



# TOWN OF STRATHAM

INCORPORATED 1716

10 BUNKER HILL AVENUE STRATHAM NH 03885

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## DRAFT MINUTES FOR STRATHAM ENERGY COMMISSION MEETING

February 10, 2026

Meeting held at the Stratham Municipal Center

### Commission Members:

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

All present except Joe Van Gombos

Call to Order: 6:00 PM

January Minutes Accepted

### Community Power

CPCNH has had a large positive impact to reduce the cost of electricity supply in New Hampshire, and as a result of those efforts the competition scenario has changed. At this point, CPCNH is the only electricity supplier that is dedicated to supporting customer energy interests at the State Level.

Electricity supply pricing for all suppliers is rising for a variety of reasons including increased charges from the New England Independent System Operator (ISO-NE), cost of natural gas, increased need for electricity, increasing state requirements for renewable energy and the uncertainty of weather caused impacts.

For the first three rate periods from 2023 to 2024 CPCNH was successful at keeping rates low while building reserves. Hired in May 2024, the new CEO made a risky decision in the fall of 2024 to buy electricity supply in a way that set up the loss of the CPCNH reserves and put CPCNH into a negative reserve position. Timing of the decision was made worse by the colder than normal winter of 2024/2025 with higher customer electricity needs than forecast by all suppliers including the Utility Default Suppliers who also took losses during this time. CPCNH was forced to borrow working capital at a high interest rate, and to raise rates going forward to rebuild their reserves. CPCNH did not anticipate their current reserve problem when Stratham joined as a Member and Stratham didn't either. CPCNH anticipates rates going forward will be lower than Utility Default rates when planned initiatives are implemented.



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The Energy Commission will present options to the Select Board at their next meeting to keep electricity supply costs as low as possible. Options include making sure that customers understand how to switch to another supplier if they want; and switching Stratham Community Power to a different supplier. However, this switch would require Stratham to leave CPCNH with its share of the CPCNH reserve positive. These reserves have steadily increased since August 2025.

Utility Default Supply rates going forward will be affected by a decision at the State level on how the Utilities can recoup their recent losses caused primarily by the colder than normal winters in 2024/2025 and 2025/2026. This decision by the State may affect Utility Default Supply pricing thus affecting how competitive CPCNH is in the near term.

Municipal Solar – ReVision Energy (installer of the Police Station Solar which the Town now owns) has notified the Town that they have removed their capability that keeps track of the power generated eligible for selling RECs. There are several options for the Town to collect and submit this data to allow REC sales. The lowest cost option involves a having a person take a photo of the meter on the Police Station monthly and send the photo to a company authorized to sell the RECs for the Town. The Energy Commission plans to review the meter location as part of the March meeting.

Community Education Topics – Mike will follow up with the Rec Department for scheduling the first proposed Community Education Session during 2026 - “Button Up New Hampshire”. Additional topics that could be of interest to residents include: EV vehicles, Heat Pumps, Solar Electric, weatherization, electric rates and questions for likely new CPCNH features such as “time of day rates”. The Energy Commission has sponsored “Button Up New Hampshire” in the past.

Stratham Memorial School construction project review – The new boilers have been installed, and the roof has been replaced with two inches of insulation added. Mike continues to work closely with the key construction people to ensure that energy conservation features are being incorporated. Unitil is reviewing design details to support an anticipated rebate which may include: Condensing Boilers, High Efficiency Air Source Heat Pumps, LED Lighting Upgrades, Lighting Controls, Roof Air Sealing, AC Motors for Pumps, and High Efficiency Transformers.

Adjourned 6:55 PM