

MINUTES
THE TOWN OF PATAGONIA
COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF CREATING A MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC
UTILITY
MEETING, 6:00 P.M. DECEMBER 13, 2011

1. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. by Town Council member Gilbert.

In addition to the 5 members previously appointed by Town Council there were several other persons who expressed interest and everyone introduced themselves and stated their interest in the committee and its topic.

In Attendance were Bob Ollerton, Gary Gay, Ted Piper, Jerry Rodman, Meg Gilbert, Dave Teel, Kevin McKay, Fred McGee, Abbie Zeltzer.
Absent were committee members Rowley and Fain.

New members volunteering to be on the committee: Abbie Zeltzer, Ted Piper, Jerry Rodman. This will be put on the next possible Council Meeting Agenda for these 3 to be approved.

2. ORGANIZATION- ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Kevin McKay nominate Meg Gilbert to be Chair of the committee
She was elected by a vote of 3-0 with all present and appointed members voting aye.

3. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO SET WORK PROGRAM AND COMMITTEE GOALS.
 - 1) Determine feasibility of Patagonia becoming a municipal electric utility.
 - 2) Determine feasibility of Patagonia municipal electric utility being run on solar or other renewable source.
 - 3) If above is not feasible, or in addition to the above - recommendations on educating the community, individual homeowners and the Town, in ways to reduce our carbon footprint and electric use and acquiring resources to make this possible.

Initial components of the feasibility study were discussed including :

- Liability to the town, increased cost.
- Billing and Collection (already a good system in place with the utilities the Town manages.)
- How much Profit the Town could generate being a utility vs. how much income the town can get renewing SSVEC's franchise at 5%.
- How much staffing would be needed and at what cost. Patagonia employees or contract out.
- Understanding the requirements of the Law allowing the town to become a utility.
- What would be the cost of the infrastructure?
- Is the carrying capacity of the lines between Sonoita and Patagonia sufficient?
- When is a responsible deadline for the Committee to have its determination ready for the council?
- Would we need to hold an election before SSVEC's current contract is up?
- Grant money to hire someone to do a feasibility study – info on sources of

funding and firms that do that kind of work.
More helpful information that we hope Debra Fain and Jim Rowley can give us at our next meeting.

Volunteers for research Tasks:

Abbie – Will look up funding sources for hiring someone to do a feasibility study.

Kevin – Will look up other communities in AZ that are municipal electric utilities to use as resources and for possible field trips.

4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING; It was agreed that it was important to get the input from Deborah Fain and Jim Rowley as quickly as possible so the next meeting will be held on Tuesday night, December 20 at 6 p.m. in the Library.
- 5.. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: There were no items raised.
6. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Gilbert Moved to ADJOURN THE MEETING

SECOND; Mr. Ollerton

VOTE: The motion PASSED BY A VOTE OF 3-0 with the Committee Members voting as follows:

AYES: Chairperson Gilbert, Members McKay and Ollerton

NAYS; None

ABSTAINERS: None

ABSENT: Fain and Rowley