



City Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 11th, 2024 - 6:00 p.m.
Franklin Lodge of Elks

Council in attendance: Mayor Desiree McLaughlin, Councilor Leigh Webb, Councilor George Dzujna, Councilor Ed Prive, Councilor Valerie Blake, Councilor Vince Ribas, Councilor Olivia Zink and Councilor Timothy Johnston

Absent: Councilor Susan Hallett-Cook and Councilor Ted Starkweather

Others in attendance: City Manager Judie Milner, City Department Heads, and members of the public.

Mayor McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. and the Salute to the Flag was led by Councilor Dzujna.

The mayor moved agenda item #2 up to discuss first.

Agenda Item II.

County Community Power Discussion

Milner stated that the county is putting up a bunch of solar and has options for the communities to opt into.

A packet was provided to the council and this is included at the end of the minutes.

Milner stated that this is just for residential power. It is only for the supplier and not distribution.

The council discussed this and it was mentioned that they could invite the county to a forum so that they can do a presentation for the public. They could then take a vote at the next city council meeting after the forum with public comment beforehand.

Agenda Item I.

City Vision Discussion

Mayor McLaughlin stated that her and the City Manager decided in one of their meetings to have a discussion with the council about the vision of the city.

Milner added that their conversation seemed like they were both at two different ball games and wanted to discuss further with the council.

She also mentioned that they all operate under the City Charter, which is 15 pages and follows RSA 49-C. The city council is the 35,000' view and they are responsible for everything; all debts

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and assets. The city council adopts through an ordinance code, which are added rules that the City Manager and department heads follow.

There are 3 documents that the city works off of right now:

- The Franklin Falls Historic District Revitalization Design Charette (started in 2006)
- The Franklin for a Lifetime Charette (started in 2015)
- The Master Plan (started in 2018)

These three documents, that are about 18 years of age, tell her and the city what needs to be implemented to move forward with the city. All of these things are brought forward to the council. The things that she is working on now are things that the city council approved her to work on. She is still working under that template and it is important that her and the council work together.

Milner wanted to talk about what items she should be working on. Right now, she is working on the following:

- The Trestle Bridge
- The Opera House
- White-Water Park
- Central Street

The mayor discussed housing, as it is a national problem, not just effecting Franklin.

Milner did state that the federal budget did pass the \$2.5M for the White-Water Park and the pedestrian pathways. It is through the HUD program, which is a little different. Body cams for the PD were also approved in the federal budget.

Trestle Bridge update:

This is still with DOT and they asked us to be patient as they are still waiting on the 80% match.

Soldier's Memorial Hall update:

The city is working on the draft plan and should have it ready by Friday.

Milner stated that she would like to ask for a congressional directed spend from Senator Shaheen for the Opera House funds, if the city is continuing their partnership with them. The numbers for that portion will be coming on Friday as well.

Also, FBIDC is applying for a grant for the Opera House to help with their debt.

Milner asked if the city is keeping their relationship with the Opera House, before going ahead with the congressional spend and a discussion ensued.

The architect's build process will be about 18 months from start to finish. The council can ask more questions when the architects come in to meet with the council.

The municipal part has to be funded by the city.

Milner mentioned that the architects are also working on an amount for only dealing with the life safety issues instead and she will give the council that info once she has it. However, Milner stated that they are trying to do a little more than the bare minimum so that the building lasts longer and brings in more money for the Opera House.

There were discussions about updating the documents that the city is working off of that are getting older.

Motion – Councilor Blake moved that the Franklin City Council authorize the City Manager to apply for a Congressional Directed Spend for the Opera House. Seconded by Councilor Dzujna.

Mayor McLaughlin asked if there was any discussion.

It was clarified that a Congressional Directed Spend is when a Senator can put a certain amount of money towards a project that they believe is important for their state into the federal budget and if it makes it through the whole process then that money is set aside for that project through whichever agency it should have gone through. For the Opera House it's probably a HUD agency. These used to be called "earmarks".

