. On average the library is using about 6-kilowatts per each of the 3-phases, so 18-kilowatts total. We should look into whatever we can do to shut something off because the demand charge is \$15.00 per kilowatt. Even getting 6-kilowatts down would save \$90.00 per month. We should look into what changes can be made – perhaps it will be a matter of turning on and turning off equipment which could save us \$90/month and \$1,000/year. Mr. Lu would like to analyze the library's electric bill to see if they are charged a lot of demand charges. Based on the behavior he is seeing on the Eyedro report he doesn't think we are being charged a lot of demand charge. Mr. Foote noted if we could scrub out the peaks, the demand would drop by 20-30%. Mr. Lu indicated that is correct but would only save about \$1,000/year at most.

Mr. Lu asked for help in getting a copy of the library's electric bill because he is unsure who would be able to provide that to him; but if we can get it he can certainly look to see what kind of demand charge they are being charged. It was determined that Peter Barbuto may be the right person to speak to, or else Rick Sawyer could talk to the right department head. Mr. Lu said he will talk with Mr. Barbuto. He will also ask if Mr. Barbuto can move the Eyedro monitor to another location

with significant demand charges so that we can begin to look at those locations' usage over a period of weeks.

c. Solar Farm at the Transfer Station – No updates.

d. Municipal Aggregation Cost Analysis and presentation – No updates.

V. New Business – None

VI. Reminders: Next upcoming meeting is Thursday, September 24, 2020

VII. Adjournment

**MOTION to adjourn by Mr. Elwood at 7:35 P.M. Seconded by Mr. Schneller.  
Roll call vote taken- Motion Passed 6-0.**

Respectfully submitted by,  
Tiffany Lewis