



SELECTBOARD AGENDA & MEETING NOTICE

March 30, 2020

Location: Teleconference - access info in the agenda

***Indicates item added after the 48 hour posting

bold underlined time = invited guest or advertised hearing
(all other times are approximate)

This meeting is being conducted remotely by all participants due to the State of Emergency related to COVID-19 and under the “Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting, G.L. c. 30A, §20” issued by Governor Baker on 3/12/20. FreeConferenceCall.com is being utilized for the teleconference. It is audio only. Anyone wishing to participate may call 712-775-7031 and then enter the Access Code of 883-045-865. The toll-free number is 844-800-5000 – the Town is charged by the minute per caller, so please use this only when necessary.

5:30 PM Call to Order (If the meeting is being videotaped, announce that fact. If remote participation will occur, announce member & reason, & need for roll call voting)

COVID-19 Topics

- State of Emergency remains in place
- Weekly conference call among Gill’s Emergency Management Team members
- CodeRED used to alert residents on 3/19
- Request from Police Chief to add temporary full-time officer for additional coverage & redundancy during COVID-19 epidemic
- FEMA Public Assistance

Old Business

- Riverside Sewer Pump Station - wet well cleanout quotes being sought, operationally no worse than it was 2 weeks ago

New Business

- Reappointment – Judd Greenstein to Cultural Council for term of 4/3/20 – 4/3/23
- Renew Field Leases for 2020 – Boyle Lot \$130, Mariamante \$175, both to Joe Williams
- Other business as may arise after the agenda has been posted.
 - Municipal Aggregation of Electricity – Colonial Power conference call summary
- Public Service Announcements, if any

Warrants: FY20 # 21 – to be reviewed & signed by the Chair and reported on at the next meeting

Adjournment

Other Invitations/Meetings:

Date	Time	Event	Location
4/13	5:30 PM	Selectboard meeting	TBD
4/27	5:30 PM	Selectboard meeting	TBD
5/11	5:30 PM	Selectboard meeting	TBD

Ray Purrington/Gill Selectboard

From: Chief Redmond <chief@gillmass.org>
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2020 4:13 PM
To: Ray Purrington; Randy Crochier; John Ward; Greg Snedeker
Subject: Staffing

Greeting Honorable Board and Administrator,

In light of current world events, I am requesting supplementing our staffing with a temporary emergency employee position. Currently we are not experiencing a great demand due to the COVID-19 pandemic in town. However as this situation is rapidly evolving I feel it to be prudent to add to our staffing level while this situation unfolds. As you know, Sgt. Bassett and myself are the only full time police officers for the town. I am seeking to supplement that with a third full time position until this incident resolves. At this time I feel some redundancy is needed in case either of us become incapacitated due to illness or exhaustion. We are already experiencing some staffing issues with the majority of our part time officers being utilized more frequently with their full time employer. Using part time staff that has other full time public safety positions has served us very well, until a situation like this arises.

Luckily we have Mitch Waldron. He has already been appointed by the town as a special officer and fire department officer. While Mitch's field training hasn't been completed due to his prior full time job commitments, I'd like to take this limited "down" time, to get him up to speed as fast as we can while still maintaining social distancing, and get him trained to the best of our abilities. I feel that putting him on a forty hour work week will help when the situation arises.

My concerns during these times are not only the increase of medical emergencies, but also an increase in suicidal thoughts, despair and financial uncertainty many in our community face. In addition, while shelter in place type orders reduce traffic and other normal calls for service, they also present us with households that have high stress environments being in close contact for a long period of time, possibly escalating domestic violence situations. While normally we would rely on mutual aid, those resources will become unavailable as things escalate. My utmost concern is for the residents of our community and our staff's safety. Adding an extra hand will help us facilitate that.

My suggestion would be to place Mitch on Grade four Step A, until we can assure that things are getting back to normal. He has agreed to come on board and help out with extra hours, knowing this to be a temporary position.

