

Renewable Energy & Energy Conservation Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

April 19, 2010

Logan City Environmental Department Class Room

Board Members Present:

Michael Dietz	Loren Anderson	Byard Wood	Robert Davies
Charles Ashurst	Laraine Swenson	Robert Carpenter	Jim Goodwin

Also in attendance:

Issa Hamud	Jeff White	Emily Malik	Carl Francis
Yuqi Zhao	Rich Anderson (Logan City Finance Director)		

A. Funding Information/Discussion Session

Rich Anderson Finance Director for Logan City said there is 14.98% from the electrical fund that goes to the general fund.

Jeff said the Logan City electrical rate is 8% higher than Rocky Mountain Power rate.

Rich Anderson mentioned that if there wasn't an 8% higher rate the city property taxes would be 2 ½ % higher.

Rich said if the board wants to set up a conservatory rate there needs to be a rate increase on power.

Rich mentioned the electrical fund is already tight and there isn't any place to pull extra funds from.

Laraine said it is a risky business to run the utilities but the city gets the 8% where they would not if they sold the utilities.

Rich recommended getting a rate increase to get a fund base.

Laraine said that any conservation we do is power we don't have to buy on the open market.

Rich mentioned that they are holding off on rate increases for electrical, water and sewer until next year.

Emily mentioned the average household is 600 KW per month and a 1% increase would cause the average bill to up \$6 per year.

Jim said that he wants the board to be sure they can answer the questions “how long will this rate last” or “when will it increase.”

Laraine feels that if the conservation fund does not get going soon it will hurt financially down the road.

Byard asked why they can't roll over funds from the budget.

Laraine answered that Rich Anderson had covered that and there is no where to pull the 1% from the funds.

Robert asked why we can't roll the savings from the stimulus funds and conservatory efforts into a fund.

Jeff said they roll the savings to increase projects and conservatory efforts.

Jeff mentioned that he likes programs that help everybody and lowers government costs. He also likes to pick projects that give the best returns.

Mike asked if there was a way to put a dollar sign on what it would cost to grow at the same rate as the valley growth.

Jeff said it is hard because there are many costs involved.

Laraine said that the more we conserve the less the city make as a utility.

Loren said he wants to make sure Utah State University doesn't feel like they are being picked on.

Charles asked what it would do for our rates.

Yuqi said it is about 5% higher than Rocky Mountain Power winter rates and 2 ½% higher than Rocky Mountain Power summer rates.

Jeff said there are some buildings within Logan City that are not efficient that he would like to target.

Charles asked if there could be a voluntary program to donate to the conservatory fund.

Jeff said they are close to rolling out a voluntary program.

Jeff mentioned he is hesitant on the rate increase. He likes assets that he can control like renewable energy instead of conservatory efforts.

Loren makes the motion that the board moves ahead and makes a presentation to the Logan City Council for a 1% rate increase.

Rob seconds the motion.

Jim recommends placing an expiration date on the program.

All present members approved the recommendation. The new motion is to make a presentation to the Logan City Council for a 1% rate increase with an expiration date.

Bob feels that having 20% of the budget set as undetermined is not a good idea.

Laraine said that the 20% set aside is for projects and programs to be determined by the board.

Bob wanted to know if a city project that produces electricity will stay in the city and not be sold to California.

Jeff said that they will do the best business sense.

Rob suggested there be a tiered increase.

Jim said they need to create a one page info sheet that could be handed out to city council and participants.

Byard said that government costs have increased at the same rate as health care costs for his family.

Byard suggested having Mike Dietz teach a class on how to conserve and mobilize the students at Utah State University to conserve.

Bob also suggested hitting up the landlords and incentivizing energy upgrades.

Jeff suggested giving a certificate to landlords that make energy upgrades.

Charles would like to look into getting some of the budget from the green program.

Emily said that most people wouldn't buy into the program just to use as conservation instead of buying resources.

All present members voted on the motion that the board moves ahead and makes a presentation to the Logan City Council for a 1% rate increase with an expiration date.

7 members voted yes and one member abstained.

Laraine said she would most likely be the person presenting to the city council.

Laraine asked everybody to put together a statement of why they support the 1% rate increase so she can present it at the city council workshop.

Byard said the board needs to have concrete goals.

Byard suggested putting a sub-committee together to prepare the info and present to the city council.

Issa said the 1% increase would mean consumers decrease 1% of consumption and they won't notice the rate increase.

Issa mentioned it would be good to have board members at city council to show support for the rate increase.

Laraine asked that board members contact city council members and let them know why they support the rate increase.

The next general meeting will be scheduled for 7:30 am on May 5, 2010 in the Classroom at the Environmental Center.

Minutes submitted by: Amy Anderson

Approved by: