

# CITY OF CONCORD MEETING NOTICE

CONCORD Energy and Environment Committee

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

7:00 PM

City Hall

## Minutes

**In Attendance:** Rob Werner, Jennifer Galbraith, Deb Russ, Mark Scura, Barbara Pacelli, Zach Jonas, Charles Willing, Dave Brown

- Rob calls the meeting to order
- Solar Tax Exemption:

Rob discusses the solar tax exemption, which is coming up for a hearing on Monday, 6/26. Boyce Highlands (a company in Penacook that makes wood treatments) approached the city about putting solar panels on their facility. The owner John Latini discovered that his tax bill would increase when he talked to Kathy Temchuck. The referral sparked a discussion in city management about this, because we want to be competitive from an economic development perspective. The discussion was primarily around economic development. Candice Bouchard moved to make a full tax exemption for both residential and commercial, which Rob suggested. Part of the discussion was how net metering may or may not affect this. There is a 10 year sunset provision on the exemption (meaning it would expire in 10 years, or 2027). There is a commitment to do a yearly performance review of this program. We can also help to eliminate the sunset provision if there is a business that comes and is concerned about it.

The exemption doesn't apply to electric resale, which may cause issues with consumers who use net metering. We don't think that's the intention of that part of the resolution. We should try and make it so that any small scale installations on homes or businesses (including lease models like solar city) aren't taxed.

We're suggesting a language change that says that the exemption will not apply to any properties that are not covered by the state net metering statute. This should make sure that all small scale residential and commercial solar projects are exempt.

This needs to be done by 6/22, so Chuck will make some edits to it and Rob will send it around to the council tomorrow.

There is also a language issue that it says “this will not take effect until April 2018” but that’s actually what it means - it’s referring just to the tax year.

- Results from calls to other towns with solar exemptions:

Mark called a bunch of associations. Capital city appraisers said they don’t have a standard way to figure out the value of panels. Bedford is now adding the equipment price to the value of the home and then subtract it back out. They count the number of panels times the assumed cost for the panel. Durham is very gungho on their tax exemption. They have aggressively marketed it, and have an application process where they pretty much accept whatever value you put on the application. Conway doesn’t advertise it and people rarely use it. Hampton falls assessor has 4 categories for pricing. Portsmouth has a 5 year exemption, so in year 6 you pay taxes!

- Other business:

Rob, Chuck and Zach met with Ally Samuells of the Sierra Club Ready for 100 Campaign. They are helping municipalities pass resolutions similar to ours. She will be attending our next meeting, and we can ask her how the Sierra Club can assist our efforts.

Rob mentions that Jim Bouley is planning to sign the Mayor’s Paris Climate agreement.

Adjournment at 9 PM

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