

**Alternative Energy Committee  
June 20, 2013**

Members present: Larry Bean, Chair; Burke Henry, Vice Chair; Carl Frederickson and Glenn Carlson

Members absent: Tom Banner

Also present:

Public present: Dave Thomas

**1. Call to order.**

The Alternative Energy Committee meeting called to order by Chair Larry Bean on Thursday, June 20, 2013 at 10:03 am at the Town Hall. A quorum of the committee is present as reflected in the members listed above.

**2. Minutes of the following meetings to be considered for approval:**

**A. April 29, 2013**

**B. May 21, 2013**

Motion by B. Henry to approve the minutes of April 29<sup>th</sup> and May 21<sup>st</sup> Alternative Energy Committee meetings as presented, second, G. Carlson. All in favor, all aye, motion carried.

**3. Discussion of Solar Site Assessment results:**

All solar site assessments have been delivered by John Johanning of Let It Shine! As suggested by L. Bean, the Town of La Pointe's commercial site assessment at the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) has been delivered as a draft. L. Bean will assist J. Johanning in completing the assessment in regards to the size of the system, load numbers and details about the racking system.

The site assessments are generic and require the owners to do some math. L. Bean said 2 items are to be noted: 1) J. Johanning uses \$3,000/\$4,000/\$5,000 per KW - L. Bean said to use the \$3,000 number. 2) J. Johanning has offered to come in and answer questions for those who have had a site assessment. L. Bean proposes to set up an evening meeting for this.

J. Johanning did include with some assessments a list of qualified contractors and he also has a list from Focus on Energy which he will refine and present at the evening meeting.

G. Carlson said they had another assessment company conduct their assessment for around \$150-\$200 several ~~years~~ *weeks* ago and that assessment included, besides the report, the batteries that were needed, and also information on tying and untying from the grid and the cost to put the system in, which was around \$10,000/watt. These assessments did not include that information. L. Bean said if we were to ask for a bid, that information would be included as J. Johanning is not a contractor.

L. Bean said at the June 11<sup>th</sup> Town Board meeting part of the discussion was on feedback from the DNR which was based on MRF Supervisor Ted Pallas, who reported that a solar installation would not be allowed at the landfill and that there were no solar installations on landfills in Wisconsin. L. Bean went on the internet and found several pages of solar installations on landfills throughout the country but did not see a solar installation on a landfill in Wisconsin. Pete Clark, Town Administrator, had asked at the meeting why we should expend the effort if we know the installation at the landfill will be refused; L. Bean thinks we need to get our ducks in a row, including a site assessment before we meet with the DNR. The end result of the discussion

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at the Town Board meeting is that when the time is appropriate we will make contact with people we know at the DNR and the DNR will then set up a meeting in Madison.

L. Bean said he put an article in committee folders regarding siting which describes in detail what is involved in putting up a rack system.

Discussion of cost. At \$4,000/kw an 8kw system would cost \$32,000. ~~2.4%~~ \$2400.00 would be received from Focus on Energy so the system will now cost \$29,600. A tax credit of 30% on the \$29,600 could be written off which is \$8,900. Added into the cost would be an inflation rate cost of 3%/year. Electrical costs to Xcel Energy over 14 years would be approximately \$22,400 so the breakeven point would be 13 years.

Another scenario would be to use \$3,000/kw for a 6kw system which would be between \$15,000 and \$18,000 dollars. With ~~2.4%~~ \$2400.00 from Focus on Energy and a 30% tax credit the payback would be 7 or 8 years.

To be noted, these figures are based on an average/year and ours is not "average"

The Town's solar installation would not receive a tax break and the Focus on Energy amount is limited to 20kw systems. L. Bean has not figured out an acquisition model for the Town so he does not know what the payback would be but he has information coming in regards to tax breaks for towns.

L. Bean said developers are doing a lease system for private people whereby the developer gets the tax credit for the installation and the property owner then pays a lease payment that is generally less than their electrical costs.

B. Henry said we could do a spreadsheet for an easy analysis of payback times. L. Bean said we have to be careful in regards to analysis at this time.

