Atkinson Energy Meeting Minutes – February 10, 2021

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

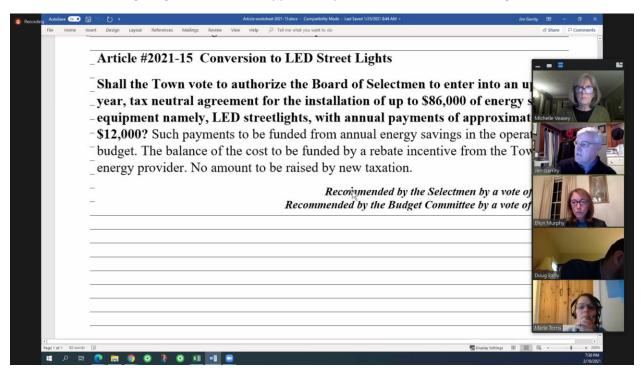
Jim read the guidelines for remote, electronic meeting of the Atkinson Energy Commission.

Minutes

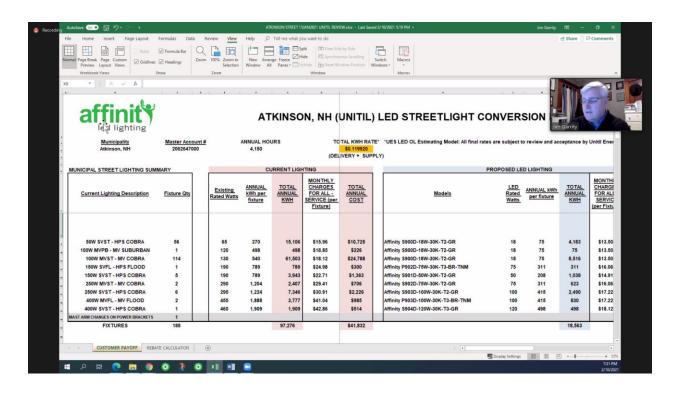
Jim provided the December 2nd meeting minutes on screen, in addition to the version emailed to all members. There was no discussion. Ellyn Murphy made a motion to approve the minutes and Doug Early seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

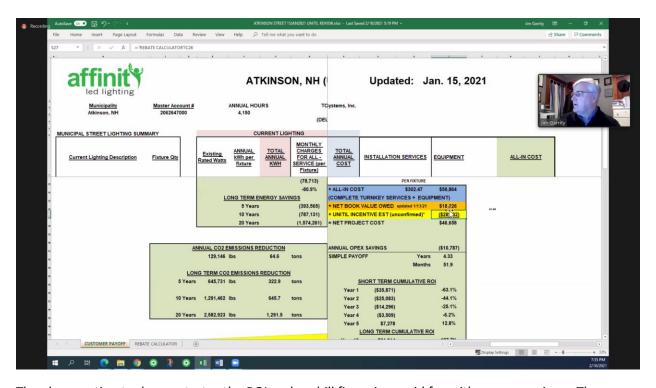
LED Lighting

Jim shared the LED lighting warrant article approved by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee.

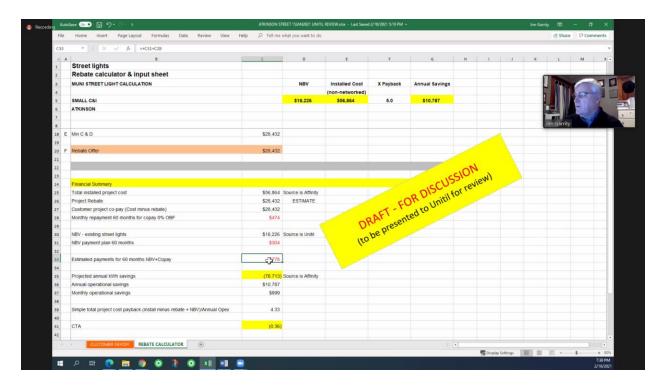


In anticipation of the next steps, Jim contacted Affinity Lighting to ask for some numbers to frame what the lighting investment would be, how much energy would be saved and the bottom line results of the on-bill financing of the town's upgrade, net of the rebate.





The above estimate demonstrates the ROI and on-bill financing, paid for with energy savings. The payback period is 51 months, so in Year 5 the town will start to see the full energy savings.



Jim asked Unitil whether they would pay our rebate directly to the selected vendor, so that Atkinson doesn't have to cut a check and wait for the rebate refund. He will confirm.

Jim stated that Affinity is the state contractor for LED lighting and was informed that Atkinson may not have to put this out to bid. Jim will doublecheck with the Town Administrator.

Ellyn asked if we should reach out to neighboring towns to ask what they wished they knew now that they have been through the upgrade process, which seemed to all like a wise approach.

Jim stated that there has been discussion around forming a committee to determine which lighting should be removed, rather than upgraded so that the Town will not continue to pay for unneeded lighting. The selectmen would be responsible for forming.

The budget committee level funded lighting given the current proposal.

HB-315

Jim shared communications around HB 315 which effectively removes many of the opportunities created by the Community Power law for competitive, renewal energy supply for local communities. Although Atkinson is not yet actively involved in Community Power, it is an opportunity that the Energy Commission has been exploring to lower energy costs for residents and increase access to renewal energy sources. The Commission took a vote to sign on in opposition to the bill via the online portal for the NH legislature. (Unanimous)

http://gencourt.state.nh.us/house/committees/remotetestimony/default.aspx

Josh from Clean Energy NH contacted the Commission to introduce himself as Henry's replacement. He asked to meet with us. We will ask him to join us for a Zoom meeting on March 16th.

Ellyn brought up former efforts to develop community solar in Town. There was some discussion around conservation land, but that option is not viable. Given that we have been unable to identify land, should we give up on solar for the town? Should we refocus on community power? Michelle suggested that we develop some goals for the town which would allow more flexibility for approach based on what opportunities are viable and also provide more talking points for communicating with town residents and hopefully gaining more interest and awareness in the community.

A motion to adjourn was made by Doug and seconded by Michelle. With a unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 8:30.