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## +Local Energy Committee Minutes September 30, 2025

6 – 7:30 PM, Windham Fire Department & Teams

Meeting called to order by Chairman Mark Kovacs @ 6:03PM.

Attendees: Allen Reed, Pat Manzo, Mark Kovacs from LEC and Mr. Bart Fromuth from Freedom Energy Logistics in the Conference Room; John Gage via TEAMS.

### 1. Old Business

- a. Minutes for August 19, 2025 LEC meeting approved by a vote (4-0)
- b. Update on Community Power Plan implementation (A. Reed)

Allen had invited Mr. Bart Fromuth from Freedom Energy Logistics (FEL) to present his company's approach for launching Community Aggregation programs. Mr. Fromuth provided a brief personal introduction stating that he has been in the energy supply business for approximately 2 decades, has worked with the NH PUC on energy supply issues and, as a NH representative, worked to pass the legislation that authorized NH Community Aggregation programs. He also presented several charts highlighting his company's involvement in developing Community Aggregation Plans for more than 100 communities in the Northeast and, specifically, for a dozen NH cities/towns.

He was quite clear in pointing out the launching these programs has been difficult in the past year because of PUC decisions which allowed some NH Default Suppliers to charge rates below those available from Competitive Suppliers. He said that only 2 of the 12 NH communities referenced above have actually "launched" their programs. Makeup of this "undercharging" is likely to contribute to higher electric rates in the next one or two six-month pricing periods. He expected electric rates in the longer term to increase for several reasons: New England's heavy dependence on natural gas which is increasingly being converted to LNG for shipment abroad, the limited availability of natural gas pipelines to bring new natural gas supplies to New England, and some increased demand from AI data processing centers.



Mr. Fromuth pointed out that the NH PUC - with a new Chair - is likely to boost rates to compensate for the “undercharging” which could lead to Competitive Supplier rates being lower than the NH-approved Default Supplier rates. This could generate a reasonable “launch” window in next 6 to 12 months.

FEL adds a fee of \$0.001/KWH to the base rate charged by a Competitive Supplier - similar to the rate added by Windham’s current consultant. FEL requires a 5-year contract which, if terminated prematurely, specifies that the Town would be liable for the fee if the Town launched its Plan with another consultant. Mr. Fromuth did indicate that this issue may be negotiable since Windham has already completed a Plan and would require considerably less effort from FEL. Mr. Fromuth agreed to send the LEC a copy of their contract.

c. Status of CIP request for solar systems for Windham’s Police and Fire Departments – Pat Manzo

Pat reported that he presented the CIP with two requests for roof-top solar systems on the Police and Fire Departments. The presentation was well received, but Chief Caron raised the issue of possible solar system-generated electromagnetic interference jeopardizing his communications system as had occurred in Lebanon, NH. The CIP Committee requested assurance from the LEC that this would not be an issue. Pat and Mark agreed to provide a report to the CIP addressing this matter.

They have since found, at least, 5 roof-top solar systems on NH public safety buildings (Police and Fire) operating with no impact on public safety communications; there are, at least 6 such systems operating in Massachusetts. Pat and Mark contacted public works directors and fire personnel of these 5 facilities to confirm no disruption of public safety communications. The former city manager of Lebanon, NH (now city manager in Londonderry) confirmed the prior problem in Lebanon and its successful resolution. He commented that there have been no communication issues since the system was re-installed in 2023 and that Lebanon is moving forward with another roof-top solar installation for its Fire Department. They also contacted two communication equipment suppliers/consultants who were familiar with the Lebanon, NH problem and its eventual resolution; these consultants provided considerable technical information describing the cause and resolution of this problem. Pat and Mark are recommending that any contract for a roof-



mounted solar system require that the vendor be solely responsible for seeing no interference is generated; they obtained specific language used by Hanover, NH in the procurement of its roof-mounted solar systems on its Fire Department. In addition, they will advise the CIP that discussion of this issue between the potential supplier and the Town's RF communications supplier/consultant (Two-Way Communications of Portsmouth, NH) is critical. Pat and Mark expect to provide this report to the CIP by October 5 well in advance of the CIP's ranking exercise on October 14.

2. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned by a vote of 3-0 at 7:04 PM