

Timberlane Regional School Board Energy Committee

Sept 22, 2020- 7 PM

**Members Attending:** Brian Boyle, Maria Watkins, Kim Farah, Barbara Kiszka

**Arriving late:** Gary Paradis

**Excused:** Steve Paradis

1. Minutes Approval
  - a. June 14 – Dr. Farah motions to Approve, Mr. Boyle seconds, Approved 4-0-0
  - b. July 28 – Mr. Boyle motions to Approve, Ms. Watkins seconds, Approved 4-0-0
2. Financial Discussion
  - a. Can we set up a fund to recoup energy savings? Dr. Farah does not think we can do that.
3. Solar Company Update
  - a. Should we try to get a solar project for Sandown North on the ballot for this March?
    - i. Sandown North is a good candidate for solar with a new roof
      1. Consensus that Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) is preferred to purchasing the panels outright because there is no money required up front.
      2. RFQ for electric rate rather than RFP for solar panels
      3. Our electric rate at Sandown North averages between \$0.09/kwh and \$0.11/kwh the last 3 years
      4. The yearly electric bill for Sandown North is \$46,000 - \$60,000
    - ii. Criteria for deciding to move ahead with a vendor + warrant?
      1. Save at least 20% per year (\$10,000) on electricity?
      2. Mr. Boyle: Voters are expected to hostile this year - \$10K is probably not enough savings.
      3. Ms. Watkins: We need to have a better idea of the costs, savings and Return on Investment.
      4. Ms. Watkins notes the cost per kwh is different than the price. Our 5-year agreement until Nov 2022 with Constellation Energy is \$0.069/kwh fixed rate, which does not include the delivery and surcharge fees, which bring the “fully loaded” cost up to 9-12 cents/kwh. We need to be careful in our RFP to make sure we are comparing apples and apples.

We are getting good service from Constellation.

Sandown North has fixed rate from Constellation but electricity from NH elec co-op; Sandown Central has Eversource; all other schools are Constellation.

Electricity rates now are even lower now. Ms. Watkins is currently reaching out to several utilities to see if we can get a better rate. A utility broker is preparing a proposal which may include a buy-out of the contract.

4. d. Solar Next Steps

a. Don't pursue for this March warrant. The timing is not right.

b. Start again in Jan or Feb 2021 for the March 2022.

5. LED Savings

i. Rebates are paying for over 50% of the LED conversion project. We already have a \$36,000 check and expect a smaller one soon. There is a limit to the rebates each year, but it does not look like we will run into it.

ii. Ms. Watkins presented a chart with projected savings for each school based on \$0.14 to \$0.15/kwh fully loaded cost. The total projected savings is just over \$10,000/year with the LEDs already converted.

iii. The net cost to convert was \$20,000 after rebates. With the \$10,000/year savings, the lights pay for themselves in 2 years, then continue to save money.

iv. Mr. Paradis said we can save even more by continuing to convert classrooms and the rest of the hallways. He is getting the total number of fixtures to convert and preparing for an RFP to purchase the fixtures. The installation will be done in-house. Dr. Farah will put this on the agenda for the next School Board meeting.

v. Ms. Watkins presents the latest electric bills that show that we pay over \$700/month for the outdoor lights at the High School owned by Unitil. There are 2 more lights at the Middle School. The outdoor light at Danville is about \$100/month. The one in Atkinson can probably be removed because we added outdoor lighting.

1. Mr. Paradis will ask Unitil if we can put up our own LED fixtures to replace theirs.

6. HVAC savings

a. Can we save energy on HVAC? Yes, turn it off when we are not using it. Currently the system is shut off between 10pm and 5am. Mr. G. Paradis agreed to reduce the number of hours the HVAC runs. We are also replacing boilers with higher efficiency boilers and running them in series so we don't have to run all of them on milder days. They pull in fresh air, which is slightly less efficient, but is working out well during the COVID pandemic.

b. Mr. G. Paradis will send Dr. Farah the CDC document that recommends extra air exchanges after the building closes.

c. Changing filters more often should help, but they are in short supply. Ordering 2 months at a time for now.

7. Facilities Strategic Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)
  - a. We need to look at projects where we can save money with energy projects, like HVAC and windows. Anything with 2-3 year payback should be a high priority.
8. Next Meeting Date Nov 4 at 7pm. The committee prefers Wednesday nights other than 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed.
9. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM