

Hillsboro Energy Commission Unapproved Minutes
January 26th, 2023; **Bolded items are things to-do**

Meeting opened at 6:01 PM. Attendance: Brett Cherrington, Chairman; Adam Charrette, Vice Chairman; Jon Daley, Secretary; Sue Durling; Guest Ryan Polson, Standard Power

Secretary's report:

Minutes from January 12th, motion to approve as amended by Sue, seconded by Adam; approved, Jon abstained.

Community Power and PUC updates

Ryan Polson representing Standard Power, Inc., gave a presentation about how they can be a consultant for us in helping us to get a community power project designed, approved and up and running. They have partnered with Good Energy, LLP, another consulting company who bring 10 years of experience to the table. Group purchase power matters, but there is a limit to how much discount one can get. He gave an example of Keene at 100MkWh, they don't have an advantage to combine with anyone else. Hillsboro (at an estimated 15MkWh to 24MkWh, it might be good to combine with a town or two). We would have an opt-out program, where a postcard will get mailed ~30 days ahead of time, giving each resident and business owner to choose which plan they want, or if they want to opt-out. The default rate will be the same or cheaper than the current utility, and then will have other rates, green mix of energy, etc. There will never be any early termination fees, and the rates will be set by the community power committee. One job of Standard Power is to educate the town's residents so they won't be surprised by the postcard, etc.

Towns and schools can now take advantage of the 30% rebate for a solar project through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

Net metering customers can participate in a community power plan. There is no cost to the town. Standard Power doesn't get paid until the program launches. SP gets paid \$.001/kWh.

The next steps are to appoint a Community Power Committee. SP would recommend to pick SP as our partner. They would guide us through the planning process, approved by the PUC and present it to the town in March 2024, and launch shortly after that if everything goes well. Standard Power is willing to do as little or as much as we want them to do.

Q. How does Standard Power compare to Community Power Coalition? The CPC wants to become a Load Serving Entity (LSE), a supplier, which has some additional risk compared to national grid suppliers. He said they both are aiming at the same goal – getting communities to join together for community power, but go at it from different directions. He also said that the CPC also doesn't publish their prices as transparently as SP does.

Sue recommends that we all watch the Derry video that she sent out earlier today. If you don't have time to watch the whole thing, she said at around the 0:54:00 and 1:15:00 timestamps are important. <https://vimeo.com/792725958?owner=113093128> Brett recommends playing at a faster rate to save time.

LED Street Lighting Project

Adam heard back from Laura today. The selectmen want to have a joint meeting with the highway safety committee and us to finalize a draft proposal before presenting it to the public. Brett will invite them to our next meeting, February 9th.

Weatherization Project

Jon has not heard back from Rich Burns from Shakes to Shingles. **He'll follow up with him.**

Annual Report

Jon has drafts from everyone so will work on that soon.

Commission Logo

Sue is still working on it.

Motion to adjourn at 7:55 PM by Sue, seconded by Adam. Unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Jon Daley