

**Town of La Pointe
Energy Committee
Friday February 16, 2023
10 am at Town Hall/Zoom
Minutes**

Members present: Lilah Guertin (Chair), Zach Montagne, Robin Trinko-Russell, Scott Hayman,
Tom Kromroy
Staff present: Michael Kuchta, Town Administrator
Public present: Bill Bailey, Cheq Bay Renewables

1. Call to order/Roll Call

The Energy Committee meeting was called to order by Lilah at 10am.

2. Public Comment None

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

A. November 6, 2023

Motion by Zach to approve the above minutes as presented, seconded by Robin,
all ayes. Motion Carried.

4. Emergency Services Building (ESB) microgrid proposals

Bill reported there were 2 competitive bids (Jolma & Wescom) received in response to the Request for Proposals (RFP) published 11/15/23 with responses due 1/8/24. Bill went over a pros/cons list for each contractor's proposal and discussed various options within the bids, including Jolma recommendation to move the battery storage to the mezzanine instead of the NE corner of the building, as listed in the RFP.

Zach brought up concerns regarding interference with police radios, as they have issues at Town Hall.

- Bill has contacted the inverter supplier listed in the RFP to see if their product is certified for no emissions.
- Consensus that the source of radio interference at Town Hall needs to be identified and filters installed (if the solar panels are the problem). Bill asked Craig at Solar CBI for information on the inverters installed at Town Hall.

Zach also brought up the generator draw for fire suppression equipment at the ESB. Zach will get generator specs to Bill to make sure this is taken into consideration.

Motion by Zach to recommend the Town Board to accept the bid from Jolma – option #3 for \$270,022 contingent upon receiving grant funding, seconded by Robin, all ayes. Motion Carried. Bill will discuss with Jolma about the cost to add panels to the proposal for additional kw.

Michael will follow up with Jolma and Wescom after Town Board acts on this recommendation.

5. Energy Innovation Grant Program (EIGP) application

Bill, Michael and committee members have been reviewing a draft application via e-mail. Michael would like all committee members' suggestions by Fri. 2/23.

Discussion about budget figures proposed by Bill including Alt. 1 - \$81,000 up front cost with the same amount available in tax credits = net cost \$0 or Alt 2 - \$131,000 in up front costs with \$81,000 in tax credits = net cost \$50,000 (in 2024 budget).

Motion by Lilah to recommend the Town Board approve the EIGP grant budget to include the \$50,000 contribution from the Town, seconded by Robin, all ayes. Motion Carried.

6. Ashland County EPA Grant

Bill reported that this grant is filed. It includes \$270,000 for the Town's ESB project. Both the EPA and EIGP grants are on similar timelines; if they are successful, Town can select whichever is most advantageous.

Bill also stated that EPA grant includes approx. \$300,000 to install EV charging stations on the island. Details will have to be worked out if the grant is received. Michael will ask Xcel for phase 3 power lines to help decide EV station locations.

7. Discussion and possible action regarding issues with the solar installation at the MRF

Zach brought up to the committee that the solar at the MRF did not produce for all of last year. Bill recommended the Town have someone monitor the solar production regularly. Michael will speak with Ben Schram, Public Works Director, to resolve.

8. Recommendations to Town Board

- Accept Jolma microgrid proposal, option 3
- Approve submitting EIGP application, with \$50,000 Town match

9. Set next meeting and agenda

A meeting will be scheduled as needed.

10. Adjourn.

Minutes taken from recording and submitted by Dorgene Goetsch, Clerical Assistant.
Minutes approved as presented 5/15/24. D. Goetsch, Clerical Assistant