

**Electric Aggregation Committee
Public Hearing
January 5, 2023
Board of Selectmen Meeting Room**

Committee Members Present:

Molly McCoy, Resident
Kristi Pulliam, Finance Director
Julie Glover, HR/Admin Services Director

Absent:

Chuck Rage, Selectman

Consultants Present:

Bart Fromuth, Freedom Energy Logistics
Stuart Ormsbee, Colonial Power Group
Mark Cappadona, Colonial Power Group

Julie Glover welcomed everyone to the Public Hearing and stated that they were being recorded live for Ch. 22 and could be viewed on the Town's website. Anyone wishing to speak should come to the podium and state their name and address. Introductions were made. **The Public Hearing was opened at 4:05 p.m.**

Speakers:

Chris Muns, 5 Nersesian Way – He stated that he is in full support of these efforts to help gain access to affordable reliable energy. He asked if there was a requirement for who serves on the committee, J. Glover responded that there are no requirements per RSA and PUC rules, they had to form committee quickly. K.Pulliam stated that the Board of Selectmen announced at a meeting that we were looking for committee members. Mr. Muns stated that he is concerned with how quickly everything happened, J. Glover explained the timeline for enabling legislation and PUC rules and placing articles on the warrant. There was a discussion on how the plan was developed. Mr. Muns asked why the Town didn't join the NH Community Power Coalition. He asked if there will be a menu of options i.e., renewable sources? J. Glover yes, plan is designed to be flexible. Mark Cappadona explained the implementation schedule if the voters approve the warrant article, first step is for plan to be approved by PUC, after approved, analyze market. Contact energy suppliers in NH (approved by PUC) and receive responses. Information mailed to consumers and educational sessions. Mr. Muns asked who pays for all of that. The consultant pays, which is funded by a small fee added to the cost per kWh. No taxpayer dollars are used. If there are problems with electricity and billing, continue to contact Unutil.

Ann Marie Galinas, 593A Ocean Blvd. – As part of due diligence, she would like to see other options for consultants. Asked how the meetings were noticed. J. Glover explained where notices were posted (newspaper, town website, news feed, various Hampton FB pages, including Chamber.) She observed that other Towns' plans were easier to read, how will we educate consumers. Questions on what opt-out mailed notice will say, will rates be available compared to Unitil so consumers can compare. Bart Fromuth explained that yes, once provider(s) is selected, consumers will have an opportunity to compare rates to Unitil's. The best suppliers' rates will be provided, the default rate and other choices. CPG's fee is built into rate. Ms. Galinas is concerned with customer data and keeping it secure. J. Glover stated that statutes and regulations dictate what information we can get, Stewart Ormsbee explained further, no financial information, no SSNs, tightly controlled by PUC. Who notifies consumers if there is a data breach? If a consumer opts out, can they have their data removed from third-party database?

Lynn Larsen 553 Ocean Blvd – discussed other offers that she has received to change power suppliers. How can questions be answered? CPG. J. Glover stated that the committee will put together an education program before March.

Gary Minks, 709 Ocean Blvd. – lines still owned by Unitil? B. Fromuth explained that any issues with power, still deal with Unitil, who is responsible for energy delivery. Power supply may vary (Seabrook, green sources, etc.) Only one bill. Unitil is a pass-through for the supply, makes money by delivering and servicing power.

Ed Brackett, 9 Fellows Ave. – What's the downside of participating? B. Fromuth – We might enter into a multi-year agreement and the price of energy drops, the consumer can leave the program and migrate back to Unitil. There are no fees or penalties to leave and re-enter. Tied to meter read dates. S. Ormsbee, with municipal community choice programs, the Town sets up terms and conditions, CPG knows what terms are important to consumers. Mr. Brackett is concerned with multiple vendors (Unitil, CPG, electrical supplier) being involved. M. Cappadona, contact CPG if you have enrollment issues, all else contact Unitil. What authority allows for opt-out. J. Glover stated RSA 53-E.

Sharon Mullen, 31 Gale Road – attended first public hearing, wanted there to be a presentation. Wants to see an example of a bill and what line will be impacted. Very excited that Town is taking these steps to make energy more affordable. Hopes that Hampton also looks at energy efficiency measures. Time of use rates, demand response options. B. Fromuth responded that these are ideas that we want to embrace, but the utilities don't allow this yet. He is following legislation to coax utilities to allow time of use. Is there a restriction to the number of times you can opt-out and opt-in? B. Fromuth stated that it is dictated only by meter read dates. Discussion on net metering. She understands the rush to get this on the ballot. CPG clarifies that the Town is the aggregator.

Chris Muns asks about the relationship between Freedom Energy and Colonial Power Group. B. Fromuth and S. Ormsbee offer an explanation.

Paul Higgins, 31 Gale Road – How will net metering work for someone with rooftop solar. B. Fromuth – each homeowner's situation will need to be addressed individually. S. Ormsbee, need to make changes at the state level, net metering is a work in progress.

J. Glover thanked everyone for participating, reminded them that the recording will be available on the Town's website. **Closed the Public Hearing at 5:05 p.m.**

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