



TOWN OF STRATHAM

INCORPORATED 1716

10 BUNKER HILL AVENUE STRATHAM NH 03885

VOICE (603) 772-4741 FAX (603) 775-0517

MINUTES FOR STRATHAM ENERGY COMMISSION MEETING June 21, 2022

Meeting held at the Stratham Municipal Center

Commission Members:

- Michael Ream
- Matthew O'Keefe
- Charlie Case
- Michael Welty
- Joe VanGombos
- Joe Anderson - Select Board Member

Not Present: Michael Welty

Others attending: Lester Cuff – Town Resident

Call to Order: 6:00 PM

1.Minutes from May 10, 2022 were reviewed and approved with a correction to add Joe Anderson as a voting member

2.Discussion of Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC) meeting on power aggregation: Due to a shortage of natural gas, the cost of power generation has substantially increased and is expected to continue to increase. In September 2019, Stratham joined an aggregation group set up by the RPC for a 3 year power supply contract with Constellation Energy at 7.36 cents per KWH. This contract has saved the Town over \$27,000 so far.

Eversource has just announced their next winter standard power generation cost at 22 cents per kwh. We anticipate that Unitil's standard power generation cost for next winter will be similar.

The RPC is organizing a second aggregation group to hopefully limit increases. One possibility being considered is to fix the price for the first year and fix 50% of the price for years two and three of a new contract with the member towns assuming the risk of an increase in the remaining 50%. It was noted that approximately 3 cents per kwh in the power generation cost covers charges for grid costs that are not actually generation. It was suggested that a new contract keep these charges separated and fixed. Based on our cost savings from the current aggregation contract, it was suggested that the Town join the next RPC aggregation group. Matt will ask David Moore several questions to help us in our recommendation to the Town which we anticipate making at the July meeting.



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3. Discussion of Group Net Metering proposal – Freedom Energy: Freedom Energy Logistics has organized a Group Net Metering option with qualified New Hampshire Hydro Generation Companies and Municipalities to help Hydro sell power at a retail rate vs wholesale. This option will enable the Hydro Companies to stay in business and provide renewable energy for New Hampshire and Towns, Counties, and Schools can share in the revenue stream for participating. This Group Net Metering option was fully subscribed before Stratham was able to join, with another opportunity for Stratham anticipated for next year in round 2. It was suggested that the Town sign Freedom Energy's Joint Powers Agreement now to ensure we have a place in the next round.

4. Discussion of Police Station Solar Array buyout plan: Joe Anderson verified that buyout funding is included in the Town's Capital Plan.

5. Utility Incentive opportunities for Municipal Center HVAC project: The Commission recommends that the Town consider changing from propane powered HVAC systems to more efficient Heat Pump HVAC systems which would qualify for incentives from Unifl. We plan to provide an efficiency comparison to Nate Mears.

6. Media/Public Outreach – Joe VanGombos drafts for Select Board Newsletter: Matt will forward Joe's writeup for the Police Station Solar Array project to David Moore for inclusion in an upcoming Select Board Newsletter.

Adjourned: 7:00 PM

Next meeting will be July 12, 2022 at 6 PM

Respectfully submitted – Charlie Case