The deadline for applying for the Congressional Directed Spend is March 22nd. They do not have to have a final design in place, but an idea so that they know how much to apply for. It can only be the Opera House numbers, which they will have shortly.

Soldier Memorial Hall is a city building and the city will need to fund the renovations for city offices. If the city council would like to move faster on this, they can do a long-term debt anticipation loan right away to get the work started. A bond anticipation note authorizes the debt to bond after construction is completed.

A bond anticipation note is just a tool to be used after the current council has authorized a bond. The council cannot authorize a bond anticipation note without authorizing the long-term debt because they can't expect a future council to do that after the city has spent the money already. This would have to be done with a resolution and a public hearing would need to be set.

To get the ball rolling, the city has to start funding this project.

This vote, however, does not say that the city council is approving any spend by the city right now.

All in favor. Motion PASSED

Mayor McLaughlin stated that she would be meeting with Senator Shaheen's assistant, Madison Footlight, on March 19th @ 10am at City Hall. She asked the council to email her if they would like to attend as well.

The mayor also asked if a study could be done on the housing crisis and Milner stated that she would look into options.

Agenda Item III.

Other Business

Milner stated that they were in need of a nonpublic meeting.

Motion – Councilor Ribas moved that there is a need for a non-public session per RSA 91-A:3, II (I) Consideration of legal advice provided by legal counsel, either in writing or orally, to one or more members of the public body, even where legal counsel is not present. Motion seconded by Councilor Dzujna.

Roll Call:

Councilor Webb	<u>yes</u>	Councilor Hallett Cook	<u>absent</u>	Councilor Ribas	<u>yes</u>
Councilor Johnston	<u>yes</u>	Councilor Dzujna	<u>yes</u>	Councilor Prive	<u>yes</u>
Councilor Blake	<u>yes</u>	Councilor Starkweather	<u>absent</u>	Councilor Zink	<u>yes</u>

All in favor; motion PASSED.

Entered nonpublic session at 8:04 p.m.

Public session reconvened at 8:35 p.m.

Motion - Councilor Zink moved that the Franklin City Council seal the minutes. Motion seconded by Councilor Ribas.

Roll Call:

Councilor Webb	<u>yes</u>	Councilor Hallett Cook	<u>absent</u>	Councilor Ribas	<u>yes</u>
Councilor Johnston	<u>yes</u>	Councilor Dzujna	<u>yes</u>	Councilor Prive	<u>yes</u>
Councilor Blake	<u>yes</u>	Councilor Starkweather	<u>absent</u>	Councilor Zink	<u>yes</u>

All in favor; motion PASSED.

Motion - Councilor Johnston moved that the Franklin City Council authorize the city manager to hire outside legal counsel per the recommendation of Attorney Paul Fitzgerald. Seconded by Councilor Dzujna.

All in favor; motion PASSED.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn was made by Councilor Zink and seconded by Councilor Ribas.

