

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION PLANNING COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 24, 2020 IN THE HUMISTON BOARD ROOM**

Committee Members Present: Kathryn Hallen, Andrew Martelli, Timothy White,
Other Attendees Present: Mr. David Newman, ECG Engineering
Vincent Masciana, Chief Operating Officer

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Martelli called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Solar Energy – Review and Discussion with ECG Engineering

Mr. David Newman, the Vice President, Engineering for the ECG Group and a principal of that firm was introduced to the Committee. Mr. Masciana explained that the ECG Group served as the owner’s representative for the Town and Schools on the \$10.2M Energy Performance Contract Project completed in 2015/16 and that Mr. Newman was directly involved in that project. Mr. Newman also assisted with the Town’s solar installation at the landfill and more recently served as a consultant to the Town on the installation of the solar carport at the Cheshire Police Station. Mr. Newman distributed a document named “ECG’s Solar Clients” that listed the various projects that ECG has completed or is in the process of completing and noted that they are all school or municipal projects in New York and Connecticut.

A number of topics were discussed by the committee members and Mr. Newman centered around solar energy, including potential new solar panel installations on school properties and their merits. Potential projects include solar carports, rooftop installations, and installations on open school property such as the land on the west side of Cheshire High School where a pump station is located. Some of the highlights of the discussion included:

- Solar installations are typically at zero out-of-pocket cost with a 20 year agreement to purchase electricity at a fixed price that would be lower than current electricity rates making it attractive to the school district.
- Solar carport installations are typically more expensive than rooftop installations because they require design and construction of support structures that are not needed for rooftop installations.
- The Power Purchase Agreement defines the economics and is a key component of solar installations/projects.

Mr. White explained that solar energy projects that could be completed for the schools that would save both energy and money. He noted that rooftop installations are not ideal for Cheshire due to the age of most of our district roofs and potential engineering challenges. He further noted that the focus should be on installations such as solar carports which will not be impacted by school modernization upgrades that are currently being discussed. He reiterated the need to pursue this initiative as soon as possible since the funding that is provided through the Zero Emission Renewal

Energy Credit (ZREC) program by Eversource is time-sensitive and funding may not be available for much longer.

The Committee asked Mr. Newman to provide a proposal for services to assist with the review and identification of potential sites for solar projects as quickly as possible in order to attempt to issue an invitation to bid and ultimately submit an application before the expected April filing deadline for solar grant/credit opportunities.

On a motion by Ms. Hallen, which was seconded by White, the meeting was adjourned by a unanimous vote at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Vincent J. Masciana
Chief Operating Officer

Carol Jesensky, Executive Assistant

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