Checking the town policy, it appears a department head can hire an emergency employee full time for up to two weeks, and then the Select Board will need to authorize further time. Of course, this will be an unexpected expense in the budget, but hopefully could be covered by cost incurred during a state of emergency.

Any questions, Please ask. Please stay safe during these trying times.

Thanks,
Chris

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www.facebook.com/gillpolice *"Like" us on Facebook*



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Ray Purington/Gill Selectboard

From: Ray Purington/Gill Selectboard <administrator@gillmass.org>
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020 2:38 PM
To: 'Greg Snedeker (gksnedeker@gmail.com)'; 'John R Ward (johnrward.ward54@gmail.com)'; 'Randy Crochier (hxydad77@yahoo.com)'
Cc: Claire Chang (claire@solarstoreofgreenfield.com)
Subject: FW: Franklin County Municipal Aggregation - Proposed RFP Schedule [RESPONSE REQUIRED BY APRIL 15]
Attachments: FRCOG Participation Sheet 3.26.20.docx
Importance: High

This is a summary of the conference call from Thursday, March 26th that discussed the municipal electricity aggregation program for Gill and 12 other towns. Claire, Vicky, and Janet participated in the call for Gill. Claire has offered to call in to tonight's SB meeting to go over the info. Given the time-sensitive nature of the topic, I think it makes sense to include this tonight under "Other business."

The summary outlines the next steps for the program and includes an April 15th deadline for each town to provide feedback on the proposed process. By having the initial discussion tonight, we can develop questions and get answers in time for your April 13th meeting and still meet the April 15th deadline. Any necessary votes and authorizations can happen on April 15th.

I will add this email to the Agenda PDF file that's on the website, so teleconference participants will have access to the info.

Ray

From: Denise Allard [mailto:denise@colonialpowergroup.com]
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020 12:50 PM
To: administrator@gillmass.org;
Cc: Mark Cappadona <Mark@colonialpowergroup.com>; Stuart Ormsbee <sormsbee@colonialpowergroup.com>; Bob Dean <BDean@frcog.org>
Subject: Franklin County Municipal Aggregation - Proposed RFP Schedule [RESPONSE REQUIRED BY APRIL 15]

Good afternoon –

This email is being sent to the Towns of Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Conway, Deerfield, Gill, Huntington, New Salem, Northfield, Shelburne, Sunderland, Warwick and Whately.

We want to thank everyone for joining and participating in last Thursday night's conference call especially given the importance of everything else that's currently going on (see attached).

On the conference call, we discussed the following with the group...

1. DPU Order & Compliance Filing
2. Indicative Pricing
3. RFP Timing for Program Launch
4. Supply Term & Product Selections
5. Program Launch

In an effort to provide a summary of what was discussed for those who were unable to join, Colonial was asked to include the key takeaways in an email so each Town could review the action items with the appropriate parties (i.e. Select Board, Energy Committee, etc).

DPU Order & Compliance Filing

As everyone already knows, on February 7, the DPU issued a joint Order for all 13 towns plus the Town of Becket, which approved the towns’ Petitions for municipal aggregation.

The DPU Order required that the towns submit what’s called a “compliance filing”, first for the Town of Becket within 21 days of receipt of the Order and then for the other towns, once approved. Compliance filings are simply a mechanism the DPU uses to bring all documents in-line with current directives. The Town of Becket’s compliance filing was stamp approved by the DPU on March 23. Subsequently, compliance filings for the other 13 towns were submitted to the DPU on March 26/27.

We don’t anticipate any issues given the proposed document revisions were already found to be acceptable by the DPU for the Town of Becket.

Indicative Pricing

As mentioned on the conference call, we’re at all-time lows in the natural gas market. Many of our other communities have been in the marketplace in the past few weeks and we’ve seen some really favorable longer-term pricing being offered.

That being said, we asked one of the suppliers to provide us with indicative pricing (for informational purposes only) for the whole group for an August 2020 start (please see below). This pricing is for a “meets RPS” product.