All in favor. Motion PASSED

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

Lisa A. Jones

Executive Secretary

Merrimack County Community Power

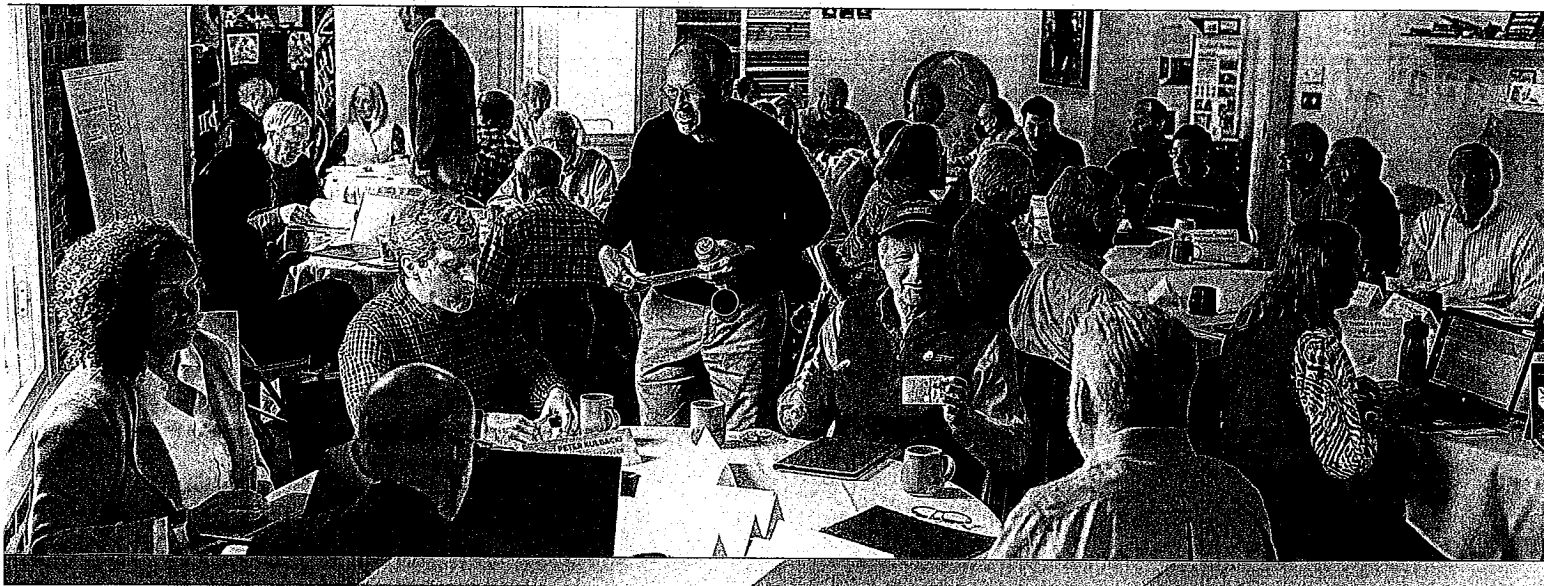
Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire



**COMMUNITY
POWER COALITION**
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Meeting of the Merrimack County Delegation

March 8, 2024 | 10am | Henry Herndon, Director of Member Services, CPCNH



What is Community Power?

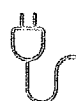
New Hampshire cities, towns, and counties can become **default electricity provider** for their residents + businesses and provide related services.



Aggregation

Pooled Purchasing Power
for Energy Supply

Economies of Scale



Delivery

Utility Company
Delivers Power

Grid Reliability



Communities Benefit from
Value Added Services &
Programs

*Lower Rates &
Product Choices*

RSA 53-E, Relative to Aggregation of Electric Customers by Municipalities & Counties

Customers may switch back to utility default supply or take service from a Competitive Supplier

Community Power programs must be paid for out of revenues received from participating customers

Local Control & Community Benefits



Competitive Rates & Expanded Choices

- // Lower supply rates than local utility
- // Customers can choose from a menu of options



Fiscal Stability & Financial Reserves

- // We deposit a portion of revenues into locally controlled reserve funds
- // Managing risk, financing clean energy projects/programs to shift off volatile fossil fuel



Regional Collaboration & Energy Projects

- // Working with towns and utilities on regional energy plans and projects focused on enhancing resiliency



Public Advocacy & Innovation

- // Expanding innovative options for clean energy through public advocacy at the Public Utilities Commission & Legislature

Utility Still Sends Out the Bills

Actual Account Balance Summary		
Actual Account Balance Due On 11/25/23		\$528.64
Payments and Adjustments		\$0.00
Balance Forward		\$528.64
Current Charges/Credits		
Electric Supply Services		\$42.84
Delivery Services		\$54.04
Total Current Charges		\$96.88
Actual Account Balance		\$625.52

