

MINUTES
THE TOWN OF PATAGONIA COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF
CREATING A MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC UTILITY MEETING
JUNE 19, 2012
6PM

CALL TO ORDER: 6pm Chairwoman Gilbert called the meeting to order.

PRESENT: Deborah Fain, Carolyn Shafer, Ted Piper, Gerry Isaac, Meg Gilbert, Town Manager David Teel.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETINGS: Carolyn made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 1st, 2012 meeting, Deborah seconded it. All voted aye. Deborah made a motion to approve the minutes from April 3rd, 2012, Carolyn seconded it and all members present voted Aye.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC: The public was invited to join in all conversations.

DISCUSSION OF RESULTS OF 5/1/12 MEETING WITH SULPHUR SPRINGS VALLEY ELECTRICAL COOPRERATIVE REPRESENTATIVES: The committee liked Ron Orozco's suggestion of hooking a large solar array into the Sonoita Substation that would feed Patagonia with solar generated electricity. There was discussion as to whether SSVEC intends to put a solar system next to the Sonoita Substation eventually when they can arrange the funding and access to enough land or if it would benefit Patagonia to try to work with SSVEC and help raise the funds and find a good location for the solar array.

Priorities the committee discussed included: Onsite solar power to run the Patagonia Sewage treatment facility, solar powered pumps for the Town of Patagonia's wells with the option of these being autonomous and taken off the grid, solar powered street lights with LED light bulbs also with option of being taken off the grid. Other things on the wish list include solar hot water heaters for all residents, no interest loans or grants to retrofit homes and buildings. There were discussions about keeping open the possibility of a long range goal for the entire town to be off the grid.

DISCUSSION OF THE KR SALINE REPORT: The committee was generally pleased with the report and found it very helpful in understanding the feasibility of the town at this time becoming its own Municipal Electric Utility. The data was detailed and comprehensive, right on point for helping the committee weigh its options. Some members were surprised that there was no mention of the aggregate metering option that was mentioned by KR Saline representatives at our first meeting with them February 21st and in their initial proposal dated March 5, 2012.

POSSIBLE ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING RENEWING FRANCHISE AGREEMENT WITH SSVEC: Keeping all the research the committee did in mind (several meetings with SSVEC representatives, a session with expert Marshal Magruder, field trips to Safford and Thatcher, the hiring of KR Saline to do a technical feasibility study, and many hours of discussion and research) Deborah made the following motion and Ted seconded it: The Patagonia Committee to Study the Feasibility of Creating a Municipal Electric Utility recommends to the Patagonia Town Council that it is not feasible at this time for Patagonia to become its own Municipal Electric Utility. This committee recommends negotiating a new franchise agreement with SSVEC including all the best options for the Town of Patagonia,

including the possibility of the Town creating its own Municipal Electric Utility in the future. All members of the Feasibility Committee present voted aye.

This committee is willing and eager to continue work on drafting conditions to possibly be included in a franchise agreement with SSVEC if the town council so desires, and would like the Patagonia Town Council to consider voting to continue the Patagonia Municipal Electric Utility Committee with this new goal.

task: Ted and Deborah will be at the Wed. June 27th council meeting to answer questions if needed.

NEXT MEETING: If the Patagonia Town Council determines it would like the committee to continue its work the next meeting will be July 17th, 2012, 6pm Town Hall.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: Dave will ask Atty Massey which towns have franchise agreements that may be useful for this committee to review and will attain copies for the committee's next meeting.

ADJOURN: 7:25pm Carolyn made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Deborah. All members present said Aye.