

**Delaware Sustainable Energy Utility**  
**Oversight Board Meeting Minutes**  
**September 19, 2024 – 9:00 am – Zoom**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82085375373?pwd=Q0xyQlFVSzFqNVh3Mk0zTGZjL1lVQT09>

Welcome

Members present were Senator Harris McDowell, Senator Trey Paradee, Senator Stephanie Hansen, Kristopher Knight, Michael Chajes, Sean Finnigan, Tom Noyes, Dayna Cobb, and Samantha Kayne, proxy for Ruth Price. Also present were Drew Slater and Frank Murphy.

1. Approval of Minutes

a. Oversight Board Meeting Minutes – May 17, 2024

Mr. Slater presented the minutes of the May 17, 2024 Oversight Board Meeting.

**Michael Chajes made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 17, 2024 Oversight Board Meeting. Sean Finnigan seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.**

2. SEU Business

a. Electric Vehicle Home Charging Rebate Contract Approval – Mr. Slater stated that on September 5, 2024, Governor Carney signed House Substitute 2 to House Bill 13. This bill requires the DESEU to establish a Residential Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment rebate program.

The DESEU has been working with Applied Energy Group (AEG) on a pilot program to gain valuable insight ahead of HS2 for HB 13 passing the legislature and being signed into law. AEG's contract is scheduled to expire on September 30, 2024.

A quote was received to expand the pilot program to full program implementation, and the total cost is below the amount that may be approved by the Executive Director. Given the new statutory requirement, Mr. Slater thought it would be prudent to present it to the Board for approval to move forward with AEG. Mr. Slater stated that AEG's quality of work, fees, time commitment, and track record speak volumes and stated AEG has been a wonderful partner. The full program will be open to applicants on October 1, 2024, with the approval of the Board.

**Senator Hansen made a motion to authorize the Executive Director to enter a contract with AEG for the purpose of expanding the Residential Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment program. Sean Finnigan seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.**

b. Charging Station Memo – The DESEU purchased an electric vehicle charger in 2018 to support the purchase of a 2018 Chevy Bolt. Mr. Slater provided a chart to show that the usage of the charger has increased significantly over the past year, averaging almost 2,500 kWh per month, an equivalent to nearly 3 homes usage/month. Annually, the charger is equivalent to nearly 33 homes electricity usage.

Mr. Slater is requesting the authorization to work with the building owners to support at least one additional charging station.

**Senator Hansen made a motion to allow the Executive Director to work with the building owners to support at least one additional dual port charging station at 500 W. Loockerman St. in Dover. Michael Chajes seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.**

- c. Fire Department Blanket Memo – Mr. Slater stated that, at the environmental bill signing on September 5, 2024, the General Assembly has passed more electric vehicle legislation this year than ever before.

The DESEU had a role to play with the Challenge Electric Vehicle Program and has been presented with the idea, by the City of Dover Deputy Fire Marshall Matt Brown, to support all Delaware Fire Companies with a multi-use vehicle fire blanket.

As electric vehicles are traveling our roads, there are unique challenges in the rare event of an electric battery fire, including the amount of time and resources to put out the fire. Electric vehicle fires have a higher rate of secondary fires when water is used where the fire blanket can be left on during transport to a storage yard ensuring there is no secondary fire.

Mr. Slater presented data from the National Transportation Safety Board and Bureau of Transportation Statistics. In addition, electric vehicles use an estimated 20,000 gallons of water to extinguish in an estimated 4.5 hours where a traditional vehicle uses 500 gallons. The vehicle blankets can extinguish a fire in 30 minutes.

The cost to support this initiative is estimated at \$200,000 which includes delivery and training for each fire department including two blankets for the City of Wilmington, one for Dover Air Force Base, and one for the Air National Guard.

**Michael Chajes made a motion to approve the Executive Director entering a contract to purchase fire blankets for each fire company with an estimated cost of \$200,000. Senator Hansen seconded this motion, and the motion carried unanimously.**

### 3. Reports

- a. Executive Director
- b. Program Activity Report
- c. Budget Report

### 4. New/Old Business

### 5. Executive Session – To discuss confidential and proprietary business

**At 10:12 am Michael Chajes made a motion to begin the Executive Session. Senator Hansen seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.**

**After discussion, the Board motioned to come out of Executive Session with Senator Hansen making the motion, seconded by Michael Chajes. The motion carried unanimously.**

6. After discussion, there was a motion by Sean Finnigan, seconded by Senator Hansen for the Executive Director to work with Sussex Academy to donate the solar array to the school as long as sustainability was incorporated into their curriculum. Thereafter, the motion was approved unanimously with no abstentions.

## Adjourn

Agenda is subject to change. During the course of the public meeting, the Board may vote on whether to conduct an executive session to consider confidential and proprietary business before the Board, and such executive session will not be open to the public, pursuant to 29 Delaware Code § 1004. The executive session may address matters involving the discussion of the content of documents excluded from the definition of "public record," or which involve the potential for litigation. Participation by teleconference will be available to Board members.