Total Charges for Electricity

Supplier		
PORTSMOUTH COMMUNITY POWER		
Service Reference: 090780003		
Generation Svc Chrg***	393.00kWh X \$0.10900	\$42.84
Subtotal Supplier Services		\$42.84
Delivery		
(RATE R RESIDENTIAL SVC)		
Service Reference: 090780003		
Customer Chrg		\$13.81
kWh Distribution Chrg	393.00kWh X \$0.05357	\$21.05
Regulatory Reconciliation Adj	393.00kWh X \$0.00047	\$0.18
Transmission Chrg	393.00kWh X \$0.02965	\$11.65

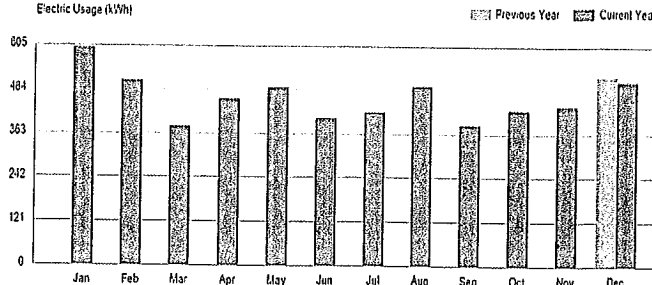
NH_231201PROD.TXT

Electric Service

ELECTRIC SERVICE			ELECTRIC SUPPLIER SERVICE		
PERIOD 11/17/23 - 12/18/23			PERIOD 11/17/23 - 12/18/23		
Delivery Charges Residential			Supplier Charges		
Customer Charge		10.22	Exterior Community Power	508.00 kWh x \$0.12350	\$62.48
Delivery Charge	508.00 kWh x \$0.09284	47.16	Total Current SS Charges		\$62.48
Stranded Cost Charge	508.00 kWh x (\$0.00910)	(0.05)			
Taxes & Surcharges					
System Benefits Charge	508.00 kWh x \$0.00700	3.55			
Total Current EL Charges		\$68.88			

Motor Number	Motor Reading Previous	Motor Reading Present	Motor Constant	Motored Usage	Number of Days	Motored Demand	Rate Code
131716	99067	99575		508.00 kWh	31		0

Electric Usage (kWh)



measures to safeguard our customers' confidential account information. These measures will help us to access to your account. For current customers requesting account information or access, Customer Service and their right to access the requested account information. We are committed to providing the excellent service your energy use.

Coalition Membership

Community-Governed, Non-Profit Power Supplier

- // 2 County & 50+ Municipal Members
- Representing >30% of NH population
- // Launched 28 Communities
- // Serving ~120,000 customers
- // >\$9 Million in 1st year savings
- // Larger than Unitil or Liberty loads
- // Remaining Members to launch 2024+

All NH Counties, Cities & Towns
are invited to join

OPERATING SINCE

Spring 2023

Fall 2023

TARGET LAUNCH

March 2024

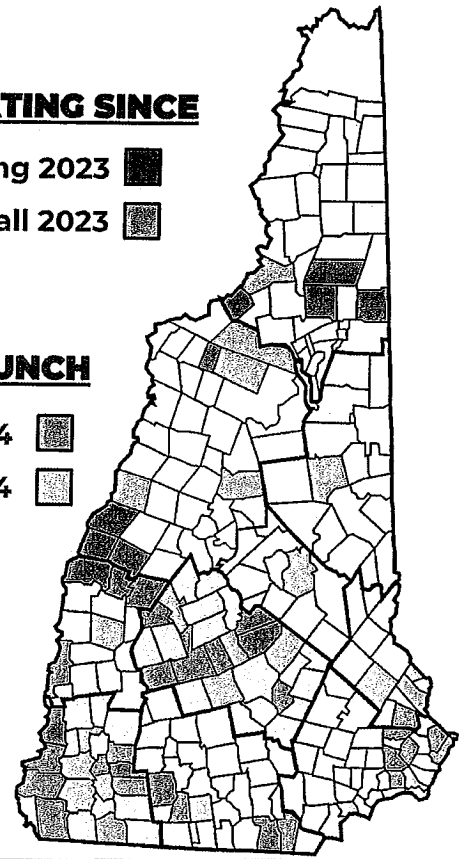
~June 2024

ON DECK

Planning

County-ready

Broker



Board of Directors

Community Governance

Technical Expertise | Transparent & Accountable
Accelerate Energy Transition | Public Advocacy



Local elected officials, former utility executives, energy finance & development professionals, municipal managers, teachers, & much more.

