



**Town of Plaistow, NH
Energy Committee
145 Main Street, Plaistow, NH 03865**

**ENERGY COMMITTEE MINUTES
December 2, 2020**

Call to Order: 5:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Tim Moore, *Chair*
Gerry Marchand, *Vice Chair*
Geoffrey Adams, *arrived 5:08 p.m.*
Peter Bealo
Julian Kiszka, *Selectmen's Ex-Officio*

Also present were: Dee Voss, *Planning Department Administrative Assistant*; Francine Hart, *Board of Selectmen Chair*; Greg Taillon, *Board of Selectmen Vice Chair*

Agenda Item 2: Review/Approval of Minutes

November 4, 2020 Minutes

★ G. Marchand moved, second by P. Bealo, to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2020 meeting. There was no discussion on the motion. The vote was 4-0-0 U/A.

Agenda Item 3: Discussion with Henry Herndon, Director Local Energy Solutions, Clean Energy NH

Henry Herndon, Director Local Energy Solutions, Clean Energy NH was present for a discussion regarding local Municipal Energy Aggregation (MEA). This would allow residents of a municipality to join together to form an energy aggregate and be able to negotiate energy savings for their members.

H. Herndon offered that there were steps to the process which included:

- Forming an Energy Aggregation Committee or designating the Energy Committee to act as such
- Developing a detailed program plan
- Proposing a Warrant Article to the voters to approve municipal energy aggregation
- Implement the plan with a vendor or power coalition

Mr. Herndon provided that EComm with a sample electric aggregation plan.

There was discussion regarding the steps of the process and when a Warrant Article was appropriate. F. Hart and G. Taillon had questions about the formulation of the aggregation committee, and well as the role the Board of Selectmen (BOS) play in the process.

P. Bealo questioned if the aggregation would be an “opt-in” or “opt-out” system for residents.

H. Herndon responded that it could be designed to work either way.

P. Bealo expressed concern over the “Big Brother” aspect of an “opt-out” system.

H. Herndon offered that they would be made aware of the aggregation with the Town Meeting authorization of any Warrant Article.

P. Bealo offered that people don’t vote, and that’s one of his concerns with the “opt-out” option plan.

J. Kiszka noted that the process works well in other states.

G. Adams arrived at 5:08 p.m.

H. Herndon discussed how market rates are established. He noted that different municipalities could join together to increase their buying power, or they could go with a portfolio type arrangement, where there would be multiple providers to manage risk.

H. Herndon suggested that the Town look towards a 2022 Warrant Article as there was still pending legislation that could impact local energy aggregation. He noted that no one has done this yet, and many of the rules are still being worked out with the Utilities.

There was additional discussion as to what exactly a Warrant Article would be asking of the voters. It was offered that they would be requesting the authorization to move forward in the best interests of the Town and form a committee to develop a plan.

There was discussion of the need for public information sessions and public hearings to educate the public on what an energy aggregation is. This was seen as necessary to get support of any aggregation Warrant Article. It was suggested that the New Hampshire Municipal Association (NHMA) be consulted.

P. Bealo requested information from other communities where municipal aggregation has been successful. He offered that this would be a program that would need to be marketed to the residents to be successful. H. Herndon offered that he could assist the Town with providing materials that would be useful to residents.

There were questions about how the electricity aggregation is billed out to the residents. It was noted that it would be part of their routine electric bill.

The BOS will have a discussion regarding the appointment of an Electrical Aggregation Committee.

Agenda Item 4: Old Business

Salt Shed Solar

G. Taillon noted that he had been working on figures for a Phase 2 of the installation of solar panels on the Public Works Garage Salt Shed. Using the figures from the Phase 1

proposal, it was his estimate that Phase 2, which would cover the rest of the Salt Shed would cost approximately \$86,000. He was suggesting the \$40,000 be appropriated from the Energy Capital Reserve Fund and \$46,000 come from the Unassigned Fund Balance.

The Board would still like to consider projects such as a solar array on the capped landfill and the roof of the new Public Works Garage/

Agenda Item 5: New Business

D. Voss noted that there would soon be a lighting audit done of the Public Safety Complex. There may also be one done for the Town Hall Annex (former courthouse) now that the building is being used for Town Offices.

There were no additional matters before the Committee and the meeting was adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Dee Voss
Administrative Assistant