

DPW Commission Meeting – Workshop on Energy Efficiency
June 18, 2014, 7pm
Community Room, Police Station

7:00: Approval Items:

Approval of Sale of Cemetery Lots: Barbara Sparks, Beech Grove, Lot #19

7:05: Open Session: Open Discussion with the Commissioners

7:05 Election of DPW Commissioner Chairmanships: Chairman Gardner said they had spoken in the past about rotating the chairmanships. Commissioner Reed moved to appoint P. Sena as Chairman, seconded by J. Gardner, Vote: 2-0, P. Sena abstained.

Chairman Sena moved to appoint B. Reed as Vice Chair, seconded by Commissioner Gardner, Vote: 3-0. P. Sena said he will continue with the CPC until Fall Town Meeting.

7:10 Back Beach: CPC funds were approved but a conceptual plan is needed for Fall Town Meeting. Chairman Sena said he would like to meet with the Beautification Committee at the next meeting, if possible. The DPW Director and the Beautification Committee are going before the Board of Selectmen for approval. They have some work to do about funding. The initial request was to repair the benches and asphalt. Commissioner Gardner said the DPW wouldn't design it, but he said he had spoken to Terry Duffy who is a Landscape Designer and he was interested in the project. Approval was received at Town Meeting. The CPC is requesting that the Beautification Committee make the presentation at Town meeting but they want a conceptual plan first.

7:15 Sediment Transport Study/Long Beach: Director Parisi said the draft of the Sediment Transport Study should be available by the second week of July. Chairman Sena said we should reserve a spot for Town Meeting so at least we have it, it could be taken off if we aren't ready to ask for funding. Commissioner Reed said it is up to the Board of Selectmen to decide if this goes to Fall Town Meeting. Chairman Sena said the 1930 wall is the liability. Commissioner Gardner questioned if it is best to mitigate by doing something to the wall or just by having a plan in place. Director Parisi said having a plan going forward is critical. The Fall Town Meeting warrant closes before the DPW meets again; it is recommended that the Board of Selectmen and DPW workshop be scheduled before that; 7/1/14 would be ideal. The Town Administrator will be contacted to see if that meeting can be scheduled.

Water Needs Assessment: Director Parisi said the draft is on his desk; he is reviewing it.

7:30 Energy Efficiency Workshop: Mike Skinner from National Grid and Joanne Bissetta from the Massachusetts Dept. of Energy Resources were present. Rockport was awarded a

reimbursement grant from DOER for \$79,992. Charges can be put toward it; then invoices can be submitted. There is a National Grid incentive for \$36,245., so the total \$116,237 is for a lighting project. We have \$9,000 from the water and sewer budgets to change out lighting. Joanne Bissetta works for the Green Communities Division, they work with communities in Northeastern Massachusetts. There are 123 Green Communities, Gloucester, Topsfield, Manchester, Newburyport, Salem, Swampscott are some of the communities who have already met the requirements to be a Green Community. The DOER helps communities with energy upgrades, and incentives that National Grid and other utilities offer.

- Green community designation grant program: This program rewards communities who make efforts to be green, set by statute; there are five requirements to qualify as a Green Community.
 1. Adopt as-of-right siting for RE/AE generation, R&D or manufacturing
 2. Adopt an expedited permitting process
 3. Create an energy reduction plan to reduce energy use by 20% in five (5) years
 4. Purchase only fuel-efficient vehicles
 5. Minimize life cycle cost in new construction – adopt the stretch code
- There is a streamlined procurement path, Chapter 25A. For projects less than \$100,000 prequalified vendors can be contracted with directly, there is no bidding process required.
- Ownerization Technical Assistance: Oil heating, engineering studies, up to \$12,500 per award, can be done on one or more buildings; it generally pays for two buildings or to audit the energy use of multiple buildings.
- Sapphire Program: Schools And Public Housing Integrating Renewables and Efficiency. To promote renewable thermal heating and cooling upgrades in public schools and state public housing across the commonwealth.
- Promoting new construction that is more energy efficient than current codes require; this requires a town meeting vote. She said with a town of this size, citizen volunteers can be useful. MAPC provides technical assistance. J. Bissetta said she works with communities for 6 to 9 months while they do this. They come in and meet with local builders to educate and assist.
- The newly awarded grant for Rockport was not part of Green Communities.

M. Skinner from National Grid:

- Typically the schools and libraries tend to be the big users; the high school looks as though work has been done on the lighting lately.
- Mass Energy Insight can go back to 2008, it will show who is using the most energy (electricity, etc.) per square foot.
- Commissioner Reed inquired if energy audits for town buildings can be done. M. Skinner said yes, there is a list of about 20 vendors that are pre-approved and certified. He said he spoke to Bill Ellis, from Weston and Sampson, about the HVAC for town hall, and the town hall annex. They get paid when the project moves forward, Chapter 25, limit of \$100,000 without competitive bid process.

- Technical Assessment program: M. Skinner recommends hiring an engineer to walk the buildings; the cost would be approximately \$2,500 to \$3,500 for an engineer to conduct the audit and scoping studies. If the town moves forward with 50% of their recommendations; National Grid will pay for the audit costs. If the town doesn't complete 50% of their recommendations, the town would pay for 50% of the cost of the audit. Usually they focus on the High School and the Middle School.
- Prescriptive level incentives: For projects that are more complicated, they work with the community and assess what the payback would be.
- He is recommending having Bill Ellis walk all the buildings.
- On Build Refinancing: it's at no cost, if the cost is \$100,000, they'll provide \$25,000 or \$30,000. It allows you to do a project with no money down. It can be paid back within 24 months.
- Sena spoke about the street lights.
- Now on basic service rate. M. Skinner said there are 3 components of electrical costs: He said nothing can really be done about the cost of transmission and distribution. Generation is the actual electricity that comes into your buildings. You can stay on basic service; that's the default at their rate. You can go to 3rd party power supplier, Dominion, Constellation, Direct Energy, when you buy from them you pull all your accounts together, National grid sends them all your historical data, they look at peak times, they'll give you a rate for (lock in the price) electric expense. Chairman Sena questioned the flood lights in parking lots not owned by Rockport; he asked if there is the alternative for those; this town has three different types of street bulbs. M. Skinner said the town would have to buy the street lights. M. Skinner said they may sell them to the town for as little as \$1/ea. Rockport could buy them back and do an LED retrofit. The maintenance of the lights could be subcontracted out. He said just by owning the lights, we'd be saving substantial funds, if the town went with LED we'd save significantly.
- Chairman Sena questioned is there some requirement to replace the really old bulbs (mercury vapor). He asked is there an option to say we don't want these street lights any longer. M. Skinner said David Santana would know the answer to that; MAPC can assist with all of this.
- Water and wastewater facilities were high users; they decided to target funds to those facilities. Communities can join the listserv to receive updates.

Town Meeting Warrant: Chairman Sena recommended putting two separate articles together for Long Beach for FTM, storm damage temporary repairs and beach replenishment/wall stabilization. He recommends having the Board of Selectmen write the warrant.

Next DPW Commissioner Meeting: 7/9/14 Water and Sewer rate setting will be on the agenda as well as the new Community House Building Manager.

Commissioner Gardner moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Reed, Vote: 3-0.