Minutes of the
Somerset County Energy Council
Wednesday, February 21, 2018 Meeting

Chairman William Amann called the meeting to order at approximately 6:10 PM, and the members pledged allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

The roll was taken and the following members were Present:
William Amann, Chairman
Jeanne Perantoni, Vice Chair
Paul Drake
Jeffrey Grant
Walter Lane
Susan Dorward
Jeffrey Foose

Absent:
Wayne DeFeo, Secretary
Donald Kasten
Judith Majewski
Honorable Brian Gallagher, Freeholder Liaison

Also Present:
Laurette Kratina, Somerset County Planning Division

Approval of December 5, 2017 Meeting Minutes
The minutes were approved with one change to the first sentence. A motion to approve was submitted by Jeanne Perantoni, which was seconded by Susan Dorward. All approved and the motion carried.

Chairman’s Comments: Chairman Amman provided an overview of some of the major energy-related bills that are currently proposed and before the legislature. Of particular importance is S877, which modifies the State’s clean energy and energy efficiency programs; establishes a zero emission certificate program and modifies the State’s Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards. He noted the broad range of energy topics now being addressed by the legislature, ranging from a proposal involving tax credits for the purchase and installation of electric charging stations and the development of off-shore wind (ORECs) to NJ’s participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). He also mentioned PJM’s Reliability Assurance Agreement - rate schedule that came into effect in January 2017 and proposed Grid Resiliency Pricing Rule. The rule addresses significant anticipated retirement of coal and nuclear baseload generation facilities and issues concerning compensation for resiliency improvements to the grid. Jeffery Grant expressed the importance of comparing the cost burden of nuclear, wind and solar. It was noted that S877 blends the free market and regulated aspects of the industry, and what appears to be the beginning of a return to a regulated rate market. Stranded power generation assets and associated cost burdens, potential increases in PSE&G distribution rates and the importance of providing reliability without economic harm were discussed.

Chairman Amann complemented Raritan Valley Community College for being the first Carbon-neutral community college in the nation. Ms. Dorward noted that this feat was accomplished in part by purchasing SREC credits.
New Business

Introduction of new member, Jeffery Foose: Chairman Amann introduced new member Jeffrey Foose and invited him to provide some background about himself. He described his work as a wholesale power market and natural gas market investment manager. He also described some of his previously work experiences including past employment with PSE&G.

Swearing in of Re-appointed Members: Two of the three members up for reappointment were present at the meeting, Jeffery Grant and Walter Lane. Both read and signed the oath of office. Mr. Foose was sworn in at the Freeholder Reorganization Meeting in January. Mr. DeFeo will be sworn in at the next meeting.

Reappointment of Officers: Chairman Amann reappointed Jeanne Perantoni as Vice Chair and Wayne DeFeo as Secretary of the Energy Council for 2018.

2018 Standing Committees: Paul Drake and Jeffrey Foose agreed to join Chairman Amann on the Alternative and Renewable Energy Committee. Jeanne Perantoni will continue to chair the Education and Outreach Committee, and its members are Wayne DeFeo, Walter Lane, and Susan Dorward. The Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Committee is chaired by Jeffrey Grant, and its members are Bill Amann and Don Kasten.

2018 Membership List: The draft 2018 update of the Energy Council roster which includes term information was circulated for review. Changes to the telephone numbers shown for Paul Drake were requested.

Draft 2017 Annual Report: The draft 2017 annual report has been prepared, and is currently under review by Chairman Amann. Once his review comments are incorporated, it will be distributed for review by the members and discussed at the Council’s April 17th meeting.

Updated Letterhead: The need for modifications to the Council’s letterhead was recognized.

NJCF Clean Energy Pathway Paper: Members of the Council reviewed this document produced by the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research and PSE Healthy Energy for the NJ Conservation Foundation in September 2017. This paper defines a strategy for decreasing by half carbon emissions associated with the electric power sector by 2030. A number of assumptions went into this report, which were discussed by the group, including a 5% change in composition of the statewide vehicle fleet from conventional to electric; a 2% annual reduction in energy use due to aggressive implementation of energy efficiency and conservation strategies, additional solar generation, implementation of off-shore wind, etc.