Meets MA Renewable Portfolio Standards* [28% renewable component for 2020]				
Opportunity Name	Term (Months)	Start Term	End Term	Price KWH
FRCOG (13 towns)	6	August 2020	February 2021	0.09142
FRCOG (13 towns)	12	August 2020	August 2021	0.09110
FRCOG (13 towns)	18	August 2020	February 2022	0.09189
FRCOG (13 towns)	24	August 2020	August 2022	0.09186
FRCOG (13 towns)	30	August 2020	February 2023	0.09250
FRCOG (13 towns)	36	August 2020	August 2023	0.09218

Compliance Year	*MA RPS + APS* [=A+B]	MA Class I RECs [A]	Other [B]
2019	24.94%	14%	10.94%
2020	27.71%	16%	11.71%
2021	TBD	18%	TBD
2022	TBD	20%	TBD
2023	TBD	22%	TBD

RFP Timing for Program Launch

Based on the indicative pricing provided above, Colonial would like to issue an RFP for all 13 towns together for an **August 2020 meter read start**.

We recognize the importance of launching each Town’s program under the then-current Basic Service rate so there are some things to consider in terms of timing and the terms for which we request pricing.

Of the 13 towns, 3 are served by National Grid (Charlemont, New Salem, Warwick) and 10 are served by Eversource (Buckland, Colrain, Conway, Deerfield, Gill, Huntington, Northfield, Shelburne, Sunderland and Whately).

National Grid's proposed summer Basic Service rates are already known. They're effective May 1, 2020 – October 31, 2020. The Residential Basic Service rate will be \$0.09911 (if approved by the DPU).

Eversource goes out to bid on May 5 for their summer Basic Service rates. We should know what those rates are by May 12. They're effective July 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020.

As an FYI only, National Grid's current winter Residential Basic Service rate is \$0.13957 (effective November 1, 2019 – April 30, 2020) and Eversource's is \$0.11666 (effective January 1, 2020 – June 30, 2020).

Consequently, we're proposing the following schedule:

Wed, April 29 -- Issue RFP to Suppliers

Wed, May 13 -- Indicative Pricing Due (for informational purposes only)

Wed, May 20 -- Executable Pricing Due (signatures required from each Town by 3:30 PM)

We'd set up calls for both May 13 and May 20 (likely around 1:30 or 2 PM) to review/discuss the pricing received with the group. No action will be required by the towns on April 29 or May 13.

However, on May 20, we'll need to ensure that each Town has a signatory who is both available and authorized to sign a contract by 3:30 PM that afternoon.

Supply Term & Product Selections

As I mentioned in the previous section, we'd like to issue an RFP for all 13 towns together for an **August 2020 meter read start**.

In an effort to launch each program with an aggregation rate that is as favorable as possible against the then-current National Grid/Eversource Residential Basic Service rate, we'd ask the suppliers to submit "split-term" pricing as follows:

1. 5 months (Aug 2020 – Jan 2021) + 6 months (Jan 2021 – Jul 2021)
2. 5 months (Aug 2020 – Jan 2021) + 12 months (Jan 2021 – Jan 2022)
3. 5 months (Aug 2020 – Jan 2021) + 18 months (Jan 2021 – Jul 2022)
4. 5 months (Aug 2020 – Jan 2021) + 24 months (Jan 2021 – Jan 2023)
5. 5 months (Aug 2020 – Jan 2021) + 30 months (Jan 2021 – Jul 2023)
6. 5 months (Aug 2020 – Jan 2021) + 36 months (Jan 2021 – Jan 2024)

This will result in a lower aggregation rate for the first 5 months followed by a slight "step up" in January 2021 for the remaining term of the program. This is the best approach when launching an aggregation in the summer if the towns are looking to secure long-term, stable pricing.

