

Timberlane Regional School Board Energy Committee

Minutes

Nov 17, 2021 4pm

- **Energy Committee Members Attending:** Barbara Kiszka, Karl Ingoldsby, Steve Paradis
- **Absent:** Brian Boyle, Kim Farah, Maria Watkins, Marc Fournier

1. Meeting called to order at 4pm.
2. Sept 22, 2021 minutes approval, no quorum
3. Minute taker – Barbara
4. LED project status
 - a. Took a short pause to try to include it in performance contract, which did not happen
 - b. TRHS is 90% done and should be done by the end of December 2021. Steve has already put in for rebates with Unifil.
 - c. PAC and TRMS lighting are expected to be complete by the end of January 2022. d. Rest of schools will order lights and should be done by the end of December 2022. i. Already committed to buying the LED fixtures from the RFP
 - ii. Can put occupancy sensors into each room for about \$100 each
 - iii. Dimming is possible, but requires an extra control wire. We could add support for dimming by special request.
5. Performance contract status -
 - a. EEI is doing audit of the buildings.
 - i. They will include LED savings in the lease.
 - ii. We expect to save about 25% off of energy costs per year, which is roughly \$200,000/year.
 - iii. Expect to have initial proposal of what we can choose from in March 2022. iv. We hope it will include solar, which is cost neutral. However we are not sure if we will be able to get the roofs done as part of the project. We may need to ask for money in a 2023 warrant article.
 - v. ESSR work has to be at prevailing wages, which are currently several times the normal rate. So we may want to wait for rates to trend toward normal. vi. The lease portion has to be in the budget for the year in which it will be spent.
 - vii. The amount we will be able to spend through energy savings and capital funding will probably be less than \$12M, which is much less than the cost of everything in the CIP. We may want to have an add-on package proposal in a warrant article for locker rooms, roofs, etc.
 - b. We've applied for a \$80,000 seed loan for Danville. Must be spent by the end of June 2022. Should be able to upgrade the entire boiler system, switching over to propane to save more money. Will have one boiler plant instead of three. Will remove the oil tank and oil lines running between the buildings.
 - c. There are construction meetings each Tuesday at noon in the SAU board room with EEI, Karl, and Maria. They would like someone from the School Board, Budget Committee, or Selectmen to attend. Check with Karl first to ensure the meeting is on, they might skip the next few meetings.
6. Other business

- a. Electricity rate increase
 - i. Electric contracts - have a contract with Constellation Energy out to Nov 2022. It is 6.99 cents/kwh. Our energy service provider would like to sign a 3 year extension at 7.10/kwh (10% increase - get exact figure from Maria). But a shorter extension would be at 20% increase. Higher price could eat away from our savings, but savings are based on energy used, not \$?).
 - ii. Suggest trust fund for unexpected energy cost increases.
 - iii. Barbara will ask Maria if she wants any motions at tomorrow night's board meeting.
- b. Recent NH legislation is allowing more net metering. Freedom Energy has an offer to buy electricity from hydroelectric dams
 - i. We used Freedom energy to get a recommendation for natural gas from Sprague Energy, saving money.
 - ii. We would still use Constellation, but would identify the hydro electric as a source of energy. We would pay the same amount, but get a rebate of up to \$15,000/year.
 - iii. We said no for now. Maybe reconsider in a few months.
- c. Ask Maria about the CPower checks.
 - i. We got calls during school hours, but said no.
 - ii. We will have better control with the new systems and should be able to say yes more often.
- d. Electric devices in the school buildings
 - i. Would like to add a policy to not bring lamps from home. Christmas lights can only be up for 30 days by code.
 - ii. Portable heaters are overloading circuits.They are a fire hazard and not to code.

7. Next meeting date

- a. Wednesday, March 16, 4pm
- b. We should have the list of potential improvements and their costs from EEI by then.

8. Adjourned at 4:45pm