

**EARTH ENERGY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
JUNE 1, 2009**

The Earth Energy Environment Committee meeting was held on June 1, 2009, at North Royalton City Hall, 13834 Ridge Road. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

Present: Committee: Chair Vince Gentile, Dan Kasaris, Mike Farrell; Council: Larry Antoskiewicz, Gary Petrusky, Don Willey, John Nickell; Administration: Mayor Robert Stefanik; Other Attendees: Nick Cinquepalmi, Don Harris, Paul Marnecheck, Paul Rodjom, Al Schadenfroh, Pat Jones, Pat Stefano, Ivan Hack, Jr., Joanne DuMound.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were no Minutes to approve.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Organizational Discussion

Mr. Gentile said he will leave the floor open and asked Council members to let him know if there are any topics they would like to discuss.

Mr. Gentile said he spoke to Doug Hogan from First Energy about wind power availability in Ohio and who is responsible. Mr. Hogan told him that First Energy is not the sole provider of electricity. The sole provider is NOPEC.

Mr. Hogan told Mr. Gentile that by 2020 First Energy has a mandate now that 20% of the energy that they deliver has to be wind driven or zero emission generation.

Mr. Farrell asked about the sample resolution that Mr. Gentile provided to Council. Mr. Gentile said that is a draft resolution.

Mr. Kasaris said he spoke to Steve Dever of the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's office who sits on the Great Lakes Wind Energy Task Force. This task force has been spearheading research on wind energy in our region. Mr. Kasaris said Mr. Dever recommended that due to the high cost of start up, we should urge First Energy to cooperate with the Ohio Wind Industry for the off shore turbines that the task force wants to install in Lake Erie. This will provide a good source of clean energy and will also create jobs. Mr. Dever is asking that we encourage First Energy to be a leader and fully support these wind turbines.

Mr. Gentile said that he believes the county and Prosecutor's office is looking at Lake Erie as a resource to produce wind power energy for the region and possibly get us off of the coal and the nuclear production.

Mr. Gentile told Mr. Hogan that once we work through verbage changes on the proposed resolution, we will copy him and asked if at that time he or a representative from First Energy can attend a meeting to discuss First Energy's role in wind power in our region, their long and short term plans and the cost.

Mr. Farrell asked what we are going to put together as far as rules for our residents installing wind turbines. Mr. Gentile said we are still working on the zoning procedure in the Building and Building Codes Committee. He said Ms. Vozar is working on the residential, light industrial and general industrial zoning draft. Mr. Gentile said that this resolution being discussed deals with our stakehold in the region, and informing the power company and state and federal government of what we would like to see happen in our region. Mr. Dever suggested including the creation of domestic jobs and domestic manufacturing.

Mr. Antoskiewicz asked what direction we are going with this. He said one direction is a mandate for North Royalton and the other is supporting what is being done right now with wind energy.

Mr. Willey said he sees this resolution as being directed at federal and state governments and officials encouraging them on the points of domestic jobs and domestic manufacturing. Mr. Kasaris said that we want the Resolution to encourage First Energy to become more involved with what we are doing on the lake. He said we want First Energy to use the wind power that is generated from the lake for North Royalton and all of Northeast Ohio. He said we could also ask the state and federal government for stimulus package money for start up costs. Mr. Antoskiewicz asked if Cleveland has received stimulus money for wind power. Mr. Kasaris said they are seeking money for wind power.

Mr. Antoskiewicz reviewed the sample resolution that was distributed and said he does not feel this draft is relevant to the conversation Council had about supporting the programs that are presently out there. Mr. Gentile said the sample resolution Council has is a draft based on a phone conversation he had with Mrs. Haller asking her to draft a resolution urging First Energy to explore wind power in our region. He said this information is not angled in any direction and is simply a baseline for where we want to go.

Mr. Farrell asked if we have a timetable as to when we want to put this resolution together. Mr. Gentile said we will wait to talk with Mr. Dever and Mr. Hogan at our July meeting then we can incorporate some of those ideas and move forward with a resolution that will speak as a community to let them know that we would like to use wind power.

Mr. Farrell asked how Mr. Hogan feels about wind power. Mr. Gentile said Mr. Hogan's concern is the start up cost. Mr. Gentile said this is where we go back to the state level in search of stimulus money. Mr. Farrell asked if we would be better off to direct our resolution at the state and federal branches. Mr. Gentile said our key state representatives will be copied on this. Mr. Farrell suggested preparing a resolution that would fit for both First Energy and state and federal branches. Mr. Gentile feels we should ask them within a certain period of time to fund and produce wind driven energy.

Mr. Stefano, a North Royalton resident, said he has started a new company called Green Power Solutions, a business that deals with energy efficient lighting. He suggested Council come in to take a look at what he has to offer.

