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**TOWN OF  
BROOKLINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
ENERGY COMMITTEE**

**P.O. BOX 360 – 1 Main Street  
BROOKLINE, NH 03033-0360**

<http://www.brooklinenh.us>

**Energy Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
August 9, 2023**

Committee members present at the meeting: Brendan Denehy, Christopher Koffler, Ian Murphy, and Town Administrator Scott Butcher (Joined at 7:26pm).

**Brendan** called the meeting to order at 7:09pm.

**Approval of July 6th minutes**

**Brendan** noted a discrepancy with the ARAP acronym, and noted that it should be “ARPA” in the “Fire Station Solar Project” portion of July Minutes.

**Christopher** moved to approve as amended, **Brendan** seconded, the vote to approve was unanimous.

**Agenda adjustments**

**Christopher** sent an email at 6:45pm prior to the meeting to discuss but agreed that a discussion at the Sept meeting would be appropriate.

**Updates on Fire Station Solar Project and Town Hall HVAC project**

Fire Station Solar project: **Brendan** reached out to Keith at EEI, and was told of a delay due to incorrect meter on the Interconnection Application and meter photo sent to Eversource. A new application and meter photo are required and was sent to Eversource Distributed Generation (DG). Current scoping for an installation of late Sept, early Oct 2023. This project has been noted as being all ARPA funded.

Town Hall HVAC: Project is complete, and was done in four steps based on zone. The project started at the basement, then the two main level zones, followed by the upstairs. The HVAC system is hooked up to “Smart” thermostats. Still working on construction to build a structure to protect the outdoor condenser units. This is part of the HVAC contract. Submittal of paperwork

to state for rebate pending, **Scott** to engage. \$60K ARPA funds, \$6k coming from Brookline general funds.

### **Review of charter/EEI Executive report and Energy Committee guidelines**

**Brendan** explained that the Select Board will approve any amendments to the Charter, but committee has autonomy to give suggestions. “Guiding principles” portion of charter will need to be discussed during Sept 2023 meeting.

EEI Executive report: While not all suggestions from report have been implemented, measures to reduce energy consumption have been put into place. For example, the Public Works building has been heated as necessary resulting in energy consumption being lower than projected.

Town Hall: LED lighting at townhall (TH1) on hold until building audit complete.  
High Efficiency (HE) Boilers project (TH2) has been completed. Weatherization (TH3) not until be worked until a building audit has been completed. The HVAC project is complete.

Fire Station: Project FS1 is complete, and FS2 is pending.

Safety Complex: SC1, & SC have not been started. SC3 has been scoped but not implemented.

Library: Project L1 is complete.

Ambulance side of Safety Complex is 20 Years Old, the HVAC system has had some failures. This is being seen as an opportunity for an energy efficient upgrade. The committee will engage with Keith at EEI for options.

**Brendan** will look further into the EEI packet regarding the Safety Complex to discuss during the Sept 2023 meeting.

Guidelines Charter amendments: To include Cost, Resilience, Carbon Emissions, Air Quality as main goals or initiatives to drive towards.

From the report suggestions, the longer payback potential projects will be the lowest priority.

### **Discuss potential grant funding for Safety Complex solar project & other potential projects**

**Brendan** attended a webinar concerning funds given to states from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). This webinar discussed the process as it develops. \$1-\$2 million for “underserved” communities, Brookline is not likely high on this list. But could apply, and if accepted would take a reduced rate of assistance. Final guidelines likely to come in January 2024, with fund allocations to follow. Based on this, is there merit in applying for this to complete potential energy projects? We discussed the possible criteria and how we would fill out a grant and submit for funds. We would need to show that we have the funds to cover the town’s portion of

responsibility of the project. We would need to gain approval to find a maximum amount that the town would be willing to spend, that would cover our percentage of the grant, ultimately driving the overall cost of the projects.

### **Set up next meeting with Hollis Energy Committee**

We are looking to glean knowledge of the Hollis Energy Committee's processes and experiences. They (Venu Rau) have reached out, looking to put together a meeting. **Scott** spoke with Ryan Paulson of Standard Power to discuss aggregated community power. Constellation power came in as lowest bid. Ryan Paulson should be included in the committee-to-committee meeting.

### **Other business**

Guidelines & Charter Amendments: To include Cost, Resilience, Carbon Emissions, and Air Quality. To Discuss in Sept 2023.

### **Set date for next meeting**

Wednesdays likely to be easiest to coordinate. But dates will be sent by **Brendan** for approval. A goal of having a standing meeting time and date put into place has been established, while also deconflicting with other Brookline Committee meetings.

**Christopher** moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:08pm. It was seconded by **Brendan**. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Minutes submitted by Ian Murphy.