

**GREEN COMMITTEE
AGENDA
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2018
2:15 P.M.**

PRESENT: Barry Cheney, Chair
Leigh J. Benton, Kevindaryan Lujan, Laurie R. Tautel,
David Church

ALSO

PRESENT: Katie Bonelli, Majority Leader
Antoinette Reed, Legislative Counsel
Brendan Casey, Commissioner of Emergency Services
Kate Schmidt, Planner, Planning Department
Enika Cruz, Administrator, O.C. Water Authority

Chairman Cheney opened the committee meeting at 2:15 p.m. by asking everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. All committee members were present.

Mr. Casey addressed the committee with the first agenda item, Solar Installation at Emergency Services Center-Operational Data. He explained that the project began before he became a commissioner, the contracts were in place, and the panels were in place, but nothing was operational. Solar City who was the original contractor went bankrupt and then Tesla bought them, so it became a little complicated, but ultimately everything became operational. The costs for 2017 were higher than 2016 because of the start-up costs and the switching of companies. This year he was hoping for some savings, but it is hard when the sun is not out. July was the best month with 300 megawatts. He added that this is hard to budget due to the weather and as of now there is only 30% to 40% usage from the panels. They will get billed around \$150,000.00 from Tesla which is about 30% to 40% of his total electrical costs; therefore, it is a green project and they have reduced some of the electric. Furthermore, they are locked in at eight cents per kilowatt.

Mr. Cheney clarified that they are locked in to eight cents a kilowatt and it is unlimited.

Mr. Casey stated that is correct.

Mr. Cheney asked that Mr. Casey supply the committee with charts of the power generated and credits.

Ms. Schmidt asked if this is being used as an example for future projects because she would like to point out that this probably started in 2013 or 2014 before it was up and running and the technologies and companies have changed. There are a lot of new companies that would make sure the solar panels are not down.

Mr. Casey stated that the key is understanding what is happening when a 20-year deal is signed.

Ms. Schmidt then asked if the maintenance costs can be reduced by dual grazing.

Mr. Casey replied that he would be open to that idea.

The next agenda item was a brief discussion regarding EV Charging Stations at SUNY Orange.

Mr. Church stated the Power Authority agreed with the concept that SUNY O.C.C.C. could acquire the equipment and the county would reimburse the college and in return the county would be reimbursed by New York State for the grant. The grant covers 100% of the equipment and warranty costs which SUNY will install. He added that the SUNY O.C.C.C. is going to the Power Authority to acquire the equipment and the county will reimburse the college as soon as a receipt is received. They have been trying to get the project moving forward and it is now pre-positioned to require a site visit by the Power Authority technicians who went to the college, but the parking garages were locked. He is trying to push this forward as quick as they can.

For the third agenda item Mr. Church distributed a list and a map (see original minutes) regarding Solar Installation Mapping which he reviewed with the committee.

Ms. Cruz addressed the committee with the next agenda item, USEPA WaterSense-OCWA Involvement. She stated that the Orange County Water Authority is not an official partner with the WaterSense Program. They have had some interaction with them at festivals that are done annually. It makes sense that they become a partner, but she is unsure of what the actual value of the partnership would be.

Mr. Cheney asked who should become a partner meaning should it be the county as a whole, the Water Authority, or each of them.

Mr. Church asked Ms. Cruz to briefly summarize what the Water Authority education includes.

Ms. Cruz stated that the Water Authority does a few different things, but the bulk of what they do is a water conservation education program and waste management education in elementary schools, a few secondary schools and some high schools if it is specifically requested. A variety of hands-on activities are done both indoor and outdoor and at the end of the program they do a Water Jeopardy game which analyzes everything they have learned throughout the week. She added that it is a fun program even though it is high demand. Furthermore, she pointed out that it makes sense to become a partner with WaterSense.

Mr. Lujan clarified that it is worth becoming a partner.

Ms. Cruz stated that is correct, but she has to inquire about the reporting requirements first.

Mr. Lujan commented that there are a lot of options to expand if they became a partner.

Mr. Church further discussed how the Water Authority can become more involved and how grants can help them.

Mr. Cheney asked that the Water Authority look further into becoming a partner of the WaterSense Program and report back to the committee.

The next agenda item was regarding the Orange County Landfill Solar Opportunity.

Mr. Cheney referred to the checklist (see original minutes) and stated that he would like to understand how the process works because EPA is willing to come here and make an assessment of the landfill.

Ms. Schmidt stated that the EPA is willing to come, and the Planning Department can possibly complete half of the checklist with some help from the Department of Public Works.

Mr. Cheney asked what happens when the EPA comes.

Ms. Schmidt replied that they walk the landfill with the Planning Department as well as invite the DEC who have come twice before. They take measurements on how much can fit, they estimate costs for installation and how many panels needed.

Mr. Cheney clarified that the information on the check list is needed for the day the DEC arrives.

Ms. Schmidt replied that she thinks the DEC would like it in advance to prepare but she will confirm it first.

Mr. Cheney noted that he invited Mr. Hammond to the meeting today but he is in the middle of preparing a brief to respond to Sewer District No. 1's new SPEDES permit which is being negotiated. There was a hearing about a month ago, so the next step is submitting briefs. He is hoping that Mr. Hammond and the committee can reconvene in the distant future.

Regarding the next agenda item, Orange County Green Office Practices, Ms. Schmidt stated that she will try and set up a tour for all legislators for a Solar Tour at the Wallkill Landfill at Town Hall in Wawayanda. She is going to be sending out an overview of Green Office Practices along with an application form.

Mr. Cheney asked what the role of the county is.

Ms. Schmidt replied that she is coming to the committee for support so that the county can work with schools, hospitals and communities. She is unsure that businesses in Orange County value being green as much, but it may be worth a try considering there is a free state program and a private program. She asked that the committee think about different ways to promote green throughout the buildings with the county and save energy.

Mr. Cheney stated that they will research it and get back to her. He pointed out that there will not be a Green Committee meeting next month as it is budget hearings and the November meeting may begin at 2:00 p.m. so they can have extra time.

The meeting adjourned at 3:28 p.m.