

MINUTES
THE TOWN OF PATAGONIA
COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF CREATING A MUNICIPAL
ELECTRIC UTILITY MEETING,
JULY 17, 2012
6:00PM

CALL TO ORDER: 6:07PM Meg Gilbert called the meeting to order.

PRESENT: Bob Ollerton, Carolyn Shafer, Patagonia Council Member Meg Gilbert, Patagonia Town Lawyer Mike Masee, Patagonia Town Manager Dave Teel.

MINUTES APPROVED: Carolyn made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 19th 2012 meeting. Bob seconded the motion. All present voted Aye.

DISCUSSION WITH TOWN ATTORNEY MIKE MASSEE REGARDING FRANCHISE AGREEMENTS: Mike Masee was introduced and discussed the need for a franchise agreement in order for an electric company to put its lines through town since the municipality owns the public rights of way. Mike brought a copy of the Benson Franchise agreement for the committee to study. Election scheduling was discussed. Committee have draft ready by February 2013, Council vote in April 2013, and Local Election could be held in August 2013.

The committee put out the following ideas of what to include in our franchise agreement on a white board. This list is not in order of importance. The list will be prioritized and any additions will be made at our next meeting.

Reliability:

1. Future energy supply (coal...)
2. Carbon tax and its impact on rates

Conservation:

1. Street lights / Security lighting / signs converted to solar with LED, and dark skies compliant
2. Loan program for home owner improvements, prioritize to the top of the list Town applications to the Solar Loan Program
3. Reduce waste
4. Town wells run on solar

PV/Renewable:

1. Require SSVEC conduct Level 2 engineering study to raise the limit for PV on the Patagonia Feeder (above 300KWatts)

Franchise/Cooperation:

1. Courtesy to other civic groups (assist with Lamp replacement, bucket truck assistance)
2. Property trade for Marshals office
3. Travel time charges based on distance from Patagonia Yard for Installs & Changes in Town

4. Free Electric vehicle Charging station.
5. Pole Fee sharing (CenturyTel, Cox)
6. Increase Franchise fee from 2% to 5%
7. PV Grid tie paid to town at Net metering rate (retail) and not on avoided cost (wholesale)
8. All town meters have the same rate, the lowest of the rate (or combine some meters)

Task: Dave was going to get more information on the break down of “taxes’, (particularly the franchise fee) as they appear on our electric bills.

Task: Bob Ollerton supplied the above summary from the white board

Task: Mike Masee will get a copy of Jerome’s, Nogales’ and Sedona’s franchise agreements for our review and discussion at our next meeting.

NEXT MEETING: Our meeting day is changed to non-council Wednesdays to better accommodate our member’s schedules. Our next committee meeting will be **Wednesday August 29th, 6pm at Town Hall.**

ADJOURN: Carolyn made a motion to adjourn at 7:30pm, Meg seconded it. All present voted aye.