



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

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

Telephone (603) 673-8855, ext. 213  
Fax (603) 673-8136

<http://www.brooklinenh.us>

**Energy Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
August 31, 2022**

Committee members present at the meeting: Brendan Denehy, Jan Reimers, Tracy Perry and Scott Butcher.

**Brendan** called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

**Minutes**

**Chris** asked for a summary of the meeting minutes from August 3<sup>rd</sup> since he was not present at that meeting. **Brendan** did a recap and asked if there were any changes needed to the minutes. **Jan** moved, seconded by **Tracy**, to approve the minutes of the meeting; Vote was 3-0 in favor with one abstention.

**Discussion of proposal from Absolute Mechanical**

**Jan** asked about why Absolute was recommending a propane boiler to replace the existing oil unit instead of a heat pump. **Scott** said that Kevin Gorglione is of the opinion that heat pumps may not provide enough heat by themselves on the coldest days and that a combination of the two would be best throughout the Town Hall, especially if the town is going to produce its own electricity. **Brendan** summarized the discussion with the Selectboard at their August 6<sup>th</sup> meeting contrasting the options for HVAC replacement options and a majority of the Selectboard decided that a hybrid solution of a propane furnace and heat pumps was the way to go. At the Selectboard meeting on August 22<sup>nd</sup> **Brendan** said he recommended getting proposals from at least three different vendors consistent with the Town's purchasing policy. **Jan** was concerned that not asking for a comprehensive proposal via an RFP sealed bid process for the boiler and heat pumps would possibly result in a system that was not fully compatible. **Scott** stated that both Kevin from Absolute and Keith from EEI said that wasn't an issue and the overall project could be done in phases by different vendors. There was some discussion on placing a propane tank somewhere to supply the new propane boiler.

**Chris** asked where the money was coming from to pay for this. **Brendan** said there was \$15,000 already in the budget and that any additional funds might come from the Buildings Capital Reserve Fund. **Chris** also asked about the efficiency level of the

boilers and suggested that the vendors quote two, a standard efficiency unit and a high efficiency unit.

### **Heat pump technology**

The discussion turned to the heat pump technology to be used to cool and provide supplemental heat to the building. **Chris** and **Tracy** emphasized that having the combination of a propane boiler and heat pumps provides some redundancy for heat should one unit in the system fail for some reason. **Tracy** said part of the goal of the committee was to recommend solutions that are more efficient and cleaner for the environment. There was also discussion of the hot water heater and whether an on-demand system would be appropriate. **Chris** stated his thoughts were that while the on-demand units are efficient, he's been told they have a shorter life expectancy.

The committee then discussed the timing of the decision and actually getting the new equipment installed. **Tracy** expressed concern over the supply chain issues impacting availability of the units, especially with the current oil burner being unreliable. She described possible scenarios as to when the new boiler would be installed and the possible impacts of using the old boiler for an extended period of time.

**Chris** brought up difference between VRF units and standard heat pumps. **Brendan** said the quote of over \$175,000 for the VRF units makes standard heat pumps look more attractive but wants to understand more about the difference between the two. **Scott** stated that the standard heat pumps would cost less than half of what the VRF systems would. **Tracy** read some information she found on the VRF technology, heat pumps, and mini-splits.

### **ARPA request**

**Brendan** said he would like to discuss if the Energy Committee would like to submit a request for ARPA funds to the Selectboard for energy project like the solar arrays being discussed. He explained the criteria the Selectboard established for the use of ARPA funds. He asked the Energy committee if they would be supportive of putting in an ARPA request for the solar projects being discussed. **Jan** asked what the total dollar amount of the requests that the Selectboard has received so far. **Scott** stated that they total about \$472,000 so far, but the Selectboard has asked for additional requests. **Chris** said he supported making a request. **Brendan** said he would like to submit three separate proposals, one for the heat pumps, one for solar panels on the Fire Station, and one for solar panels on the Safety Complex.

### **Budgeting timeline**

**Brendan** discussed the 2023 budgeting timeline and whether the Energy Committee might want to include warrant articles should that be necessary to fund some of the projects being considered. He also discussed needing to educate the public leading up to Town Meeting so that they understand the justification for the funds being requested.

**Brendan** asked what the date should be for the next meeting. After some discussion for it was decided the next meeting would be September 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00pm. **Tracy** moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:32pm. It was seconded by **Jan**. The vote was unanimous.

Minutes submitted by Scott Butcher.