

TOWN OF JAFFREY
Jaffrey, New Hampshire
Community Power
Public Hearing Meeting Minutes
February 1, 2023

Selectmen: Kevin Chamberlain

Staff: Administrative Assistant Zola

Others: Emily Manns, Community Power Consultant/Standard Power, Bill Haden,
President/Standard Power

Residents: Richard Simberg, Sue Sturges, Elizabeth Webster, Margaret Dillon, Tory McCagg,
Heather Ames

A. Call to Order - 10:05 AM

- B. Public Hearing** - Public Hearing was opened by Selectman Chamberlain at 10:05am
Chamberlain explained the timeline of the Jaffrey Community Power Committee, starting in
Spring of 2022 and with the hope of being able to bring a plan to Town Meeting in March. They
have been meeting every Wednesday and drafted a plan with public input. Surveys were posted
online (Facebook and Town Website).

This is Public Hearing #1 of two required, #2 will be on February 13th.

Residents were asked to raise their hands to be called on and to identify themselves for minute
taking purposes.

Emily Manns from Standard Power began her slide presentation, which will be attached to these
minutes.

She gave an overview of the Jaffrey Community Power Committee, which is made up of 5
community members, who have worked with Standard Power for consulting services. They've
met weekly and have conducted a survey to get public input.

Community Power is when the municipality purchases the electricity supply for residents and
small business. The goal is cost savings and more renewable energy. Delivery, emergency
services and billing remain with the utility. Competitive pricing is available due to market
timing & buying power as a group. The default rate changes every 6 months, but with
community power you're not locked in. There are a number of programs to choose for
renewable energy options. Eversource default customers will be automatically enrolled into the
new default program, but will be able to opt-out if they choose. The basic plan will be the best
rate, but may not be the "greenest" choice. 61% of survey responses would like to see extra
renewable energy at the same rates, 18% want the lowest rate, while 77% would like to see
greener energy.

The Select Board will oversee the Community Power Program and will have the option to
change broker's coalition vs. the broker's model, they have decided to remain with a broker for a
2-year period to start.

There was some discussion regarding Net Metering customers, who will all be eligible to change. Electrical Assistance customers will be able to retain their full benefits. The timeline going forward would be:

- Continue getting public input to draft the Community Power Plan
- Secure local approval at March 2023 Town Meeting
- Going to the Public Utilities Commission for approval
- Outreach plan to educate the public
- Ongoing support after launching

The Community Power Committee was asked for their comments.

Margaret Dillon is comfortable with the proposed plan. The Broker Model is good for the first couple of years. There's flexibility over time, and goals can be refined as there is more participation. Bob Haden expressed that the Town should try to maintain and grow the committee.

Peter Davis was concerned about the opting-in & opting -out procedure. There will be a mailing to all residents with instructions how to reply in writing, online or via telephone with their choice.

Tory McCagg was concerned about getting the word out to those on the survey who didn't want renewables to let them know renewable is cheaper.

Sue Sturges stated it was great working with the team and was confident with the flexibility. Elizabeth Webster stated it was very exciting opportunity and offers more options for the long-term.

Margaret Dillon had asked about the BOS launching an Energy Committee. Selectman Chamberlain noted that Revision Energy will be working at the Transfer Station and the WWTP the end of 2023 with solar. He will mention it to the Board.

The next public hearing is at the February 13th Select Board meeting. The feedback will be taken back to the committee and the BOS will review and then onto Town Meeting as a warrant article.

The residents were asked to ask their neighbors to attend the next meeting to get the word out. Community Power information on the town website will be updated.

Selectman Chamberlain or Town Manager Frederick would be the contacts if there are any questions.

C. Adjournment -Public Hearing was closed by Selectman Chamberlain at 11:13am

Submitted:

Attest:

Judith A. Zola
Administrative Assistant

Kevin Chamberlain
Selectman

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