A discussion regarding the rate at which electric vehicles will enter the market ensued. Ms. Dorward described the 4 EV charging facilities installed at RVCC. Mr. Lane described the North Jersey Transportation Authority’s “Interagency Collaboration on Alternatively Fueled Vehicle Infrastructure – Final Report completed in December 2017. He would like to invite a speaker from the consultant team that worked on this report to the County Planning Board’s upcoming Planning Partnership Forum. Several bills have been proposed that incentivize the provision of EV charging stations. The ability of the existing electric grid to accommodate electric vehicles was discussed. Chairman Amann noted that if a level 3 charging station was to be added at gas stations, the installation of step-up transformers would be required.
Mr. Grant noted that it is difficult to figure out the cost analysis that was used in the NJCF paper. Hidden, layered costs should be spelled-out, and it needs to be clear who is paying. Societal and regulatory costs in particular are not addressed. Mr. Foose talked about the advantages of shifting energy consumption from peak to off-peak hours to decrease utility fees. Mr. Grant noted that due to real estate usage realities, it is very hard to shift power demand loads. Mr. Foose talked about the use of large scale battery storage as a potential solution, noting that costs are dropping and some models are now able to pay for themselves in under a year due to the peak/off-peak energy cost differential. Battery banks are being developed in many areas for this purpose. Chairman Amann talked about the tour of Panasonic Building in Newark as part of a recent GBC-NJ event. Panasonic is making Tesla batteries (7,000 per car). It might be interesting to try to get someone from Panasonic to be a guest speaker regarding net zero communities and new battery technology. He also talked about the use of ice storage technology, which is being applied economically in Manhattan (5-year pay-back).

Report of the Environment and Energy Transition Team: This document, which was submitted to Governor-elect Phil Murphy on January 1, 2018 and released to the public was reviewed by the members of the Council and briefly discussed. Chairman suggested these two documents could be used as a source of ideas for preparing the future goals and initiatives section of the annual report.

Old Business

Sustainable Jersey: Mr. Lane pointed out issues with Sustainable Jersey’s municipal certification program. It is becoming too costly and demanding for towns to participate long-term, since municipalities cannot continue to earn credits for past projects that are ongoing. Furthermore, there are not enough incentives to make continued participation worthwhile. SJ need to find the middle-ground. Chairman Amann and Laurette Kratina participated in the Sustainable Jersey Ad-Hoc Committee Meeting on Energy Tracking and Management. This committee was examining the practical issues confronting municipalities preventing higher utilization of Energy Star Portfolio Manager. Utility companies in other states facilitate customer tracking and management by entering billing records. Chairman Amann noted that a similar problem has arisen with regard to LEED Version 4. It is too difficult and costly to achieve in terms of materials and resources. There are not enough companies willing to meet the Life cycle analysis requirements for building components. In response, a Version 4.1 will be issued in the future.

March 16th Future of Energy in NJ Event: The Energy Council is partnering with the Somerset County Business Partnership in sponsoring this event at which Dave Daly, the new President and Chief Operating Officer of PSE&G will be the keynote speaker. Chairman Amann will be providing introductory comments at this event, to be held at Raritan Valley Country Club.

Update on County Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP): Ms. Kratina noted a meeting of the Steering Committee is scheduled for February 21st. Paul Drake represents the Energy Council on the Steering Committee. The updated Risk Assessment portion of the plan has been prepared. Municipal hazard mitigation coordinators are working to provide updated information about projects implemented in their communities to the Consultant, which will be used to prepare the updated municipal annexes.

COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS:
**Alternative & Renewable Energy:** Chairman Amann learned that a few bill management companies are uploading utility records into Energy Star Portfolio Manager. He contacted EnergySolve, who says they offer this service ($5. Per building), but they really do not. A company called Avid Exchange serves as the statewide contractor for NJBPU's Clean Energy Program benchmarking service, but they do not enter building characteristics data.

**Energy Audits and Efficiency:** Mr. Grant noted that future use of the ESIP Feasibility Analysis results has not been determined. He described the availability of an automated system for analyzing building systems and pinpointing problem so corrections can be made is available which involves statistical analysis of historical energy usage data and building system operations data. Results are presented as both data and graphics. The potential to provide an Energy Council workshop aimed illustrating ways building efficiency problems can be identified and resolved was mentioned.

**Education and Awareness:** Ms. Perantoni noted that the committee is reviewing the infographics provided by the Fall 2017 Intern from Rutgers, and will decide how they can best be utilized. Submission to the County Graphics Department is being considered. A proposal will be submitted for a second intern through the Raritan Scholars Program for the fall 2018 semester. Ms. Dorward noted there is a Videography class at RVCC, and that students from this class may be available this fall to work on a project for the Council. The thank you letter to intern Frank Mattia was signed by Chairman Amann.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**
There was no public comment offered at this meeting.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for **April 17, 2018**.

**Adjournment**
A motion to adjourn was provided by Ms. Perantoni and seconded by Mr. DeFeo. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 PM.