

**Cape & Vineyard Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Executive Committee and Finance Committee  
Remote Conferencing Meeting Minutes – Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

The Cape & Vineyard Electric Cooperative, Inc. Executive Committee and Finance Committee met via remote conferencing on Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. from home-based locations.

**PRESENT WERE:**

1. Steve Gavin, Finance Committee Member/Director, Yarmouth
2. Jennifer Rand, V. President/Executive Committee Member/Director, West Tisbury
3. Robert Wirtshafter, Treasurer/ Finance Committee Member/Director, Chatham
4. Austin Brandt, Executive Committee Member/Director, Cape Light Compact (CLC)
5. William Lake, President, Executive Committee Member/Director, Aquinnah
6. Charles McLaughlin, Executive and Finance Committee Member/Director, Barnstable

**ABSENT WERE:**

1. Charles Hanson, Finance Committee Member/Clerk/Director, Brewster

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Liz Argo, Executive Director  
Maria Marasco, Deputy Director  
Tatsiana Nickinello, Administrative Services Manager, Records Officer

**PUBLIC PRESENT**

None

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

W. Lake called the Finance and Executive Committee meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. and announced the Meeting Notice/Agenda was duly posted on the CVEC, Inc. website in accordance with the Open Meeting Law on November 13, 2020 at 2:10 p.m. W. Lake verified the presence of the quorum of the Executive Committee. He added that Finance Committee is soon to join.

**2. PERSONS ON THE PHONE ASKED TO IDENTIFY THEMSELVES**

The participants identified themselves.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

*W. Lake asked to take the items out of order due to the quorum issues. There were no objections.*

**6. DISCUSSION AND VOTE TO AUTHORIZE THE CVEC PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT TO EXECUTE THE CONTRACT WITH DEVELOPER, AMERESCO, AS THE ENGINEER, PROCUREMENT, CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTOR (EPC) FOR THE INSTALLATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE BATTERY ENERGY SOLAR SYSTEM (BESS) AT DENNIS YARMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL UNDER THE COMMUNITY CLEAN ENERGY RESILIENCE INITIATIVE GRANT**

L. Argo reported that CVEC continues working with the state pertaining to the BESS initiative. The discussion took place about the reimbursement process, meeting with Ameresco resulting in agreement to drop down payment from 30% to 10% and receiving Cape Cod 5 letter of commitment for the line of credit. L. Argo reported that the top loaned amount will be \$750,000. M. Marasco said that CVEC open a dialog with DOER Commissioner pertaining to flexibility of line items in the budget. The members requested a financial proforma to be available for the Board meeting.

*A. Brandt moved the Executive Committee to recommend to authorize CVEC President and Vice President to execute the contract with developer, Ameresco, as the Engineer, Procurement, Construction contractor (EPC) for the installation and management of the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at Dennis Yarmouth High School under the Community Clean Energy Resilience Initiative grant and sign the lease with Dennis Yarmouth High School contingent legal approval and financial questions answered, seconded by J. Rand and voted by roll call as follows:*

- |                                 |            |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| <i>1. J. Rand, West Tisbury</i> | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>2. A. Brandt, CLC</i>        | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>3. W. Lake, Aquinnah</i>     | <i>Yes</i> |

*Motion carried in the affirmative (3-0-0)*

#### **7. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE ON THE HIRING OF TATSIANA NICKINELLO AS AN AT-WILL EMPLOYEE FOLLOWING CVEC'S PRESIDENT'S NEGOTIATIONS**

T. Nickinello stepped out at 9:45 a.m.

R. Wirtshafter confirmed the previous Board decision to authorize hiring of T. Nickinello as an at-will employee. It was agreed to offer T. Nickinello a position at \$25/hour 25-30 hours a week. W. Lake recommended waiving the probation period, granting T. Nickinello a two-year employee status and requested vacation time. Retirement and health benefits were not offered at this time.

*A. Brandt moved the Executive Committee to authorize offering T. Nickinello an at-will employee position, seconded by J. Rand, and voted by roll call as follows:*

- |                                 |            |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| <i>1. J. Rand, West Tisbury</i> | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>2. A. Brandt, CLC</i>        | <i>Yes</i> |
| <i>3. W. Lake, Aquinnah</i>     | <i>Yes</i> |

*Motion carried in the affirmative (3-0-0)*

T. Nickinello joined back at 9:50 a.m.

#### **11. NOTICE AND DISCUSSION ON CVEC'S COLLABORATION WITH THE CAPE LIGHT COMPACT TO STAGE A REMOTE SUMMIT MEETING OF THE ENERGY COMMITTEES OF THE CAPE & ISLANDS ON DECEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>**

L. Argo reported to the committee's members about CVEC's and CLC's initiative to bring collaboration between towns Energy Committees and other climate groups and organizations in an effort to avoid duplication of activities. She added that the collaborative meeting is informational in its nature.

