

City of Evansville Energy Independence Team
Regular Quarterly Meeting
Wednesday, August 7th, 2024, 7:30 a.m.
Evansville Police Department, 10 W. Church Street
Evansville, WI 53536

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order.** Brooks called the meeting to order at 7:30am
2. **Introductions and Welcome.** Jim Brooks, Darren Jacobsen, Butch Beedle, Jason Sergeant, Colette Spranger, School Superintendent Nate Perry, John Rasmussen, Scott Anderson, Chief Patrick Reese, Lieutenant Christopher Jones
3. **Approve the Agenda by Consensus.** Committee approved agenda.
4. **Approve the minutes of the May 1, 2024 meeting by consensus.** Committee approved agenda.
5. **Tour of Police Department.** Led by Chief Reese and Lieutenant Jones. Current police department is a rehabbed building that could be far more energy efficient. Biggest issues are electric/water losses and vehicle storage. The station is in need of a back-up generator. Past generators have been diesel/gas powered. A combination battery that could utilize solar panels on top of the building may be a way forward.
6. **Quarterly Energy Updates (20 min)**
 - A. **Business, Community, and School Initiatives.**
 - Chief Reese spoke about wanting to introduce fleet cards, which help the department keep track of gas usage and could be used at any gas station. Right now the department is limited to getting gas at the consumer's coop.
 - City Administration is still waiting on a response for grant funding so Upper 90 can perform an audit of energy usage at municipal buildings.
 - School District: There was a rollover of surplus funds to that went towards capital maintenance. The high school's HVAC system is likely to be addressed. The high school, TRIS, and Levi Leonard are all operating with the original HVAC units, which need to be moved from the roof to the ground. Superintendent Perry encouraged residents to participate with a survey in order to learn more about a potential referendum on the ballot in November.
 - Creekside Place is having a capital campaign to replace its HVAC system. Unsure if any replacement will include green/alternative energies.
 - B. **EHS Green Team Updates.** Good turnout for the solar project ribbon cutting back in May. Team participating in hallway delamping at school, correcting fixtures to a proper lux level. Current green energy usage at the high school is 3%, with a goal of hitting 10%. Solar is generating 90 kWh per month. Green Healthy Students was a program taking place over the summer; Renew Our Schools coming up in the fall. Biggest energy issues at the high school have to do with the geothermal system, which was improperly installed with a weak pump. An initial goal to replace the system is on hold due to the failed referendum.
 - C. **Tree City and Bird City.** No report.
 - D. **ECSD Nature Center.** New room at TRIS is working out well.

- E. Ice Age Trail.** Spranger drafted an application for the City to become a Trail Community.
- F. Community Garden.** Garden is fenced off and ready to go for the year.
- G. WPPI.** Jacobsen gave updates on a feasibility study to identify places close to a substation that could generate solar energy. Within the schools, Focus on Energy conducted a walk through of facilities and gave schools a report card on efficiency. This opens up the opportunity for funding and a kickback for the user if kilowatt hours are reduced.
- H. Park Improvements.** Police hosting National Night Out on August 14th. Brief discussion if Larson Acres has the ability to regularly take on festivals. Current consensus is probably not.
- I. Other.**
 - Brooks reported on lobbying efforts at Washington DC as it pertains to the municipal electric utility. There were requests for legislative regulation on emissions to stop changes, to modernize the municipal bonds system, to revitalize supply chain and distribution issues that have not recovered from COVID related shocks, plus permit reform. New generation systems currently take years from application submittal to approval.

7. Next meeting date: August 7, 2024

8. Adjourn.