

**MINUTES OF PERKASIE BOROUGH
SPECIAL PUBLIC UTILITY COMMITTEE MEETING
MARCH 3, 2011**

620 West Chestnut Street
Perkasie, Pennsylvania

ATTENDANCE:

Council Member:	Martin Gahman (absent) Matt Aigeldinger Stephen Algeo Florence Frei Barbara Krantz (absent) Suzanne Kravitz Chris Nicolosi Jim Purcell Maria Slowik
Mayor:	John Hollenbach
Borough Manager:	Daniel P. Olpere
Finance Director:	Joe Berardi
Electric Superintendent:	Harold Stone
Electric Line Supervisor:	Fred Schutte

Borough Council Vice-President Jim Purcell convened the meeting at 7:00 PM. Mr. Hollenbach gave an invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Manager Olpere opened the Special Public Utility meeting explaining the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the need for a master plan for help with electric power planning. He stated that two proposals had been received from AMP of Ohio, the Borough's wholesale electricity provider. The first proposal was a 10-year EDI project that uses methane gas from three Ohio landfills to fuel a power plant. The second proposal would allow the borough to become partial owners over the next 30 years of the natural gas powered Fremont Energy Center of Ohio. The Borough would not be required to pay any costs upfront since AMP would borrow the funds for the project.

Garrett Cole of GDS Associates of Georgia was present to introduce its firm and the services they provide. Mr. Cole gave a brief slide presentation. He further explained that GDS provides utility consulting for a number of other municipalities from around the country, and has the tools to determine whether the two projects are likely to save the Borough money. The costs for their services is about \$70,000, but Perkasie would not be paying more than \$5,000 to GDS because it plans to piggyback on GDS's other municipal clients seeking the same analysis.

Throughout the presentation, several questions were asked by and answered by GDS Associates regarding transmission capabilities and costs, capacity, congestion costs, and whether full capacity contracts are still available.

Manager Olpere stated the Borough would still use its current energy consulting firm, Utility Engineers for rate information, the Borough's substation, and other matters. GDS Associates would be able to help with more sophisticated matters and provide information about other kinds of energy, including solar and wind power. The Borough has to purchase blocks of power in advance, estimating the power usage for certain periods of time and selling power back at a loss if it purchases too much. The Borough also has to pay to transport the power into Perkasio. The Borough is beginning to look at buying whatever kind of power is available on the market.

Flo Ann Frei asked if the Pennsylvania Public Utility Committee (PUC) would get involved in future decisions that the Borough makes. Manager Olpere stated that the PUC does not regulate the Borough's electric.

After completion of the slide presentation, Jim Purcell asked if the Borough's Public Utility Committee would recommend to Council approval to hire GDS Associates for power consulting services for an amount not to exceed \$5,000 at their March 7, 2011 meeting. Committee members agreed and the matter will be placed on the March 7 Committee meeting agenda.

PRESS FORUM

Questions from the press were received and answered.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 PM.

Daniel P. Olpere
Borough Manager/Secretary