



**CLEAN ENERGY COMMISSION  
Virtual Meeting**

**May 25, 2022 at 7:30 PM**

This meeting of the Clean Energy Commission was conducted as a virtual meeting. A recording of the meeting is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HDFPPaO1Y4I>

**MEETING MINUTES**

1. Meeting Opening – Call to order 7:30 PM

- Roll Call - *Commissioners: Bernie Pelletier, Steve Sack, Catherine Diviney, Joe Campanella.*
- Approval of Meeting Minutes – April 27, 2022 – *approved.*
- Option to meet virtually extended – *not sure of the end date for the virtual extension; Commissions can also opt to meet in person.*

2. Old Business

- Avon/CT River Valley Energy Fair – May 14. *Bernie attended. Right off Route 44. Garden Clubs, Clean Energy Commission, HeatSmart were there. Goal is for towns to support each other – both promoting and attending events – to expand outreach circles and assist with workload.*
- HeatSmart - 154 registrants. *Actually 161. Other active HeatSmart community - Bethel - has already reached their goal (66 registrants, much smaller town)*
  - June 11 & 12 – Celebrate WH. *Commission discussed and agreed that focus of booth (#404) this year will be HeatSmart. We will be next to the Energize CT mobile exhibit. Catherine will send around volunteer sign-up and information for the weekend. Vendors can be in the booth; they can promote the program, but cannot sell their services directly, since we are in the non-profit booth section. Energy Jeopardy might be the best activity to have since there will not be much open space around booth. HeatSmart has seed packet giveaways. We will hang both HeatSmart and Clean Energy Commission banners and have promo materials.*
  - Steve Sack asked about the Town's own use of energy efficiency and solar programs – Catherine indicated that the town tries to utilize all of the programs available to them (Towns are not eligible for C-PACE – property assessed clean energy). For solar, town has typically done power purchase agreements (PPAs). Currently, the town does not have any solar rooftop projects in the works, but is considering another virtual net metering contract. Catherine indicated that the town should revisit carpools and other solar models in the context of the new Eversource 2022 Non-Residential and SAM (State and Municipal Programs) solar programs. The town has a lot of active capital projects and new construction that have potential to incorporate solar and clean energy – HVAC projects, new animal shelter, new Elmwood, new DPW facility, etc.
  - June 28, 6:30 PM – WH Library heat pump webinar – register at: [https://westhartford.librarymarket.com/event/heat-pump-technology-make-it-work-you-virtual.](https://westhartford.librarymarket.com/event/heat-pump-technology-make-it-work-you-virtual)

*Bernie is working with Maura @ WH Library. Registration link is up. Bernie is lining up speakers for presentation, we can assist with outreach.*

- *SolSmart – SolSmart staff have finished baseline analysis for town. We look to be in good shape for bronze designation. Next week Catherine is meeting internally with Buildings and Zoning Depts to go over some of the pre-requisites needed on permitting and zoning side. This technical assist was provided to town for free thru Sustainable CT.*
- *Elementary School Air-Quality Projects (9 schools, CIP - \$3M per year, 15 yrs)*
  - *Contractors have been selected and initial meeting with project teams have happened.*
    - *Duffy – contractor is Consulting Engineering Solutions, CES – new windows and mechanical ventilation, air conditioning*
    - *Web Hill – contractor is Northeast Collaborative Architects & Bemis Associates – new windows, elimination of steam heat system, ventilation, air conditioning*
  - *Heat pump and energy recovery options will be considered. There are some questions about noise levels of proposed equipment. Installation will be summer 2023.*
  - *\$3 Million budget does not reflect any additional state funding for projects. Budget is low for scope of work.*
- *EV/EVSE - CMAQ (CTDOT, Congestion Mitigation Air Quality) grant - \$20,952*
  - *Town is investigating reshaping what grant money is spent on given changing landscape and priorities since initial application. Catherine would love for town to get its first EV – maybe a maintenance van.*
  - *Public Works is driving the process for a comprehensive EVSE charging infrastructure program; they will be hiring a consultant. Bernie expressed interest in Commission and members of public having input in this process.*
  - *Bernie checked with Eversource about concerns raised last meeting regarding EVSE strain on the electric grid. Eversource indicated no immediate concerns in West Hartford about grid capacity – but programs will likely develop around time of use charging.*
- *Joint meeting (Clean Energy, Ped Bike, Cons & Env't)*
  - *Monday 6/27, Cons & Env't meeting date. 7-9 PM, in-person, in Rm 314 (Council Chambers). Joe is not available.*
  - *There will be no meeting Wed 6/29 for Clean Energy Commission.*
  - *Catherine will check but assumes meeting will be open to public since it is a regular Commission meeting.*

*Catherine indicated she and Cynthia Lauture (Asst Corporation Counsel) will be developing agenda for the joint meeting and facilitating. Will work with Commission Chairs to finalize.*
  - *Themes of interest from previous meeting: umbrella sustainability group, form of Clean Energy Commission/new members, communication, GHG inventory, methane gas leaks, EV charging infrastructure, electric grid capacity, storage/batteries.*

