



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 July 12, 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
Michael Ream

Also attending: David Moore – Town Administrator

Call to Order: 6:00 PM

1. Reviewed and approved both the minutes from June 21, 2022 and the corrected minutes from May 10, 2022

2. Discussion of Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC) meeting on power aggregation:

Background: 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.

David Moore provided some information for our discussion this month.

a. Participating towns in the current RPC aggregation group: Stratham, Newfields, Hampton Falls, Epping Schools, Newton, Plaistow library, Kingston. Participating towns in the next phase are expected to be similar but are not finalized.

b. The RPC received a proposal from Constellation Energy for a second three year aggregation contract which includes some risk sharing by the participating towns. The RPC is not recommending the group go out for bids for competing proposals since past response from other energy suppliers has been limited. However, it is believed the RPC would go out for bids if the participating towns believed there would be a broader response.



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The Energy Commission will likely recommend the town support this initiative and sign the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) due August 5 with a request that the RPC ask Constellation for a two year proposal option.

3.Community Power Updates – Joe VanGombos and Joe Anderson participated in a Zoom meeting on Community Power. Henry Herndon from the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire (CPCNH) has again invited Stratham to join the coalition. A number of towns have already signed the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) but none have their Community Power Plans approved by the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (NHPUC) because the NHPUC has not completed drafting their regulations for Community Power. It was reported that the NHPUC anticipates releasing their regulations by July 27.

The Energy Commission has met with two Community Power companies, CPCNH (November 2021) and Standard Power/Good Energy (February 2022). Signing the CPCNH Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) would enable Stratham to learn much from other participating towns, and participating in CPCNH could offer many opportunities. A potential risk with CPCNH is the amount of time it would take from Town staff and volunteers. Joe VanGombos agreed to verify that signing the JPA does not require Stratham to pay for any services if we decide not to fully participate - thus limiting our risk. Joe will also examine pros and cons of the CPCNH approach and volunteered to represent Stratham on the CPCNH Board if the Town decides to sign the JPA.

Standard Power/Good Energy would do much of the administration functions themselves although that can be negotiated

4.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 - which can share in the revenue stream for participating.

The first round for the Group Net Metering option was fully subscribed before Stratham was able to join, with another opportunity for Stratham anticipated for next year or earlier. Contract details have been worked out and the Energy Commission recommends that the town sign the Group Net Metering contract soon.

5.Discussion of Police Station Solar Array buyout plan: David Moore verified that the town's capital plan allocation includes \$5K prior to 2022 and another \$5K in 2022. The Town plans to include \$5K per year in the Capital Plan until there are sufficient funds to buyout the system. The buyout price will be determined at 50% of the value of the system at the time of purchase.



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5. Utility Incentive Opportunities for Municipal Center HVAC project: Joe VanGombos will meet with Nate Mears next week to share a cost and efficiency comparison between the current propane powered HVAC system (which needs an upgrade) and a different type of Heat Pump HVAC system. The Heat Pump system would qualify for some funding from Unitil.

6. Media/Public Outreach – Joe VanGombos drafts for Select Board Newsletter: Matt will forward Joe VanGombos's writeup for the Police Station Solar Array project to David Moore for inclusion in an upcoming Select Board Newsletter. Our next newsletter article will be a summary of Community Power – what and why.

7. Discussion of a possible Energy Commission Meeting Time Change – The Energy Commission will consider moving its meeting time from 6 PM to 7 PM and keep its meeting on the second Tuesday of each month.

Adjourned: 7:45 PM

Next meeting will be August 9, 2022 at 6 PM

Respectfully submitted – Charlie Case