D. Thomas said we need a public hearing in regard to a solar installation at the MRF. L. Bean said this committee has a good track record of public hearings and meetings.

D. Thomas said Town ordinances in CA require any new building to produce 20-50% of their own on-site power. Hawaii requires that every single building has to have solar on it.

#### **A. Payment authorization for site assessments**

The cost of the solar site assessments is \$1400.00 which includes 8 residential sites at \$135.00 per site and 1 commercial site at MRF for \$320.00 or \$1080 for residential and \$320 for commercial.

J. Johanning will email his invoice to Town Hall.

Motion by B. Henry that this committee approve the payment for 8 residential reports that have been received at \$135 each for a total of \$1,080.00 and that this committee recommends that the Town Board approve the commercial report for the Town of La Pointe under the following conditions: the report has been received prior to the next Town Board meeting; the cost is \$320.00; Larry Bean has read the report and sees nothing unacceptable; and that the report answers our questions. If these conditions are not met, the payment for the commercial assessment will be held until the next Town Board meeting. Second, G. Carlson. All in favor, all aye, motion carried.

#### **B. Completed assessments: Next steps.**

J. Johanning has offered to meet and answer questions for those who had a site assessment. The site assessment meeting would be open to the public. This would not be considered a public hearing on what is being proposed or a discussion on solar energy.

### **C. New site assessments.**

Seven people, including St. Johns Church, which consists of 3 buildings, have expressed an interest in a site assessment.

D. Thomas suggested what needs to be considered in regards to alternate energy is 1) conservation of megawatts; 2) efficiency; and 3) look for alternative energy forms. L. Bean said this committee gave the Town a list of priorities for efficiency. There has also been an energy audit and the Library is considering solar.

Suggestion to purchase a few watt meters that could be checked out by homeowners at the Library. B. Henry will look on Amazon.com.

Agreement that taxpayer's money should not be used for residential site assessments. The site assessments just completed were paid for by grant money that remained in a designated fund for the wind study. These completed site assessments are considered models and the information will be made available to the public. Information from site assessments paid for by the owner is private and that information is not available to the public.

### **4. Discussion of funding.**

Money is needed to purchase watt meters and there will be traveling expenses at some point. The Library/Clinic solar project also might have some expenses. Suggestion to apply to the following organizations: Island Association, Focus on Energy, AIACF, Bremer, (which will loan money on Madeline Island provided you have the right financial assets), Duluth-Superior Foundation, State of WI – Office of Energy Independence (L. Bean will find a contact).

B. Henry will email all the previous grant applications to members.

### **5. Discussion of joint meeting between the Alternative Energy Committee and the Library Board.**

The Library Board has a proposal from Rasmussen Plumbing and Heating in Cable and they would also like to add a Lenox cooling system to the Library. Rasmussen said the best place to put the system is on the Clinic roof, so the Library has agreed to also meet the needs of the clinic, which is about 25kw hrs/year for both buildings but does not include the cooling load.

Once L. Bean receives the information from Rasmussen Plumbing L. Bean will set up a joint evening meeting with the AEC and Library Board, the purpose of the meeting to hear what the Library Board's interests are and to hear from their solar contractor.

This committee is responsible 1) to make sure the clinic roof will be replaced 2) make sure the clinic is included in the load and 3) make sure the basic electric load is included.

\$6,000 worth of efficiency improvements need to happen first and those are identified in the audit.

### **6. Set next meeting and agenda.**

Tentative meeting with the Library Board is July 11<sup>th</sup>. The next committee meeting will be set at that meeting. To be noted is that Bayfield County is meeting with Windustry on Monday, June 24<sup>th</sup>. Lisa Daniels, CEO of Windustry will be there.

### **7. Adjourn.**

Motion by G. Carlson to adjourn, second, B. Henry. All in favor, all aye, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:15 am.

Minutes taken from recorder and respectfully submitted by Kathy Erickson, Clerical Assistant.

Minutes approved as corrected August 15, 2013; changes struck through, corrections in italics