

**Minutes
Town of Henniker
Energy Committee
October 12, 2011
Town Hall**

Present: Mark Mitch, Tony Caplan, Barbara Bernstein, Nicole Gage, Tom Watman

Guests: Mark Fougere (Town Planner, Grantwriter); Carl Knapp (Highway Superintendent); D. Henry (Jordan Institute), Alison Matilainen (Jordan Institute); Students from New England College

Dick Henry and Alison Matilainen presented the final 130-page report on the energy audit of 11 town-owned buildings. The report is based on a mechanical and building-envelope assessment of nine buildings. Mechanical assessments were not done for water and wastewater as they would require a separate engineered audit.

The major recommendations are:

- 1) Air sealing and insulation to drop the load
- 2) Switching from oil to wood pellet

Mr. Henry discussed how the world oil market relates to base cost, pre-buy costs, and seasonal usage for the Northeast, and how the US dollar relates to fluctuating oil prices. While oil has a BTU of 38-42, wood pellets have a BTU of approximately 12. Also, 180 gallons of propane is equal to one ton of pellets. Oil prices are predicted to go nowhere but up for the next ten years and pellet suppliers are in the wings with a renewable, local and cheaper resource.

Total improvements come in under \$500,000 with an 8-year payback. Mr. Henry went in detail through the report, using Town Hall as an example to spot specific recommendations.

Financing options were briefly discussed, including floating a bond, municipal lease purchases, local banks, non-profit loans, and folding costs into existing operating budgets. Mr. Watman warned that Henniker may not want to be a test-pilot for re-introducing "lease purchase" agreements and that the Department of Revenue and legal counsel would have to weigh in on that type of appropriation. Mr. Henry noted that financing models for energy improvements are changing daily.

The Committee discussed next steps and agreed to the following:

- The Jordan Institute will present a 15-20 minute summary to the Selectmen on 10/18/2011. Nicole will contact Mr. Henry and Ms. Matilainen with a specific time once the agenda is set.
- Mark Mitch will attend the 10/18 meeting to introduce the report and the speakers.
- Tony Caplan will tentatively plan to attend the 10/20 event at Central NH Regional Planning Commission office. This is a roundtable learn-n-share opportunity for Energy Committees in central New Hampshire.
- Next Meeting: October 24th 7pm. Location to be determined.

Tony announced he would like to continue on the committee but step down from the Chairman position. He suggested Barbara who gladly accepted.