

**Town of Ipswich
Climate Resiliency Committee
Town Hall
Tuesday, July 18, 2023, at 5:30 pm
Meeting Minutes**

Attendees: Michael Johnson, Carolyn Britt, Carl Nysten, Michele Hunton, Ken Swenson
Via Zoom: Becky Love

Meeting Notetaker: Ken Swenson

Meeting Began at 5:30pm.

- 1. No Citizens inquiries.**
- 2. June 20, 2023, Meeting Minutes**
 - Carl N. motioned to accept, Michele H. 2nd motion, minutes unanimously approved.
- 3. ELD Manager's Resignation**
 - John Blair is our current ELD manager (has been for 7 years) tendered his resignation to the Electric Light Commissioners (Ipswich Select Board).
 - The Commissioners made a counteroffer to entice him to reconsider.
 - The ELD managers and that leadership are vital to the climate resiliency committee's efforts to decarbonize our power usage.
- 4. ESCO/Energy Savings Performance Contracting Update**
 - Mike J. spoke to the Town Manager for an update, but there was no update.
 - Contract with Noresco under review and should be completed within the next two weeks.
 - Grant to fund Beacon consultants (not sure from where)
 - Need to ask Town Manger about the Noresco response with data on projects proposed to other towns, typical projects undertaken at other towns, total number of participating towns, and total number of towns that were subjected to the breakup fee (ours is \$65K) and why they chose that route.
- 5. Climate Resiliency Manager Position Hire Update**
 - Former CR Manager Mary Delai resigned in Jan 2023.
 - Current Asst. Town Manager and HR manager Mary Gallivan on maternity leave until Mid-August.
 - MEI database-used by all Green Communities. Mike J. has access to this database, but the database has not been updated. It should be updated monthly. Only the natural gas usage is current as that is updated by the gas utility (National Grid). Most electricity usage for facilities last updated in December 2022, municipal vehicle fuels usage (should be done by DPW) last done in June 2022.

- Mike J. will ask the TM for the CR Manager's job description and if the CRC can help push the job posting.

6. Public Safety Building Committee Updates

- Mike J. asked TM about energy modeling for facility. Question whether air source heat pump would meet demand all year-specifically for coldest days in winter. TM responded the energy modeling has not yet been done due to some changes in the design.
- The new design of the building will be presented to the Planning Board this coming Thursday.

7. Electric School Bus Initiative

- Beacon/Salter Bus company would supply EV buses & charging stations for Ipswich buses.
- Beacon/Salter Bus company has a depot in Ipswich and Newburyport now.
- Previously mentioned that they need an acre of public property for 7 buses to be used in Ipswich.
- Ken S. will follow up with Brian Blake (school superintendent) about the proposed contract with the bus company.

8. Stretch Code Warrant Article

- The new base building code and Stretch code, and the new Specialized Stretch Code (SSC) are law as of Jan 2023.
- Jim Bone is our current bldg. inspector.
- Three studies: Rocky Mountain Institute, local intent Bently/MIT, and DOER studied 10K bldgs. To find least onerous path
- The issue at hand is whether Ipswich will adopt the SSC (the Stretch Code was adopted in 2019).
- Need to get building inspector on board as a champion.
- Town manager not inclined to lead the effort or be supportive.
- There are 55 households in the watershed with buried propane tanks that, if the homes were retrofitted to electric buildings would need to be removed.
- The Planning Board is receptive to adopting the SSC & supportive but has taken no vote.
- So far 18 communities have opted in. Salem MA is close to adopting.
- Carolyn B. motioned to put this on the warrant, Carl N. 2nd motion. Vote 4-0 in favor.

Vote to adjourn – Ken S. motions to adjourn, Carl N. 2nd motion. All unanimously approve.
7:45 pm.