

**Town of La Pointe
Energy Committee
Wednesday July 20, 2022
10:00 a.m. at Town Hall/Zoom
Minutes**

Members present: Larry Bean; Chair, Glenn Carlson, Robin Trinko-Russell, Zach Montagne
Staff present: Michael Kuchta, Town Administrator
Public present: Amy Simpkins, muGrid Analytics
Travis Simpkins, muGrid Analytics
Mike Wood, muGrid Analytics
Ken Disher, Xcel Energy
Bill Bailey, Cheq Bay Renewables
Dave Robinson, Xcel Energy

1. Call to order/Roll Call

The Energy Committee meeting was called to order by Larry Bean, Chair.

2. Public Comment

None

3. Minutes of the following Energy Committee meetings to be considered for approval:

A. June 8, 2022

Motion by Zach to approve above minutes, seconded by Glenn, all ayes. Motion Carried.

4. Discussion of the final report form muGrid

- Amy stated that muGrid revised the draft report minimally after receiving feedback from committee members. The final report was completed by the OEI deadline.
- Discussion on wet stacking (generator not running at full capacity) issues with generators.
- Discussion on implementation grant opportunities. Amy and Bill expect Wisconsin will do another 4-year round of the Energy Innovation Grant Program (EIGP) starting in 2023. Amy suggested there might be some Federal Infrastructure Funds for rural communities passed down to each state but no idea when.
- Larry thanked everyone involved in getting this study completed.

5. Recommendations to Town Board

A. \$500 investment with Xcel Energy for a project scoping study

- Larry provided the following synopsis:
Xcel is capable of delivering the La Pointe project as part of their Empower Resiliency services. Xcel provides turnkey design and installation based on the recommendations of the microgrid feasibility study. This would be the installation of the microgrid transformer, backup

generation, battery storage and the wiring together of the various buildings. La Pointe would be fully involved but Xcel would handle all the work. This would eliminate the need for the Town to source a large upfront capital investment.

- Dave explained this project would fall under a new tariff proposed to the WI Public Utilities Commission by Xcel to lower barriers for customers. Scoping study would be a high-level study to determine the overall capital cost to combine the Town Hall, Library and Clinic into a single-meter grid.
- Consensus that this project is for resiliency, not cost savings, and that there would be grants available to fund this project.

Based, in part, on the completed microgrid Feasibility Study, the Energy Committee is recommending that the Town engage Xcel Energy and authorize them to complete a Preliminary Project Scoping Study, at a cost to the Town of \$500.

Motion by Zach, seconded by Robin, all ayes. Motion Carried.

6. Participation in a battery technology demonstration

- Amy explained that the WI EIGP is looking for innovative ideas and believes flow batteries added to a hybrid system (solar, generator and batteries working together to smooth out the intermittency of just solar) would be appealing to them.
- Amy has worked with and would like to introduce the Town to Stryten Energy, which makes vanadium redox flow batteries. She will e-mail information to the committee.
- Bill also mentioned he has a meeting with UW Madison about their flux xii carbon-based redox flow batteries.

7. Public Comment

Larry mentioned his term on this committee expires 8/23/22 as well as others and encouraged members whose terms expire to continue on this committee.

Amy stated that Mike will send an email to the committee with information about generator wet-stacking.

8. Set next meeting and agenda

Next meeting will be scheduled as needed.

9. Adjourn.

Motion by Glenn to adjourn.

Minutes taken from recording and submitted by Dorgene Goetsch, Clerical Assistant.
Minutes approved as presented 11/9/22.