

Energy Commission – 12/2/2020 – Meeting Minutes –

Attending: Jim Garrity, Ellyn Murphy, Marie Torris, Michelle Veasey and new member Doug Early

Opening

Doug Early, the newest member of the Energy Commission introduced himself and shared his interest in participating on the Atkinson Energy Commission, wanting to be more involved in community initiatives. He works for a company in the natural gas equipment industry, but felt it is not a conflict of interest since Atkinson has very little natural gas.

Jim read the public notice around the pandemic policies for Zoom meetings including contact information if access issues arise.

Jim conducted the roll call indicating attendance and whether anyone was in the room. Above responded attendance and indicating whether others were present in the room. There were no additional participants.

Minutes

Ellyn noted that the energy efficiency warrant originated in 2016, not 2018. The expiration was also updated from March 2021 to December of 2021.

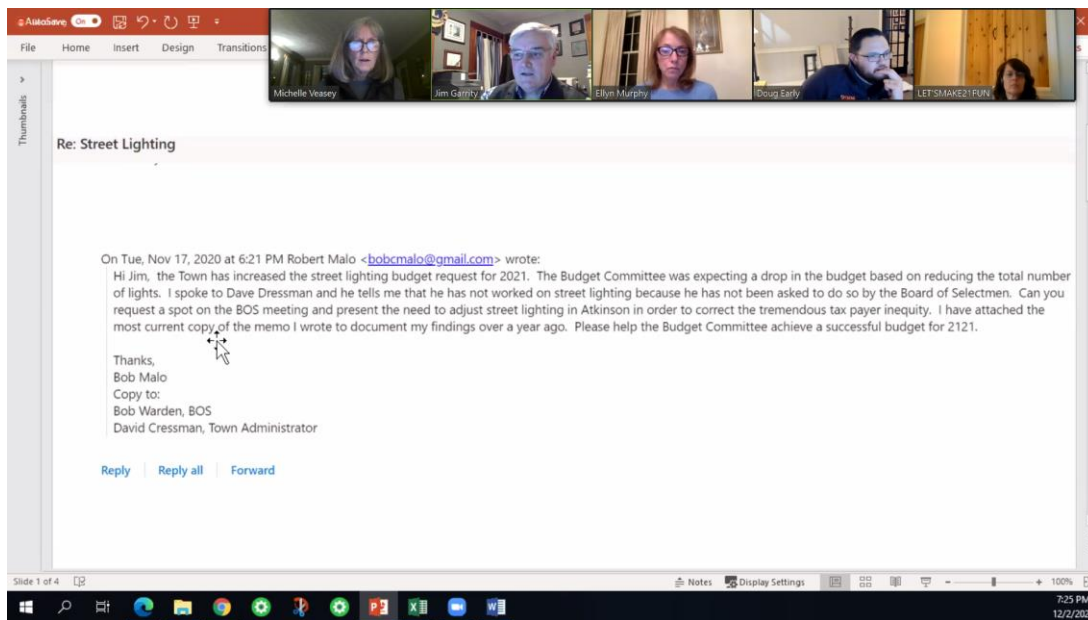
Jim noted that there a little over \$600 remaining.

Ellyn motioned that minutes by approved as amended. Marie seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