### 3. New Business

- *Town Sustainability website – Catherine shared new LIVE Sustainability webpage on Town website. <https://www.westhartfordct.gov/town-departments/sustainability>. This was a recommendation of the WH Sustainability Advisory Group. Topics are listed but content will be fleshed out in the future. One obstacle is a limitation by IT Dept that restricts outside links to .gov sites only -- hopefully there will some flexibility or a vetting process, so that we can*

*include educational resources – e.g., utility, HeatSmart, Sustainable CT, EV, solar educational webpages, etc.). Also trying to determine, whether create “new” webpages or link straight to existing department pages (e.g., Complete Streets). Bernie suggested a more direct link to our Clean Energy Commission page. There was some discussion about how to include relevant “point of contacts” for different topics, including staff and Commissions. Catherine will provide an example write-up on “solar.” Populating this website will be an on-going project.*

#### 4. Staff Report

- *Energy Update/Budget – see attached.*
  - *We estimate ending fiscal year very close to utility budget, despite high use (COVID) & prices for natural gas this winter.*
  - *Electricity use is back up but still below pre-COVID levels. Steve asked whether the electricity produced by our solar projects was free. Catherine indicated that it was not b/c the town typically does solar through a 3<sup>rd</sup> party power purchase agreement, where a solar developer installs, owns and operates the array at no cost to the town and the town pays for the electricity the system produces at a discounted rate. There was a discussion about the savings of solar electricity vs grid electricity. Catherine indicated that the commercial rate structure (and transmission & delivery charges) makes the analysis more complicated and the savings less than one would think. Catherine will follow up with Steve. Town should also be looking at how they pursue solar in the future given new solar programs and financing options/models.*
  - *Water use is also up – leaks at Rockledge and Fairview Cemetery. Bernie was interested that we spend more on water than natural gas now.*
  - *Clear evidence that COVID has hurt our energy use. Bernie encouraged the town to look at all options in the upcoming HVAC and new construction projects to improve energy efficiency. (e.g., filtration, UV, energy recovery, etc.)*
- *Climate Crisis Resolution – Town Manager email – Town Manager has agreed to circulate email (drafted by Hendree Milward and Catherine) to Department Directors to share Climate Crisis Resolution and ask them to begin to operationalize its commitments and use climate change as a lens in their decision making and spending. Bernie voiced support. This was also a recommendation of the WH Sustainability Advisory Group – Catherine indicated they are trying to knock off these recommendations slowly but surely.*

#### 5. Public Comment

#### 6. Adjournment – 9:11 PM

"ANY INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY WHO NEEDS SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN A MEETING OR PUBLIC HEARING SHOULD CONTACT SUZANNE OSLANDER, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES, 860-561-7580 SEVEN DAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING OR PUBLIC HEARING."

# Board of Education

## Utility Budget Summary, April 2022

501151



	Electricity		Natural Gas		Water		Total
	kWh	\$	CCF	\$	CCF	\$	\$
FY18	10,329,241	\$ 1,839,809	873,236	\$ 676,687	26,609	\$ 220,162	\$ 2,736,658
FY19	9,950,214	\$ 1,837,113	872,556	\$ 760,823	23,964	\$ 224,478	\$ 2,822,414
FY20	8,001,527	\$ 1,476,535	793,826	\$ 607,507	21,275	\$ 226,530	\$ 2,310,573
FY21	8,826,145	\$ 1,508,650	950,421	\$ 721,200	27,619	\$ 294,451	\$ 2,524,301
FY22 Projected	9,689,937	\$ 1,619,085	958,096	\$ 944,217	25,856	\$ 289,396	\$ 2,852,699
FY22 Budget	9,265,106	\$ 1,709,750	954,351	\$ 874,000	27,570	\$ 308,250	\$ 2,892,000
+/- FY22 Budget (surplus/deficit)							\$ 39,301
FY23 Budget	9,531,812	\$ 1,701,757	969,945	\$ 909,434	23,644	\$ 278,761	\$ 2,889,952
+/- FY22 Budget (incr/decr)							-0.1%

