Date: October 23, 2014
Subject: Minutes of Energy Committee Meeting of October 21, 2014
Submitted By: Steve Smith
Attendees: Ron Morales-Chairman, Steven Smith-Recording Secretary
Absent: Bob Nigrello

Chairman Morales called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Discussion

1. Advice On How to Manage Utility Bills This Winter
Ron visited the web sites of three companies which supply electricity to the area: Unitil, North American Power, and ENH Power. The available rate information was compiled (see Exhibit A) and will serve as a comparison benchmark for the quotes that are expected from the Rockingham County Complex Aggregate Electricity RFP effort.

In addition, Ron identified an energy broker/advisor, U Source, that may provide some opportunities for energy cost reduction.

**ACTION:** Ron will contact U Source and inquire about the possibility of East Kingston joining one of their existing programs which groups together small companies into a larger buying association in order to enjoy a lower unit price for electricity.

2. Peregrine Report Energy Reduction Recommendations
Steve reported on an initial review of the final recommendations from the November 14, 2011 Peregrine Report addressing energy cost reduction. The recommendations covered many of the town buildings and involved lighting systems, structure insulation and sealing, and heating systems. Given the relatively small implementation cost, the suggested replacement of “T12” fluorescent lamps with the more efficient “T8” lamps along with a conversion from magnetic to electrical ballasts was discussed first. Steve also reported on visits to the Town Offices and the Fire Department to assess the scope of lamp and ballast replacement. It is apparent that only the lamps on the main active floor of the Town Offices warrant attention as the upper and lower floors are very infrequently used and thus the expected cost savings would we minimal. At the Fire Station, lamp replacement would be appropriate on the first and second floors, however, the expected longevity of the current Fire Station must be considered before any further capital investment for improved lighting is approved. Other town buildings will be checked, but it was the Town Offices and Fire Station that were highlighted by the Peregrine report.

**ACTION:** Steve will solicit proposals from electrical contractors to install the improved
lamps and ballasts at the appropriate locations within the Town Office and Fire Station buildings.

3.0 **Website Investigation- nhenergy.org/for-local-energy**

Steve investigated the website in question to see if it might contain information useful to the Committee. The site consisted of two sections: “New England Grass Roots Environmental Fund” and “New Hampshire Local Energy Audit Exchange.”

The Environmental Fund section included a “Guide to Going Local” which focused on buying local, investing local and promoting entrepreneurs rather than any direct ideas regarding energy saving. It also included information regarding small grants to launch new or expand existing “green” initiatives. The second Energy Audit Exchange section was simply a compilation of energy audits that have been conducted in various towns intended to share audit results across towns. However, these shared results would seem to have limited applicability to East Kingston as each town’s situation is different.

It was noted that the top level website [nhenergy.org](http://nhenergy.org) did seem to have a large number of guides and handbooks on various topics that might be of value in the future when searching for some direction on a particular topic.

4.0 **Rockingham County Electricity RFP**

Ron composed the sections of the RFP relevant to East Kingston and submitted them to Jude Gates who is coordinating the RFP effort. All proposals are due no later than November 10, 2014, and they will be opened on November 12, 2014. The RFP is expected to yield two different unit prices for electricity. One will apply to East Kingston’s specific future usage independent from the usage of any other participating entity, and the second will be the price that East Kingston will pay if it participates in the aggregate purchase action of the Rockingham County group. **ACTION:** Ron will ask Jude Gates to provide any sample aggregate purchasing agreements that may be available to provide an advanced indication of required content.

5. **Legislative Forum on November 12, 2014**

Ron has signed up to participate in this forum and will brief the Committee on its content at the next Committee meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:18pm.