

THE FOLLOWING MEETING WAS NEITHER VIDEOTAPED NOR AUDIO RECORDED

RENEWABLE ENERGY COMMITTEE AND BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Special Joint Meeting

Monday 23 June 2014 – 1:00 p.m.

Town Hall Hearings Room

BY
TOWN CLERK
DIGHTON, MA

2014 JUN -7 PM 12:04

RECEIVED

Renewable Energy Committee member David Dumenigo on behalf of the Renewable Energy Committee, and Selectmen Chairman Dean V. Cronin, and Patrick W. Menges, and Aide to the Board of Selectmen Andrew W. Sukeforth, met jointly with Mr. Seth Pickering of the Department of Energy Resources for a presentation concerning Dighton's Green Community Designation initiative, in the hearings room of Town hall on Monday June 23 2014, at 1:05 o'clock p.m. Mr. Pickering proffered a slide presentation. During the course of the presentation, Mr. Pickering explained that for a Town "going green" it means reducing energy costs/consumption by (1) establishing an energy committee/designating an energy officer; (2) establishing an energy baseline for municipal buildings, schools, streetlights, and all vehicles; (3) performing energy audits on municipal buildings, except those in North Dighton served by the Taunton Municipal Lighting Plant; (4) implementing energy efficiency measures ; (5) changing behaviors (e.g. energy conservation policies) ; (6) exploring renewable energy opportunities. Mr. Pickering said that among programs and resources for qualifying municipalities the green communities grant program, the mass energy insight system, which is a free energy tracking system, quality energy conservation bonds for funding help. The Massachusetts Energy Group (MMEG) which has a January conference, and the municipal energy efficiency program helping with technical assistance.

Mr. Pickering explained that the Green Communities Grant Program provides grants to qualifying communities to fund energy efficiency initiatives, renewable energy, and innovative projects. He reviewed qualification criteria;

1. Adopt as of right siting in designative locations for renewable energy/ alternative energy generation. (Dighton will need to contact Sandy Conaty at the Southeastern Planning and Economic District, and master plan draftsman Ralph Willmer at the Engineering firm of Vanessa, Hangen, and Bustlin, concerning necessary zoning changes for as of right siting)
2. Adopt expedited (12 months application/permitting process.) Renewable Energy Committee man David Dumenigo said, "We can overachieve "to which Mr. Pickering responded "yes" as if overachieving is encouraged.
3. Establish an energy use baseline with a plan to reduce the baseline by 20 percent in 5 years. Mr. Pickering said that the Department of Energy Resources will provide free guidance and software.
4. Purchase only fuel efficient vehicles (Public safety vehicles and vehicles with a gross weight exceeding 8,500 pounds are exempt.) **Stop recycling vehicles, especially old police crown Victoria's**

5. Require new residential construction and new commercial and industrial real estate construction to minimize life cycle energy costs (**Adopt stretch code - 780CMR 115, Appendix AA**) At this point, Fire Chief Roderick was present and mentioned that his official vehicle would soon need to be replaced and humorously suggested a hybrid.

Mr. Pickering recommended that Dighton contact Acushnet, which has recently become a Green Community, and communicate with Selectmen David Warner concerning how it is done.

Mr. Pickering was informed that up to this time Dighton has reviewed Green Community Designation guidance, contacted our Green Communities Regional Coordinator (Mr. Pickering) and has discussed Green Community Designation within and among local government personnel. The Town must now adopt the Stretch Energy Code, receive local approval to apply for Green Community status, meet the 5 Green Communities Criteria and submit a designation application and upon receiving Green Community Designation from the Department of Energy Resources, apply for Green Community grants.

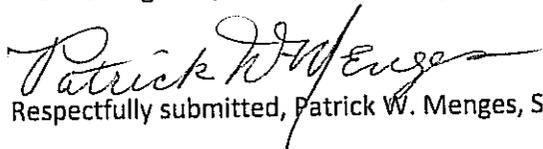
Following Mr. Pickering's slide presentation (power point download distributed on paper to the participants) Mr. Pickering was told that the population of Dighton was slightly less than 8,000. He stated that an initial Green Community Designation grant would likely be 150,000 dollars. While the Dighton-Rehoboth Regional High School must perform its own energy baseline, the Town should look at the green potential of both grammar schools. He also stated that the Department of Energy Resources would ensure all applicable utility rebates and incentives for Dighton's new police station. Mr. Pickering advise the Renewable Energy Committee to contact Lakeville and Acushnet, concerning the Green Community Designation process, which they have successfully undergone. He said that Lakeville would not provide as useful of a model as Acushnet, because Middleboro Gas and Electric, Lakeville's primary utility service provider, is not as vacile in energy auditing vending as the major interstate utility service providers that service Acushnet, where vendors for the utilities will already be able to help.

Of utilities' energy audit vendors, Dighton has already heard from Guardian retained by National Grid, how the Town can save money. Rebates and incentives which pay for Guardian are financed by receipts from customer bills. A green community can then use Department of Energy Resources' funds to pay for energy saving measures. In addition to Guardian, servicing National Grid, other vendors "out there" performing energy auditing services include Horizon, Prism, and in Raynham TNT. In the days to come, it will be imperative that the Town authorize the Green Community initiative and that the Town join Mass Energy Insight. Mr. Pickering urged the Town to assemble fuel consumption data for liquid fuel, such as propane, fuel oil, and gasoline, on a spreadsheet. Mr. Pickering said that the 5 elements of applying for Green Energy Designation are definitely achievable. David Dumenigo concurred "Yes they are." Selectmen Menges said, "Agreed". Chairman of the Selectmen said, "They're achievable." Again Mr. Pickering stressed the Renewable Energy Committee pursuing the Green Community Designation needs to check in with the Town of Acushnet. Check on the Department of Energy Resources site for required files for online Green Community application. Mr. Pickering stated that a Green Community Grant is not

just a one-time thing - -once the Town is Green and complies with its 5 year program, it may compete annually for annual grants up to 250,000 dollars a year.

It was agreed by consensus that David Dumenigo and the Renewable Energy Committee will lead on this – he and Mr. Pickering will communicate; and that Aide to the Board of Selectmen will be cc'd on all communications concerning this initiative.

The meeting rose, constituting an adjournment by consensus, without day at 3:00 o'clock p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Patrick W. Menges". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Respectfully submitted, Patrick W. Menges, Selectmen and Clerk to the Board of Selectmen.

Text of these minutes prepared by Andrew W. Sukeforth, Aide to the Board of Selectmen.