Staff & Service Providers

Expert Operations

Board Committees

- // Audit
- // Executive
- // Finance
- // Governance
- // Member Outreach & Engagement
- // Regulatory & Legislative Affairs
- // Risk Management



CEO
Brian Callnan

Staff:
Administration
Member Services
Load & Power Resources
Regulatory & Legislative Affairs

Energy Portfolio
Risk Mgmt.



Retail Customer
Services & Data
Mgmt.

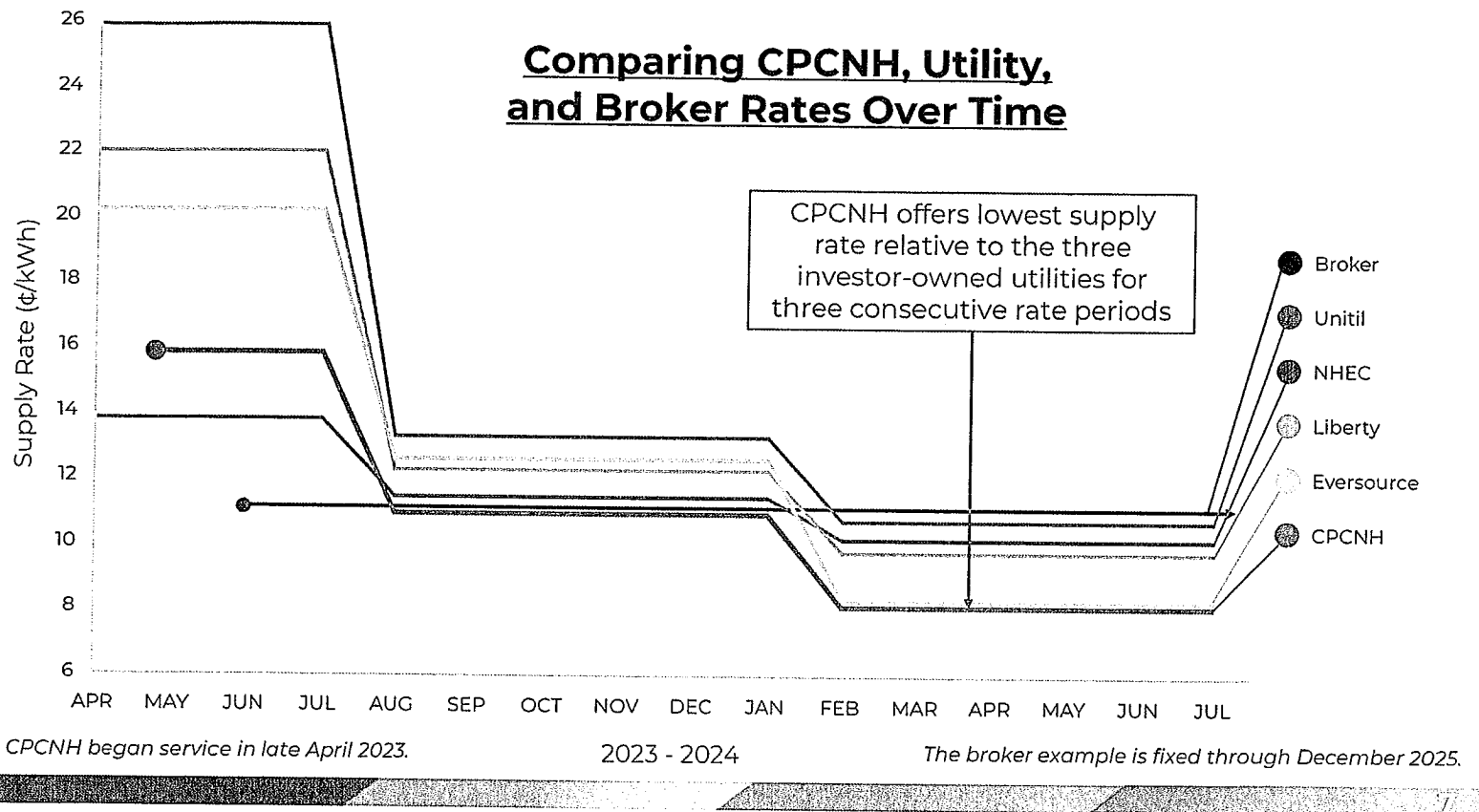


Legal
Accounting
Banking



Community
Engagement





How County Community Power Works

RSA 53-E:7 – IV. Municipal aggregations shall take priority or precedence over any county aggregations and each such aggregation shall be responsible for assuring that customers are enrolled with the correct aggregation.

1. County Joins CPCNH

- Commissioners adopt Joint Powers Agreement + form Committee

2. County Develops/Adopts Electric Aggregation Plan (EAP)

- Public hearings on EAP → County Delegation adopts EAP → PUC Approval → County Commissioners authorized to contract for services to launch program

3. Launch

- CPCNH launches program, notifies customers, public education, enrollment.

Advantages of County Community Power

Significantly streamlines process for towns/customers to join

