

ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY AUGUST 2, 2011 5:00 P.M.

GREAT BARRINGTON TOWN HALL

334 MAIN STREET, GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230

- I. Call to Order at 5:07 pm. Present: Alana Chernila Beth Moser, Chris Vlcek, Brandee Nelson, Jenn Bailly, Jonathan Williams
- II. Review and Approve Minutes of Meeting 7/20/11. Beth Moved, Brandee 2nd, Alana abstained, All in favor – motion carries.
- III. Energy reduction plan (ERP)

a. Technical data review.

Jonathan Williams presented a tour via laptop projection of the MA Energy Insight Program (MEIP). Various tabs allow different views of the energy use data for the Town of GB. Some highlights:

On the main dashboard, the greatest energy users are: DPW (*incl. buildings & vehicles?*), and the Wastewater Treatment plant. Note that The Fire District controls the water supply so that usage doesn't show up on the Town's MEIP. (3) years of data have been entered, the most recent is FY2011, which is the highest use and will thus be the baseline year for the ERP. Brandee requested the Town send a letter to Berkshire Gas requesting a more timely input of data to the MEIP, as they appear to be about (3) months behind.

Under the Buildings tab, we saw the usage/sf and overall usage. For example the new Fire Station has a pretty high total usage, but is quite efficient by area. Brandee noted that hours of operation are not factored into this summary, which means a skew towards less-used buildings appearing more efficient. This could be a factor esp. for the Police Station which operates 24/7. The Mason Library appears quite inefficient, as does the Ramsdell.

For total energy used (not just building-use), the Wastewater Treatment plant is *~(4,500 kBTUs for 2011 compared with 500 kBTUs for the Fire Station ?)*. For the Wastewater plant, we've yet to hear back from Joe Sokul and Tighe&Bond regarding how energy efficiency upgrades will factor into the capital improvements planned. Alana also noted that education is a factor so residents stop putting wipes and other items into the stream that clog the pumps.

Most GB vehicles are exempt from the efficiency requirements regarding purchasing new vehicles, but the fuel usage does go into the Town's baseline. Jenn noted that FY2012 C.I.P. includes (1) new police cruiser (*and a 2nd vehicle Chief's SUV?*). Jonathon suggested we investigate biofuel use for non-emergency vehicles. Brandee requested a breakdown for vehicles if possible to target fuel usage more closely.

b. Review of vision statement for ERP.

Beth noted some of the Town's green achievements, and the community support for such. Chris noted that the vision should be a broad one for presentation & support of the Selectmen and Town, whereas the narrative for the ERP is specifically targeted toward the 20% energy-use reduction. Alana suggested Beth confer with the Master Plan Committee as well.

c. Summary of meeting with Joe Sokul. Discussion postponed.

d. Funds made available for Audits. The Town Manager sent a note this week that some funds are available to help us target more specifically what improvements can be made to gain the best savings. Jenn outlined the procurement procedure for (3) levels of expenditure. Chris will write a letter to Kevin requesting a RFP be written for the Audits. He noted that the RFP, contract and report need to happen within a 3-month time frame in order to meet the next deadline for Green Community application.

IV. Other news & upcoming.

a. On August 10th, Jenn, Jonathon, and (2) Energy Committee members will meet with National Grid to discuss incentive programs available. Use of Compressed Air is one program, installation of sensors/monitors is another.

b. Next Meeting Thursday September 1st at 5:30pm

V. Adjournment. Moved by Alana, 2nd by Beth, all in favor, so moved at 6:15pm

Respectfully submitted,



Christopher Vlcek