



# TOWN OF STRATHAM

INCORPORATED 1716

10 BUNKER HILL AVENUE STRATHAM NH 03885

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

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## MINUTES FOR STRATHAM ENERGY COMMISSION MEETING Sept 12, 2023

**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

**Also Attending:** David Moore, Town Administrator

**Call to Order: 6:00 PM**

**August 8, 2023 minutes approved with a correction**

### **Summary of August 31 CPCNH Board Meeting**

CPCNH now has two employees, CEO Brian Callnan and Director of Member Services Henry Herndon. There was some discussion about the financial impact of delays caused by the Utilities in starting operation in the Group 1 towns. Group 2 now includes Stratham with a target "go live" on Feb 1, 2024. Discussion included how to include residents who now Net Meter with the major issue with the utilities how to credit residents for excess power fed back into the grid. These same utilities already accommodate Net Metering in New Hampshire for residents who use a Third Part power supplier. The difference between accommodating Third Parties vs CPCNH is not yet clear.

### **Recommendation that the Select Board Select CPCNH as the Competitive Electric Supplier for Stratham Community Power**

It was voted to recommend to the Select Board that Community Power of New Hampshire (CPCNH) be the Competitive Electric Power Supplier (CEPS) for Stratham Community Power contingent on a yes vote at the October Special Town Meeting. The Energy Commission also based their recommendation after meeting with another potential CEPS – Standard Power/Good Energy. Reasons for the recommendation:

1. Likelihood to achieve cost savings and position the Town to innovate and bring forward potential for renewal projects to advance future savings, CPCNH is the only not-for-profit organization providing this service in NH and has a mission-



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orientation to advance not only the cost savings, but the foundation for cost savings into the future (renewable project creation and pricing innovations).

2. Advances regionalization and cooperation with other municipalities. CPCNH is made up of NH municipalities its members total more than 40 counties, cities and towns.
3. Size of NH customer base and potential for greater base to increase value of aggregation process. Outside of the distribution utilities (Eversource and Unitil), CPCNH is the largest CEPS provider and posed to grow substantially as more Members launch programs.
4. Track record of service delivery to municipalities and launching programs. While CPCNH has not been in existence long it has attracted experienced leadership and has had success in launching neighboring programs.
5. Services nearby communities for the added benefit of neighbors having similar service providers. CPCNH is the CEPS provider for Exeter, Rye, Dover, and Portsmouth.
6. CPCNH is in the best interests of the Town of Stratham, allows Stratham Community Power "go live" quickly – Feb 1, 2024, it is a public non profit company with decisions made by member Towns, it offers us flexibility - can change the CEPS in the future, and are a leader in working with issues at the state level.

**Special Town Meeting will be held for the voters to decide whether the Town will adopt Community Power. The date will be announced on September 20.**

The Energy Commission will conduct a resident outreach program in preparation for the Special Town Meeting:

- Standalone SB newsletter on Sept 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Other SB newsletters on 10/6 & 10/20.
- News release on Oct 9<sup>th</sup> – Seacoastonline
- Recorded presentation
- Personal outreach to the targeted 120 historical town meeting attendees, 10/7 – 10/22.
- Social Media
- Signs – Town home page, MC, Fire Dept, library, on Oct 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Public Forum, October 12<sup>th</sup> @ 7 PM, in room A.
- Drop-in hours – 2 hours



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- Outreach to committees and groups
- Presentations, Public Forum, Town Meeting
- Update the Stratham Energy Commission and Energy Aggregation Committee web sites

## **Schedule for PUC Requirements**

1. Notify the PUC that the voters have approved or rejected the Stratham Community Power Electric Aggregation Plan. If approved, file the final Plan with the PUC – October 27
2. Sign the CPCNH Cost Sharing Agreement, Member Services Contract and policies – October 27
3. Notify the PUC of Stratham Community Power 90 day Commencement of Service and selection of CPCNH as CEPS - October 30
4. Request data from Unitil with notifications to the PUC: a) Anonymized Specific Information – October 30, followed by b) request from Unitil for names, addresses and account numbers of customers

Adjourned 7:30 PM

Respectfully submitted - Charlie Case