- ✓ All electricity customers in the county can opt-in
- ✓ Benefits smaller towns with less administrative/volunteer capacity

Process for Town to Join County Community Power

- ✓ Municipality may elect County CPA as default electricity provider
- ✓ Town governing body (Select Board) votes to join program on opt-out basis

County Program Governance

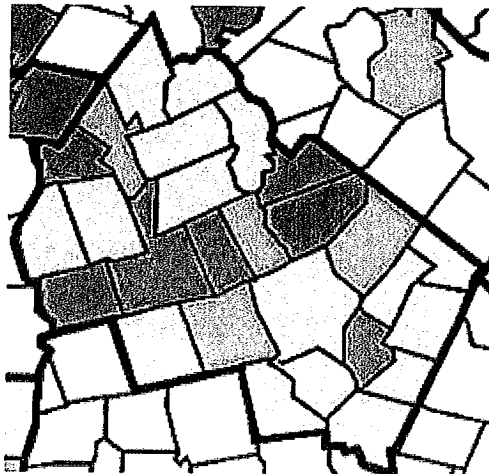
Merrimack County Community Power Council

- ✓ **Purpose:** establish a transparent, participatory, and flexible decision-making structure for mutual advantage of participating municipalities
- ✓ Each town electing County CPA as default electricity provider may appoint a representative to the Council
- ✓ Duties include:
 - ▢ Nominating representatives to CPCNH
 - ▢ Keeping participating municipalities informed about program
 - ▢ Supporting communities looking to join program
 - ▢ Approving withdrawal of municipalities from the program
 - ▢ Evaluating cost effective and innovative solutions to local energy needs

Community Power in Merrimack County

COUNTY-READY

Allenstown
 Andover
 Bow
 Chichester
 Concord
 Danbury
 Dunbarton
 Epsom
 Franklin
 Henniker
 Hill
 Hooksett
 Newbury
 Pittsfield
 Salisbury
 Sutton



