



**Town of Savoy
Massachusetts 01256**

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**SAVOY SELECT BOARD MEETING
SAVOY TOWN HALL
Tuesday, November 26, 2024 6:00pm**

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 6pm by Marie Saucier, seconded by Brenda Smith.

The minutes of the November 12th Tax Classification Hearing were approved by Marie Saucier, seconded by Brenda Smith.

The minutes of the November 12th select board meeting were approved by Marie Saucier, seconded by Brenda Smith.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

DEPARTMENT CHECK IN:

Town Tax Collector-Sheryl Guettler

- Brought up that the Tax/Title hasn't been done in three years and needs assistance with proper procedure protocol. Marie Saucier made a motion to allow Sheryl to speak with the Town Attorney regarding the proper procedure for issuing Tax/Title; seconded by Brenda Smith.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

GENERAL BUSINESS:

DPU-Colonial Power Group Zoom Meeting-Denise Allard & Mark Cappadona-representatives

- Timeline of what has transpired between the Town and Colonial Power Group was reviewed¹ along with plans of what the next steps are in the process².
- Colonial Power Group provides this service to the town at no cost, they are paid by suppliers. Colonial Power Group also is responsible for all necessary reporting thus alleviating the town of that burden.
- It was explained that being part of the aggregate allows the town to get quotes from alternative energy suppliers other than Eversource.

- It may be possible for the Town to sync with a larger aggregate for even better pricing. Each town within the aggregate would be able to choose its energy supplier. The aggregate would be just for the electricity supply, not the delivery of electricity. All maintenance of the power lines would still be the responsibility of Eversource.
- It was explained that Massachusetts requires 63% of the electricity supply come from renewable sources, which is the least amount allowed by the state.
- Town residents would automatically be enrolled in the aggregate and have the option to opt out. This applies to homes with solar power also.
- The next step for the Colonial Power Group is to get indicative pricing (informational) for the town; and have executional pricing by mid-December which will allow for a March start.

Update-Town Treasurer

- The Town Treasurer gave updates on several items in question by the select board.

Spectrum Internet Provider

- The Town Accountant is having connectivity issues with the current internet provider for the Town Hall, GoNetSpeed.
- It was suggested by MadMac's, the town internet security company, that changing internet providers to Spectrum would alleviate this issue.
- The Town Accountant stated that starting in January all the information she needs will be cloud-based therefore negating the need to switch internet providers.
- The select board made the decision to wait on switching internet providers at this time.

DER Grant Update

- Select Board member Marie Saucier has had several meetings regarding the culvert replacement on Old Main Rd #4. At this time the town is unable to get bids that encompass the entirety of the work needed to be done within the dollar amount of the grant.
- The closest bid was \$6,300³ over the amount of the grant. Marie will consider asking the company to adjust their total on the invoice \$6,300 less to stay within the grant money allotment and seek the \$6,300 from other sources.
- Brenda Smith made the motion to allow Marie to pursue; Marie seconded.

Berkshire Public Health Alliance-Fee Schedule for Online Permitting

- The fee schedule for online permitting was reviewed by the select board and approved.

CORRESPONDENCE:

SELECTBOARD ITEMS:

- A motion to sign a letter of support regarding equitable reimbursement for out-of-town vocational transportation was made by Marie Saucer; seconded by Brenda Smith. The letter will be emailed to the governor and other state authorities.
- Marie Saucier attended a Federal Funding Meeting. There is a \$12,000,000 federal fund matching program available, meaning if the town applies for a federal grant this

program will match the amount of the grant. Marie will be looking at possible federal grants the town could utilize.

- The ARPA grant accounts have been reconciled.

WARRANT SIGNING:

ADJOURN MEETING: 6:55pm-motion to adjourn the meeting by Brenda Smith; seconded by Marie Saucier

APPROVAL DATE: 12/10/2024

Justin Kaczowski, Chair


Marie Saucier


Brenda Smith

¹ Attachment

² Attachment

³ Amount corrected to \$6,300 after the meeting



Town of Savoy Municipal Aggregation Approval Timeline - "Where We've Been"

- Town Meeting (***March 18, 2015***)
 - Approved Article 1 by which the Town declared its intent to become an aggregator of electricity
- Consultant Agreement (***March 28, 2023***)
 - Signed a consultant agreement with CPG
- Public Review & Comment Period (***June 21 - July 22, 2023***)
 - Posted the Aggregation Plan for public review and comment
- Aggregation Plan Approved (***August 8, 2023***)
 - Select Board voted to approve the Aggregation Plan
- DOER Consultation (***January 31, 2024***)
 - Conducted a meeting with the Town, CPG, and the DOER to review the processes, consequences, and outcomes of municipal aggregation
- DPU Submission & Order
 - Filed the Town's Petition with the DPU seeking approval of its Aggregation Plan (***May 21, 2024***)
 - Conducted required public hearing (***July 24, 2024***)
 - Town re-filed Aggregation Plan consistent with new finalized municipal aggregation guidelines (***August 23, 2024***)
 - DPU approved the Aggregation Plan, which allows the Town to go out in the competitive marketplace and solicit pricing for its residents (***November 5, 2024***)

NOTE: Basic Service rates change twice a year or more, depending on rate class. As a result, the aggregation rate may not always be lower than the Basic Service rate. The goal of the aggregation is to deliver savings over the life of the Program against Eversource Basic Service. However, future savings cannot be guaranteed.



Town of Savoy Municipal Aggregation Procurement & Outreach – “Where We’re Going”

- Supply Bidding
 - RFP developed and distributed by CPG (*TBD*)
 - CPG provides Town with indicative/executable pricing for program launch (*March 2025 meter read start?*)
 - Bids received and reviewed with Town (*TBD*)
 - Town chooses supplier, or rejects bids (*by 2:30 PM*)
- Public Information/Customer Notification
 - Statutory customer notification letters sent by supplier to all Basic Service accounts (*30 day opt-out period*)
 - Informational postcard mailed to accounts on third-party supply
 - CPG provided press release issued upon Town approval
 - Informational meetings
 - Local cable programs, if any
 - Social media content, if applicable, provided by CPG
- Implementation
 - CPG manages opt-out process and all public requests for information and questions
- Ongoing Service
 - CPG manages future opt-outs and opt-ins
 - CPG files required reports
 - CPG manages ongoing requests for information
 - CPG conducts regular meetings with Town as required/
requested

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