

Meeting Minutes of the Hanover Select Board Special Meeting held in a Hybrid Format with both in person attendees in the First Floor Hearing Room of Hanover Town Hall as well as remote attendees via Zoom videoconference, on Monday, August 21, 2023 @ 12:00 Noon.

Call meeting to order and Pledge of Allegiance

At 12:00pm the Chair called the meeting to order.

Present at Town Hall, Vice Chair Rhonda Nyman. Present via Zoom, Chair Vanessa O'Connor, and Selectmen David Delaney, John Tuzik and Steve Louko.

Also present at Town Hall, Town Manager Joe Colangelo (TM), and via Zoom, Director of Public Affairs, Licensing and Insurances Janet Tierney (DPA) and Paul Gromer of Mass POWERChoice

Chair O'Connor led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

The Chair requested any Public Comments, noting there is a maximum of 3 minutes per person for Public Comments, seeing none.

Chair O'Connor informed all that as requested by Police Chief Kane, she has drafted a letter of support for Hanover Police Department's grant application to secure funding to support the implementation and costs related to a Virtual Reality (VR) training program. The Chair requested any questions or comments on the letter, and Selectman Delaney commented that he had read the letter and is in support of it. The Chair informed all that she has confirmed that there is no need for a vote on the letter, as she has authority as Chair to handle correspondences on behalf of the Board. The Chair informed all she will be sending the letter out today so that Chief Kane can submit it along with the grant application prior to the August 23rd deadline. The Chair thanked Chief Kane and the Police Department for pursuing these funding opportunities.

Municipal Electricity Aggregation

Select Board to Consider Whether to Include Additional Renewable Electricity in the Standard (default) Option Above Minimum State Requirements

The Chair provided a recap of the discussion and vote on this topic at the last Select Board Meeting. The Chair requested any additional discussion or a motion. Selectman Delaney encouraged the Board to do a good job of advertising and publicizing what the Board is doing with regards to the Municipal Aggregation Plan so that residents will be aware of their options. Selectman Tuzik echoed Selectman Delaney's comments and further noted that a resident had expressed concern regarding the .01 cent fee that had been approved to help pay for the cost to administer the program. He suggested that the details on exactly what that fee is for and why it is in place be advertised and publicized as well so that people will have a clear understanding of it. Vice Chair Nyman clarified for all those listening that the Board has to pick a program and informed all that once the Board picks a program, the residents have other options available to them as well. The Vice Chair asked Mr. Gromer to speak on this. Mr. Gromer spoke on options available to residents within as well as outside of the program, noting that the Town program would add options for the residents, and would not take any of the existing options away. Mr. Gromer also stated that residents can opt out of the program at any time with no fees involved. Vice Chair Nyman inquired about a

scenario where rates decrease and what effects if any would that have on the program. Mr. Gromer informed all that on average program prices have been lower than the alternatives. However, prices change every six months, sometimes the prices will be lower and some will be higher. Mr. Gromer further commented that while residents are free to leave at any time, for any reason, for instance the alternatives are cheaper, the experience with these programs has been that some leave however the great majority stick with the program and on average over time the Town's program is a good deal. Selectman Louko discussed his stance on the Municipal Aggregation program options and expressed his support of having the default option within the approved plan with no additional renewables above the state standard minimum while still offering the two additional options of having some additional renewables and also an option for residents to go 100% green. Selectman Louko commented that he was not comfortable with approving a default with some additional renewables which would sign people up for a higher rate without knowing or being guaranteed the exact percentage of renewables within that option, as opposed to the State's minimum requirement which is a set amount of renewables, currently 22%, which we know will be going up each year.

Selectman Louko made a motion to establish a 3-offering structure for our Municipal Aggregation Plan sticking with the current State standard as the default for residents to keep their bills consistent with what they have now, and also give them the option to add additional renewables, and also to go 100% renewable if they so choose. The motion was seconded by Selectman Delaney. Roll-Call vote: Selectman Louko aye, Selectman Tuzik aye, Selectman Delaney aye, Vice Chair Nyman aye, Chair O'Connor, nay.

The Chair stated that the motion passed with 4 aye votes and 1 nay vote. The Chair requested that Mr. Gromer move forward with the three-option structure, the default being with no additional renewables.

The Chair clarified that she is in support of the three-option structure, noting that the piece that she is objecting to is not having the default with some additional renewables. The Chair further commented that she is glad the Board was able to reach a consensus and give some direction.

The Chair directed Mr. Gromer to please take into consideration as he moves forward, the importance to the Board of educating people as clearly as possible as to what they are opting into for each of the options, and also what the fees they will be paying are for.

Adjourn

The meeting ended and adjourned at 12:17pm.