OPERATING

Canterbury



LAUNCHING MARCH 2024

New London
 Pembroke
 Warner
 Webster



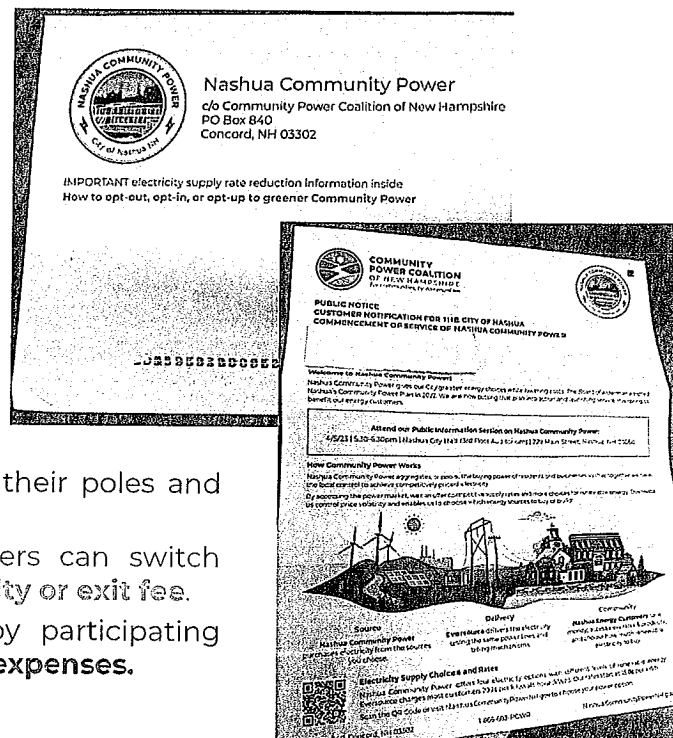
PLANNING

Boscawen
 Bradford
 Hopkinton
 Loudon
 Northfield
 Wilmot



Customer Notification and Enrollment Process

- At least 30 days before program launch all electric customers will be mailed notifications including the initial fixed rate for Community Power service compared with their Utility's rate
- Customers on Utility default energy service are **able to decline participation or "opt-out"** by calling 1-866-603-POWR, or by emailing info@CommunityPowerNH.gov; or visiting www.CommunityPowerNH.gov
- If a customer is already getting their power from a competitive supplier, nothing will change unless they choose to **"opt-in"** to Community Power.
- The Utility will continue to deliver electricity using their poles and wires, provide billing services, and ensure reliability.
- Rates posted at least 30 days in advance; customers can switch supplier at next meter read upon request with **no penalty or exit fee**.
- Community Power is self-funded by rates paid by participating customers. **No taxes will be used to cover program expenses.**



Delegation Adoption of Community Power

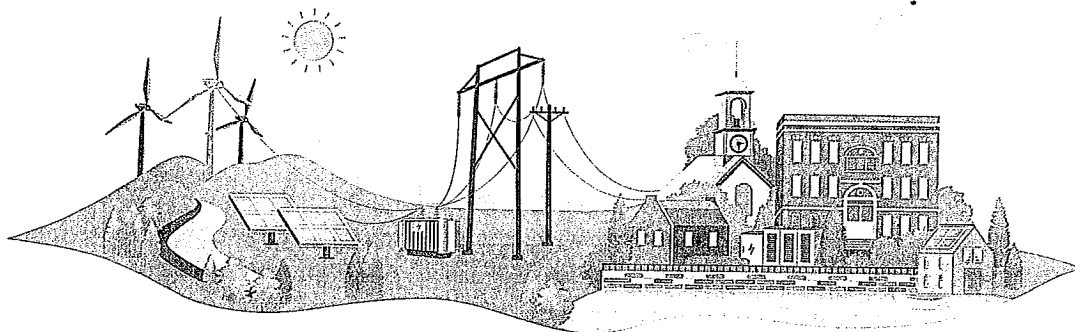
Action: Adoption of Merrimack County Community Power Electric Aggregation Plan

MOVED that the County Delegation hereby adopts the Merrimack County Community Power plan, and authorizes the Board of Commissioners to implement the Plan, and to take all action in furtherance thereof, pursuant to RSA 53-E.

Tax Impact: **None**



**COMMUNITY
POWER COALITION**
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
For communities, by communities.



Questions & Discussion

Henry.Herndon@CommunityPowerNH.gov | 781-439-2177
www.CPCNH.org | CommunityPowerNH.gov