

## Energy Committee Minutes

July 25, 2011

Present: Mark Tuominen, Steve Rice, Larry Hunter, Bruce Davidson and Becky Torres.

The meeting convened at 7:00 PM.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss how the Green Communities grant of \$142,275 could be spent. There are several short term needs;

1. The heating system for the fire station needs to be upgraded. The building committee is reviewing this to assess the situation and determine the type of heater to be installed. This might cost up to about \$30K.
2. The furnace in the town hall needs to be repaired or replaced to improve efficiency. Current efficiency is about 70% and new efficient systems are in the low 90%. This might cost up to about \$10,000.
3. The elementary school will need an assessment to upgrade air sealing and insulation as there were numerous ice dams this winter.

No cost yet on the elementary school project, but there could be up to about \$100,000 left to be spent. The decision on how to spend the money must be made by August 20<sup>th</sup>. The committee discussed other possibilities. The overall goal is to save 20% of the 2009 base year energy use. These are some possibilities the committee discussed.

1. Additional PV electric panels at the school. Is there a place for some pole mounted panels if trees are removed? Larry agreed to do a site assessment with his solar tracker.
2. Solar power at the fire station. There is one South facing roof, but it is not very large. Larry will also do a site assessment here to see if pole mounted panels would work.
3. The fire station uses a lot of hot water intermittently. The committee recommended looking into a commercial sized tankless system.
4. Some additional ideas were also discussed;
  - a. The largest energy use for the town is in transportation costs. Public transportation should be explored.
  - b. How about an electric car charging station?
  - c. Install a compressor at the fire station so cars could have the correct air pressure in their cars to minimize fuel usage.
  - d. Reinvestigate establishing a ride share system. Model other successful communities.
  - e. Establish an incentive for citizens to purchase energy efficient appliances or use other energy saving / producing methods.
  - f. Purchase a hybrid car for a police vehicle.

Next meeting is to be either August 10, 11, or 15<sup>th</sup>, to review Larry's site assessment and make the decision on where to spend the remainder of the money after the top 3 items are accounted for.