We'll be asking the suppliers to price the following products:

1. Meets Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS)
2. 100% National Wind RECs – 100% Green Product
3. RPS + 5% MA Class I RECs
4. RPS + 25% MA Class I RECs
5. RPS + 50% MA Class I RECs
6. 100% MA Class I RECs

On May 20, each Town would select both their standard product and optional product(s) from the list above. The group would need to select one supplier and one term but the pricing may vary based on each Town's product selections.

Also, we realize that the indicative pricing we provided last Thursday (found above) was only "meets RPS". On the call, we mentioned that we took several of our Berkshire towns out to RFP roughly 2 weeks ago. Although that group's

pricing is slightly different than what we're seeing for this group (different load profile and start date) we wanted to share with you the low supplier's pricing for the various products requested. This should be helpful as it allows you to see the "step up" in pricing as you increase the renewable content, whether National Wind or MA Class I RECs. Please see below (all pricing is for a 36-month term).

Meets RPS [28% for 2020, includes Class I and Class II]	0.09255
100% National Wind RECs - 100% Green Product	0.09350
RPS + 5% MA Class I RECs [16% + 5% = 21% for 2020]	0.09433
RPS + 25% MA Class I RECs [16% + 25% = 41% for 2020]	0.10143
RPS + 50% MA Class I RECs [16% + 50% = 66% for 2020]	0.11031
100% MA Class I RECs	0.12808

If you want to see pricing for something else or for different percentages of MA Class I RECs, please let us know and we'll update the RFP accordingly. We'd like to keep it to 4 selections for MA Class I REC's (or whatever else you choose) otherwise pricing for the suppliers becomes cumbersome. One of the reasons we're recommending the "split pricing" scenario (Aug-Jan, then Jan-forward) is so we can get the Aug-Jan pricing as low as possible, which will enable the towns to increase the renewable content offered in their standard product at program launch (if desired).

Also, please keep in mind that we'll be able to make adjustments between the indicative pricing round and the executable pricing round. If, once we see indicative pricing, it makes more sense for the group to see pricing on RPS + 10% MA Class I RECs as opposed to RPS + 25% MA Class I RECs, then we can do that. Our recommendation would be for each Town to have a general idea in terms of what it would like to offer for both standard and optional products but allow room for adjustment once we see the indicative pricing.

Program Launch

Lastly, and we'll certainly touch more on this as we move forward but, in terms of an August 2020 meter read start, what does that mean?

In mid-June, the DPU-required consumer notification mailing will be sent to anyone on Basic Service (and only to those on Basic Service). The mailing will be prepared by Colonial and sent by the supplier.

The month of July will be the 30-day opt-out period for anyone on Basic Service who doesn't want to be automatically enrolled. We'd also recommend that information sessions be held at the beginning of July to coincide with receipt of the mailing.

Then, in August, anyone who hasn't opted-out (or anyone on third-party supply who has elected to join the aggregation) will be enrolled on their meter read date.

Again, we'll certainly go into more detail on this once we have an agreed upon schedule but we wanted to provide some high-level information about program launch for planning purposes.

Action Items

At this point, Colonial is only asking for each Town to review what's outlined above and confirm that it's amenable to both the schedule and approach **by close of business on Wednesday, April 15.**

As a reminder...

1. On May 13, the indicative pricing is for informational purposes only. No action is required by the Towns on that day (although we will have a pricing review call).
2. **On May 20, the executable pricing is actionable. A signatory for each Town will need to be available and authorized to sign a contract by 3:30 PM that day should pricing be favorable.**

3. With respect to the products we're asking the suppliers to price – depending on how pricing comes back on May 13, we'll be able to adjust the % of additional MA Class I RECs up or down, as needed.

We recognize that there's a lot here so please let us know if you need further clarification on anything. As mentioned on the call, if you think it would be helpful, we're happy to schedule a call with your Town, individually, to answer questions or address concerns. We're also willing to call into a Select Board meeting, if that would make more sense.

Thank you and stay safe,
Denise

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