

FINAL

Attending at 6:34pm were Carol Schutte, Chair, Beverly Mutrie, Secretary and Scott Bieber, member. C. Schutte will ask Justin Braley about his future intentions to attend this Committee. Absent was A. Ganz and S. Hanson.

The minutes from November 2023 were reviewed, amended by adding the name of the host of the slide show talking about the Aggregation Committee and a spelling error. The November amended minutes were approved upon a motion by S. Bieber, seconded by C. Schutte, with B. Mutrie agreeing.

Old Business: While the Board of Selectmen agree to the need to replace the outdated Public Safety Building's energy systems but they decided to not support the \$90K Warrant Article to replace the heating/AC systems this year. There were two other higher priority warrant articles for the Fire Department plus there is an added expenditure for another employee.

Carol will be looking at other ways to save money, rebates, creative ways to finance the \$90K cost for putting in the mini-split systems. According to S. Bieber, the cost of postponing may mean an increase in the estimate of maybe \$20K to \$30K due to the added cost of the equipment and labor from Kearny HVAC next year. The Committee speculated that the cost of waiting might be offset by the possibility of receiving newer equipment. Mark Sikorski did report that the PSB heating and HVAC systems should be replaced soon.

The Library has gone forward with a bid from AECOM to replace the deficient insulation in the boiler room ceiling. They will double check that the insulation company will replace the deficient vapor barrier and/or the sheetrock. The proposal to replace the insulation is about \$2500. B. Mutrie will be contacting AECOM and ask them for clarification. B. Mutrie will forward a copy of the proposal to other members. S. Bieber would like to have a viewing of the Library's attic so to become familiar with the existing conditions.

LAS: C. Schutte will still be the liaison with LAS's science teacher regarding the junior high school students gathering energy use data for the building. The hope is that the students will be able to find some cost savings.

S. Bieber did a great job with the town newsletter submission.

S. Hanson followed up on the reservation for NH Saves program "Button Up NH". We are now in the queue for a program, hopefully this spring.

A. Ganz will be the liaison about new programs and/or savings from the state or federal government along with new energy legislation and report them to us and Karen Anderson, Town Administrator.

C. Schutte mentioned the entity "Window Dresser" in NH which would help less affluent communities add another insulation layer, probably interior storms, to their windows.

On February 1, Unital's rate will go down to 10.718 cents/KWH. This is less than the supplier, Constellation has been charging the town and the Library. For comparison, the Community Power Coalition of NH's rate is .081/KWH.

Next Steps:

C. Schutte has submitted a report for the 2023 Town Report to R. Webb, Assistant Town Administrator who has advised her that we will have to choose officers after the March Town meeting vote. B. Mutrie suggested that it might not hurt to promulgate some by-laws to go with the existing mission statement for the Energy Committee.

The other next step would be to aid LAS in any way the Energy Committee can to reduce their energy bills. Solar could be explored with a PPA account, perhaps put solar panels in ground rather than roof with tracking, etc. to see if there could be savings.

Energy Committee members were encouraged to attend the next School Board Meeting. C. Schutte will inform the Energy Committee when it is so that the Committee can introduce themselves and find out what could be a priority for energy savings.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm upon a motion by S. Bieber, seconded by C. Schutte and B. Mutrie concurred.

Beverly Mutrie, Recording Secretary