

CBJ Commission on Sustainability, Energy/GHG Committee Meeting
November 10, 2008 5:15 AEL&P Conference Room

In Attendance: Sally Schlichting, Gayle Wood, Bob Coghill. Absent: Sarah Lewis, Rick Wolk and Eva Varadi Bornstein

Meeting Minutes

Meeting convened at 5:15 pm

No members of the public were in attendance.

Sally Schlichting announced the Greg Brown Evening at Egan lecture on alternative energy at UAS scheduled for Friday November 14.

Status of policies, measures and incentives for increasing energy efficiency were discussed.

Expedited Permitting for Ground Source Heat: Gayle Wood reported on the results of her inquiry with State DNR on expediting permit requirements for ground source heat systems in the intertidal zone. Staff indicated that there were no real options to streamline the permit process at this point.

Sales Tax Rebates on Energy-Efficient Goods: In regard to sales tax rebates or no sales tax fee on energy-efficiency related purchases, such as building materials, appliances, etc., Bob Coghill reported that discussions with the CBJ sales tax office indicate that a sales tax card would be a fairly simple way to implement such an incentive. Currently, building permits already allow a sales tax exemption for purchases associated with the permit. An energy sales tax card would allow for tax exemptions on other purchases. The Assembly would need to take action on such an initiative.

Revolving Loan/Energy Rebate Program for businesses and property owners/managers: Schlichting reported that she had transmitted an email to the Assistant City Manager requesting feedback on this concept and suggesting possible sources of funding for, but had not yet heard back and would continue to follow up.

Property Tax Exemption: The committee reviewed the draft legislation and provided the following comments:

That “multi-paned windows” be replaced with a higher standard, such as “low-e” windows, etc., and that micro hydroelectric systems be added under Section 1 (t) (2) renewable energy fixtures. However, municipalities should be able to further define what can and can’t be included when they implement exemptions.

It is not clear whether municipalities would assign a period for which the exemption on the increase in assessed value would apply to a property owner or if that should be specified in this

legislation. Likewise, for clarity, should the legislation identify the sectors to which it applies: residential or commercial, or both?

Under Section 1. (t) the legislation applies to improvements on “real property” -- this may make mobile homeowners ineligible for the tax exemption.

Sales Tax Exemption on Heating Fuel: The committee reviewed the December 2007 memo drafted by the JCOS Energy Committee and discussed changes for a revised submittal to the Assembly Finance Committee if the matter should come up again. These included some minor edits and proposing a threshold of \$3/gal, above which all sales tax revenues could be set aside into an energy improvements loan fund.

Schlichting agreed to revise the memo if the matter came before the Assembly.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.