Mr. Gentile said that Mr. Jordan told him that there are not any municipalities that are going to get stimulus for green funding. He said it will go through the state then the county and will eventually filter down from there. Mr. Gentile said that five years ago the city was supposed to do an energy audit which was never completed. He said we will not know where we are on the energy efficiency of any of our buildings until we are able to do a complete comprehensive audit so we can analyze what is defunct and then make the corrections. Mr. Gentile said this is one of the items we would like to use the stimulus money for. Mr. Stefano said his company does these audits for free. Mr. Gentile said Mr. Jordan filled the application out and sent it in to the county. Mr. Jordan included in the report that Council formed this committee and described the goals of the committee.

Mr. Gentile said he would like to get this resolution re-drafted and review it at the second caucus meeting in June. Mr. Gentile asked committee members to forward their ideas to him and Mrs. Haller so the draft can be prepared. He said he would like to get the draft to Mr. Hogan prior to the July EEE meeting.

Mr. Nickell feels that these power companies will go green if it is feasible and if there is a payback, but said if it costs too much he does not feel they will. He said 30 percent of the population will go green, but they will not go green if it is going to cost them a lot of money. Mr. Farrell feels if First Energy is being mandated that they need to go green this will get the process started.

Mr. Rodjom, a North Royalton resident, said he is very interested in green energy. He said he is a mechanical engineer and offered his services if needed.

2. Recycling Program

Mr. Gentile discussed the recycling program in North Royalton. He said that he does not want to see this program go away. He said the lack of participation is increasing the cost of this program. He said we need to look at a better way to handle this program so people get excited about recycling. Mr. Kamps told Mr. Gentile that the more people that participate, the more cost effective this program becomes. Mr. Farrell said currently less than 20 percent of the city recycles. He said the percentage needs to be at 50 percent to be cost effective. He said by educating people on recycling, we may be able to increase our participation. Mr. Kasaris said we bring in \$40,000 per year on the sale of our recyclables. Mr. Antoskiewicz said the Solid Waste District sent out a brochure last year which listed all of the cities and their level of participation in the recycling programs. He said there were very few cities that had 50% recycling participation.

Mr. Harris, a North Royalton resident, said that Medina County put together a recycling facility with other neighboring communities wherein all of the materials are separated. Mr. Gentile said he, Mr. Willey and Mayor Stefanik toured that facility a few years ago. Mr. Gentile said at the time this type of facility was a good idea but after talking to Mr. Kamps he said this type of facility will go away because the recyclables will lose their market value because they are not pre-sorted.

Mr. Farrell said there are not any current recycling programs that are a money earner. He said this has always had a cost associated with it. He said the principal behind recycling programs was not to earn money, but to pull out materials from our landfills that do not decompose and can be re-used.

Mr. Gentile said that Mr. Kamps said the governments across the board have really dropped the ball on this. He said if they stepped in and mandated that the products they are purchasing had minimum content of post consumer product in them this would encourage governments to filter this stuff out of the way stream. This has not happened.

Mr. Gentile said there are things we can do such as recycling corrugated cardboard, but this would take a monetary investment by the city. He said if we can encourage residents without it costing more money that would be ideal.

Mr. Farrell suggested outlining this program on the feasibility study. He said we could take current programs, programs that we may not do but other communities are doing, and look at the total cost of each one and compare them to each other to see if we can determine what steps we need to take to enhance our program.

Mr. Willey suggested having recycling containers placed at various sites throughout the city.

Mr. Antoskiewicz said that a gentleman who wants to become an Eagle Scout, attended a Recreation Board meeting recently and would like to build recycling containers for Memorial Park and the soccer field and possibly the baseball field. Mr. Antoskiewicz said this is something that Council might see this summer.

Mr. Farrell said that he agrees that recycling containers work better than collections.

Mr. Farrell suggested getting rid of the recycling truck and have containers placed in frequented areas where residents can take their recyclables. He said if we can do this he does not feel we will lose that much ground. Mr. Gentile said that in order to make the recycling program user friendly, we should pick up weekly. The problem is that we do not have enough participation to justify a weekly pickup.

Mr. Gentile is going to discuss the recycling program with Mr. Jones and Mr. Kamps for some additional ideas on how to verbalize to kids how important this program is so that they have a better understanding of recycling. This information will then be given to Mayor Stefanik. Mayor Stefanik said he is meeting with the School Superintendent on Wednesday and will discuss this with him at that time.

Mr. Hack suggested having some of these recycling bins at apartment complexes.

Mr. Marnecheck distributed information regarding grant programs that are available for wind turbines. One program is for residential property where a resident can get up to \$25,000 from the state to install a wind turbine, and the second program is for commercial business and city entities, where the city can get up to 40% of the total cost of a wind turbine. Mr. Marnecheck spoke to PacWind, a wind turbine installation company in California, to ask the price of their wind turbines and how to figure out their rating. Mr. Marnecheck has not heard back from PacWind and their prices are not available as they are re-pricing their entire line. Mr. Marnecheck said he believes this program may be time sensitive.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Kasaris, seconded by Mr. Farrell to **adjourn the meeting**. Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.