*R. Wirtshafter stepped out at 10:00 a.m.*

C. McLaughlin joined at 10:10 a.m.

**8. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE ON PROPOSED “SUCCESSION AND TRANSITION: PLAN AND TIMELINE”**

W. Lake said that the proposed transition plan is extending till calendar year 2021. He added that by June 2021, all primary responsibilities will be transferred to Deputy Director. At the end of the 2021 calendar year, L. Argo will cease to be an employee, but may remain as a consultant going forward. J. Rand requested a more refined timeline in terms of transfer of duties expectations with a continuous progress as the times passes. The members expressed their desire for Deputy Director to assume CVEC’s public face role soon as a part of the transition. The discussion took place about the plan to hire another support staff person. The tentative date to bring a new hire on board was set for July 1, 2021.

A. Brandt moved the Executive Committee to recommend approving “Succession and Transition: Plan and Timeline”, seconded by C. McLaughlin and voted by roll call as follows:

- |                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| 1. J. Rand, West Tisbury     | Yes |
| 2. A. Brandt, CLC            | Yes |
| 3. W. Lake, Aquinnah         | Yes |
| 4. C. McLaughlin, Barnstable | Yes |

Motion carried in the affirmative (4-0-0)

**9. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE ON CVEC POLICY TO GUIDE THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RESOURCES ALTERNATIVE ON BILL CREDITS (AOBCs) BEING APPLIED TO ELECTRIC ACCOUNTS IN TANDEM WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES NET METERING CREDITS**

L. Argo reported on some towns are meeting their net metering credit allocation caps. It is halting the development of more renewables. In response to the issue, DOER developed Alternative On-Bill Credit program where cash out accounts may be utilized for new allocations. L. Argo reported that she is waiting for the response from Eversource Distributed Generation Manager Brett Jacobson on utility company’s standing on the question. C. McLaughlin recommended getting legal advice in the light of new regulations sent by DOER and DPU. A. Brandt added that SMART program regulations that includes AOBC describes Eversource administering this program under the tariff approved by DPU.

**10. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE ON CVEC OFFERING FINDER, CONTRACTING, AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES TO THE TOWNS OF AQUINNAH AND TRURO AS THE TOWNS SEEK OFFTAKERS FOR THEIR EXCESS NET METERING CREDITS**

L. Argo reported that Aquinnah and Truro have stranded accounts. In addition, towns are reaching their allocation capacities, preventing them from building new PV’s. CVEC is to propose finding offtakes. She added that CVEC expenses budget has been put together, and it would cost CVEC around \$20,000 to administer the offer. The members discussed possible offtakes such as Martha’s Vineyard Airport, Cape Cod Community College, Mass Maritime, and Transit Authority.

J. Rand left the meeting at 11 a.m.

**5. TREASURER’S REPORT**

L. Argo reported that On-peak hours program participation continues to outperform. Forward Capacity Market is expecting the payment of \$105,227. It was noted that Carol Shaw left out Round 5 in the income section. Reported cash balance was \$750,383.

*R. Wirtshafter joined back at 11.10 a.m.*

**12. APPROVALS OF MEMBERSHIP AND CVEC PARTICIPATION IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:**

- a. Renew Solar Energy Business Association of New England (SEBANE) discounted membership
- b. Northeast Energy and Commerce Association (NECA) discounted membership and participation on Storage and New Technology Committee

*C. McLaughlin moved the Executive Committee to approve CVEC membership and participation in SEBANE and NECA associations, seconded by W. Lake and voted by roll call as follows:*

- 1. A. Brandt, CLC Yes
- 2. W. Lake, Aquinnah Yes
- 3. C. McLaughlin, Barnstable Yes

*Motion carried in the affirmative (3-0-0)*

*R. Wirtshafter moved the Finance Committee to approve CVEC membership and participation in SEBANE and NECA associations, seconded by S. Gavin and voted by roll call as follows:*

- 1. R. Wirtshafter, Chatham Yes
- 2. S. Gavin, Yarmouth Yes
- 3. C. McLaughlin, Barnstable Yes

*Motion carried in the affirmative (3-0-0)*

**4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2020 EXECUTIVE AND FINANCE COMMITTEES MEETING MINUTES, AND OCTOBER 6, 2020 EXECUTIVE AND FINANCE COMMITTEES MEETING MINUTES**

The members reviewed presented meeting minutes.

*Executive and Finance Committees voted unanimously to approve September 17, 2020 Executive and Finance Committee Meeting minutes, and October 6, 2020 Executive and Finance Committee Meeting minutes.*

**13. UPDATES ON ROUND 6, ROUND 5, ROUND 4, BATTERY RETROFIT FOR ROUND 3, AND ANNUAL PRESENTATIONS TO ALL PARTICIPANTS AND CVEC MEMBERS**

M. Marasco reported that she sent Round 6 notices of interest to towns. She added that there are potentially about 15 project possibilities. Round 4 and Round 5 contracting is near completion. An

inquiry regarding Round 3 battery retrofiting has been sent. The annual presentations to towns are near completion. It was noted that CVEC had in vicinity of 30 entities on the list. C. McLaughlin said that he will inquire about BOS meeting in Barnstable. Maria reported that MA State Retirement Board and MA Insurance Commission is assisting CVEC in its analysis on CVEC's retirement plans possibilities.

**14. NEW BUSINESS: TOPICS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED BY THE PRESIDENT MORE THAN 48 HOURS BEFORE THE MEETING**

There was no new business to discuss at this time.

*The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 11:25 a.m.*