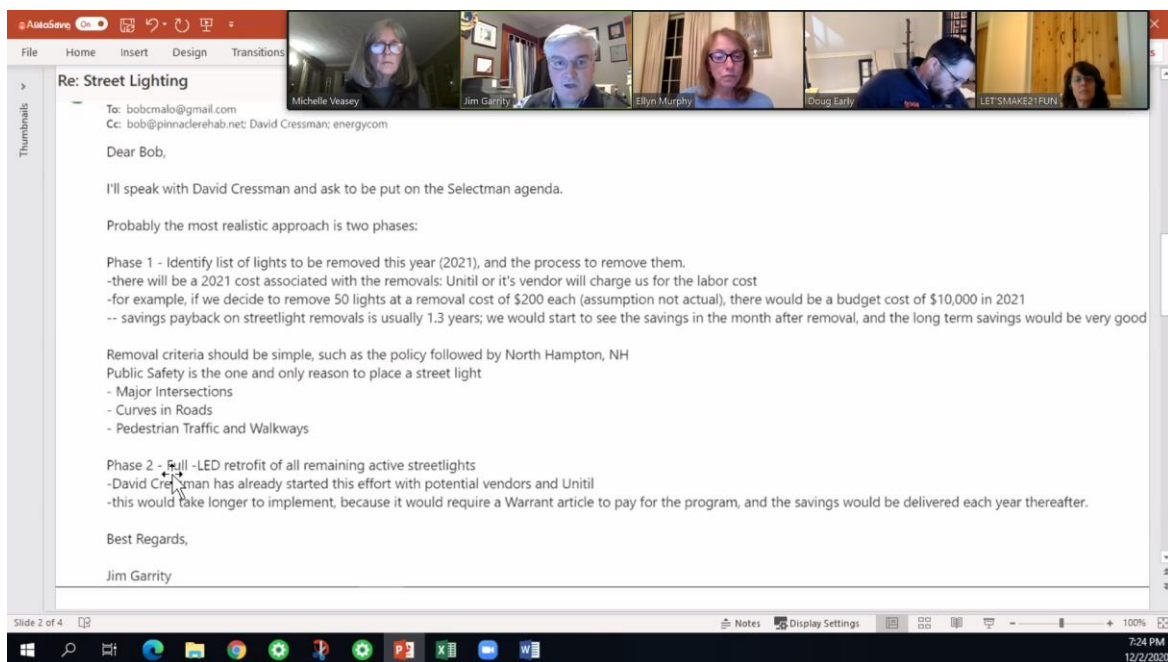
Agenda

LED Street Lighting

Jim shared that one of the largest energy line items in the town budget is street lighting. An email was shared from Bob Malo of the Atkinson Budget Committee. (Below) He had conducted another street light inventory finding several lights that should be removed because of their location on private property or located in non-essential areas.



Jim also shared the his reply suggesting that it be a multi-phased approach ...



Marie asked whether David Cressman had contacted the residents with lights in question and Jim shared that some could not be found. David asked the police to check on the lights when driving around on safety checks. The current status of this effort is unclear.

Elyn shared that the same information (there would be a cost to remove lighting and thus no savings in the first year) was given to Bob in the first meeting. Various efforts identified that several lights were found to not be working or in some cases double lights. Unitil was provided with the updates.

Jim suggested that we should put forth a street light policy similar to North Hampton's, where street lights are only installed on major intersections, where there are curves are major roads where the speed limit is higher than 25mph and where there is pedestrian traffic or walkways. Jim drove around several areas last weekend. Examples like Lisheen Drive have four lights. Coventry has no street lights on a very curvy road. Jim suggested that they should be the model for our new policy recommendation. The commission will review other towns' policies and develop a plan to submit to the appropriate Board. (Zoning or Board of Selectmen) If recommendations are made to remove lighting that does not meet the standards, but home owners resist, Jim suggested that we implement an "Adopt a Light" program in which they could pay for lighting to remain.

Lighting Book Value

Jim shared the the 2018 worksheet with detailed street lighting types and net value, which totaled \$10,467. Jim requested a new 2019 Book value listing from Unitil which came back as \$25,996. Jim asked Tim Noonis (of Unitil) why the book value went up when we would anticipate depreciation lowering the value. Tim suggested that several changes/upgrade could have been made or lighting not included on the older list.

Jim and Doug will build a master street list from existing lists to bring to Unitil to obtain a cost per light.

Doug asked whether the Commission is looking beyond the demand side of lighting energy use, suggesting that we should also be looking for community solar, and considering larger installation sites. Jim explained that we are an advisory committee and can be thought leaders on energy, but do not control the purse strings.

Ellyn asked about the Affinity street lighting upgrade proposal and whether it could be used as the basis of a warrant article for March 2021. While it was not a formal bid or estimate it would give us a "not to exceed" value for a warrant article. Michelle asked whether we could word a warrant similar to our last article in which asked for funding for energy efficiency projects with paybacks of 3 years or less. The warrant article was approved and the funding has allowed many more projects to be completed than originally planned.

Jim asked if Michelle could find language via Henry at Clean Energy NH¹ "to raise and appropriate \$XX,000 for the purpose of reducing the cost of street lighting via energy efficient lighting upgrades and planning. Include payback period in language (helps residents see the longer-term advantage). Annual savings estimated to be ???

Marie looked at Plaistow's Energy meeting minutes in 2018 when they were working through this process. Minutes talked on bill financing options through Unitil. Michelle asked if we need a warrant article with on bill financing via energy savings? Michelle will ask Clean energy NH for guidance.

The Commission discussed whether we would need to meet again this month if putting a warrant article forward. If we can progress in the time left, Jim would post a meeting with 48 hours' notice to be held via Zoom, as allowed by the Governor's emergency provisions for electronic meetings.

Jim will also test whether research documents can be uploaded to the town's cloud and accessed by all members.

Motion to adjourn: Doug, second by Marie at 8:27