



TOWN COUNCIL – AGENDA REQUEST FORM

THIS FORM WILL BECOME PART OF THE BACKGROUND INFORMATION USED BY THE COUNCIL AND PUBLIC

Please submit Agenda Request Form, **including back up information**, 8 days prior to the requested meeting date. **Public Hearing requests must be submitted 20 days prior to requested meeting date to meet publication deadlines** (exceptions may be authorized by the Town Manager, Chairman/Vice Chair).

MEETING INFORMATION

Date Submitted: February 1, 2024
Submitted by: Town Manager Paul T. Micali
Department: General Government

Date of Meeting: February 15, 2024

Time Required: 15 minutes

Speakers:

Background Info. Supplied: Yes: No:

CATEGORY OF BUSINESS (PLEASE PLACE AN "X" IN THE APPROPRIATE BOX)

Appointment:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recognition/Resignation/Retirement:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public Hearing:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Old Business:	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Business:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Consent Agenda:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nonpublic:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>

TITLE OF ITEM

Public Hearing – Town of Merrimack Community Choice Aggregation Plan

DESCRIPTION OF ITEM

The Town Council will hold a public hearing to present information and receive comments about the proposed Town of Merrimack Community Choice Aggregation Plan prepared by the Community Choice Aggregation Committee (CCAC). At the hearings, the Town’s energy consultant, Colonial Power Group, and members of the Committee will present the planned program, answer questions, and take public comments.

REFERENCE (IF KNOWN)

RSA:	Warrant Article:	_____
Charter Article:	Town Meeting:	_____
Other:	N/A	

EQUIPMENT REQUIRED (PLEASE PLACE AN "X" IN THE APPROPRIATE BOX)

Projector:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grant Requirements:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Easel:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Joint Meeting:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Special Seating:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Laptop:	<input type="checkbox"/>	None:	<input type="checkbox"/>

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name:	<u>Paul T. Micali</u>	Address	<u>6 Baboosic Lake Road</u>
Phone Number	<u>603-424-2331</u>	Email Address	<u>pmicali@merrimacknh.gov</u>

APPROVAL



LEGAL NOTICE
Town of Merrimack
Public Hearing



Residents of Merrimack are hereby advised that the Town Council will hold a public hearing to present information and receive comments about the proposed Town of Merrimack Community Choice Aggregation Plan prepared by the Community Choice Aggregation Committee (CCAC). At these hearings, the Town's energy consultant, Colonial Power Group, and members of the Committee will present the planned program, answer questions, and take public comments. Copies of the Draft Plan will be available for review at the Town of Merrimack's website prior to the hearings. The public hearing will be held on **Thursday, February 15, 2024 at 7:00 PM** in the Matthew Thornton Room located at 8 Baboosic Lake Road in Merrimack.

For Town of Merrimack Use:

Posted: February 7, 2024

To be published: February 7, 2024 (*Union Leader*)



Merrimack

Community Choice Aggregation Program

Public Hearings

February 8, 2024

and

February 15, 2024



What is a Community Choice Aggregation Program?

- A CCA Program is an optional buying group organized by a municipality to benefit electric consumers in the community.
- The Program enters into electricity supply contracts for all “Eligible Consumers”
- Eligible Consumers are residential and business consumers currently receiving default service from their utility (Eversource).
- Eligible Consumers are automatically enrolled, unless they opt-out.
- Consumers currently under contract directly with third-party suppliers will not be enrolled in the program. Option to opt-in later, if they wish.



Benefits of Community Choice Aggregation

- > **Choice:** No longer “stuck” with electric utility default rates
- > **Local Control:** Operate program based on community priorities and preferences
- > **Leverage:** Community buying power; larger buying group attracts robust participation from leading suppliers
- > **Product Options:**
 - Define a standard product
 - Offer one or more other opt-in products, e.g., greater renewable power content
- > **Price Stability:** Ability to secure long-term rates and avoid market price volatility
- > **Self-funded:**
 - Program offerings may change over time as new market opportunities develop
- > **Optional:**
 - No burden on municipal staff or local budgets
 - Opt-out anytime without penalty
 - No costs imposed on non-participating consumers
- > **Public Oversight:** Electricity supplier and consultant accountable to town officials
- Program administration outsourced to town consultant



CCA Overcomes Shortcomings of Electric Market Choice

- > **Predatory Business Practices:** Specific targeting of vulnerable consumer segments and customer inattention.
- > **Predatory Contract Terms:** Beneficial rate at start converts to a much higher 'market-based' rate after initial term expires.
- > **Limited Purchasing Power:** Difficult to profitably serve individual residential consumers absent imposing outsized margins.
- > **Presents an Additional Market Option:** Program will not interfere with consumers who prefer to shop for themselves.



Important Elements

- **Choice** – Consumers may:
 - opt-out of the Program and continue receiving supply from utility
 - leave subsequent to launch without penalty
 - opt into the Program after initial launch
- **Who keeps my lights on?** – Utility will continue to be responsible for maintaining service to your home; if you lose power, you still contact your utility
- **Billing** – You will continue to receive a single bill from your utility; the only change is a separate line item for Program supply replacing utility default service
- **Customer Service – who do I contact?**
 - **Utility:** power outage, metering, billing, payments, start/stop service
 - **Program consultant:** issues regarding opting in or opting out
- **Utility Services** – Utility services unaffected (budget billing, electronic payment, payment arrangements, energy assistance, energy efficiency programs)
- **Are Savings Guaranteed?** - The goal is to deliver savings over the life of the Program compared to utility default service. However, such savings and future savings cannot be guaranteed



Net Metered Consumers

- > Net metered consumers may participate in the Program on an **opt-in basis**
- > Net metered consumers may be unable to benefit by enrolling in the program
 - **Consider opt-in:** if kWh consumption consistently > kWh generation
 - **Don't opt-in:** if kWh generation > kWh consumption
- > Currently active discussions amongst regulators, utilities, and aggregation advocates to try to facilitate participation for net metered consumers (work-in-progress).

Staying Informed

- > Dedicated Program website:
 - Program details and reference material;
 - Customer service number
- > Town website and social media
- > Community meetings



Plan Development and Approval Process

- Town Council votes to form an Electric Aggregation Committee (“EAC”) (Nov 2023)
- Town engages with Freedom Energy Logistics (“FEL”) who, in coordination with Colonial Power Group (“CPG”), will assist with all aspects of CCA planning, regulatory compliance, and program operations (Nov 2023)
- **EAC prepares CCA Program Plan (“Plan”)** in coordination with FEL/CPG and in accordance with state statute and rules of the Public Utilities Commission (“PUC”) (Jan 2024)
- **EAC holds two public hearings to receive comments on Plan** (Feb 2024)
- Town Council approves Plan and warrant article (Feb 2024)
- **Residents vote on whether to adopt Plan at Town Meeting** (Mar 2024)
- If passed at Town Meeting, Plan filed with PUC for review & approval (Mar/Apr 2024)
- PUC approves Plan (May/June 2024)
- Program launch (Q3 2024, or later if market conditions warrant)



Program Launch and Implementation

- Program will not commence unless and until it can offer initial rates below utility default service rates
- Town signs electric services agreement with supplier selected in competitive bid process
- Town/CPG mails notifications to all Eligible Consumers at least 30 days prior to program launch.
- Town/CPG holds public information sessions prior to launch
- Consumers that have not opted-out are enrolled in the Program
- CPG manages the transition and on-going Program administration



Questions?