FY18 FY19 FY20 FY21 FY22



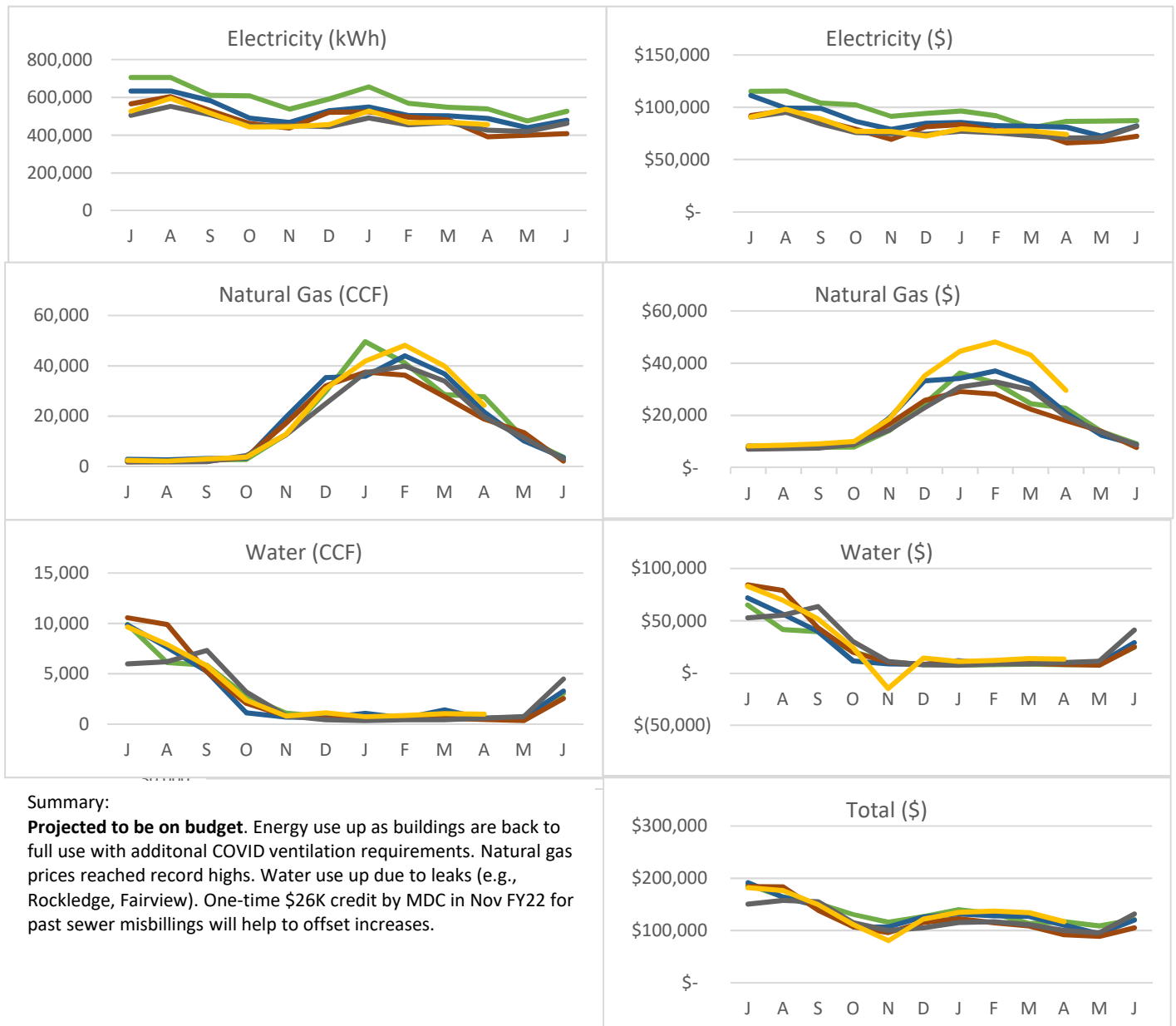
# Town - USF

Utility Budget Summary, April 2022



	Electricity		Natural Gas		Water		Total
	kWh	\$	CCF	\$	CCF	\$	\$
FY18	7,069,152	\$ 1,151,251	214,663	\$ 208,753	32,735	\$ 249,430	\$ 1,609,434
FY19	6,297,872	\$ 1,044,256	219,753	\$ 232,337	32,792	\$ 276,294	\$ 1,552,888
FY20	5,817,344	\$ 949,044	195,706	\$ 194,468	34,345	\$ 313,439	\$ 1,456,951
FY21	5,630,830	\$ 942,493	193,295	\$ 203,698	31,063	\$ 307,467	\$ 1,453,657
FY22 Projected	5,782,618	\$ 957,335	225,457	\$ 274,492	35,790	\$ 346,968	\$ 1,578,795
FY22 Budget	6,122,280	\$ 1,040,361	217,034	\$ 225,995	33,615	\$ 334,395	\$ 1,600,751
+/- FY22 Budget (surplus/deficit)							\$ 21,956
FY23 Budget	5,732,285	\$ 988,866	197,796	\$ 259,202	35,679	\$ 341,746	\$ 1,589,814
+/- FY22 Budget (incr/decr)							-0.7%

— FY18 — FY19 — FY20 — FY21 — FY22



**Summary:**

**Projected to be on budget.** Energy use up as buildings are back to full use with additional COVID ventilation requirements. Natural gas prices reached record highs. Water use up due to leaks (e.g., Rockledge, Fairview). One-time \$26K credit by MDC in Nov FY22 for past sewer misbillings will help to offset increases.