

**ALEXANDRIA TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE WORKSHOP MEETING
MINUTES
June 26, 2019**

This meeting was advertised in the Hunterdon County Democrat, and notice posted in the
the
Alexandria Township Municipal Offices and the Alexandria Township Website,
(www.alexandrianj.gov) as required by the Open Public Meetings Act.

Meeting Called to order at 6:03 PM.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Mayor Garay, Committeeman Pfefferle, Committeeman Kiernan, Township Attorney Dragan

ABSENT: None

WORKSHOP DISCUSSIONS:

- Ordinance 2019-006 Establishing a Residential Government Electric Energy Aggregation Program- **2nd Reading**

Comm. Pfefferle made a motion, seconded by Comm. Kiernan to open public comment for Ordinance 2019-006.

Roll Call: Aye: Garay, Pfefferle, Kiernan

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried

A representative from Concord Energy was present and noted that the co-op name of Delaware River Regional Renewable Energy Cooperative maybe changed and Hopewell Township may not be the lead Township. The Township Committee will need to table the Ordinance due to a lack of information. The Township Committee would like to explore other energy renewable companies as well as to their programs that can be offered to residents. The Township website was updated with energy programs that are available currently to residents if they wish to look into them on their own. Comm. Pfefferle made a motion, seconded by Comm. Kiernan to close public comment for Ordinance 2019-006.

Roll Call: Aye: Garay, Pfefferle, Kiernan

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried

Comm. Kiernan made a motion, seconded by Comm. Pfefferle to adopt Ordinance 2019-006.

Roll Call: Aye: None

Nay: Garay, Pfefferle, Kiernan

Abstain: None

Motion Carried

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ALEXANDRIA, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY ESTABLISHING A RESIDENTIAL GOVERNMENT ELECTRIC ENERGY AGGREGATION PROGRAM

Ordinance # 2019-006

WHEREAS, pursuant to legislation enacted at N.J.S.A. 48:93.1 et seq. and administrative rules established at N.J.A.C. 14:4-6.1 et seq. the State of New Jersey authorized the creation of a government aggregator and energy program ("Program") for the purchase of electric generation services in order to encourage a competitive market place by deregulating and restructuring the electric utility market in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the stated goals of the aforementioned legislation include increasing competition for the provision of electric power to residential and non-residential users so as to increase the likelihood of lowering electric rates for these users without causing interruption in service and, further, to provide for greater opportunities for purchasing power through renewable energy sources; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Alexandria ("Township") is interested in ensuring that a greater percentage of its electrical power supply comes from renewable energy sources, as opposed to fossil fuels, and therefore seeks to participate in a Program that includes provisions for the inclusion of renewable energy in its proposals for energy aggregation services; and

WHEREAS, the Township believes that purchasing renewable energy under the aggregation process will create a better opportunity for both reducing the dependence on fossil fuels and reducing the electric bills of residential ratepayers in the Township and;

WHEREAS, the Township hereby finds that it is in the interests of the health, safety and welfare of the residential ratepayers in the Township to create an opportunity for them to enter into an aggregation agreement in order to seek substantial savings on electric rates.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Alexandria, in the County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey as follows:

SECTION 1. The preambles recited above are made part of this Ordinance as if fully set forth above,

SECTION 2. Pursuant to the Government Energy Act of 2003, N.J.S.A. 48-3-91.3 to 98 and its implementing regulations, the Township publicly declares its intent to become an

aggregator of electric power on behalf of its residential users of electricity and to commence a Government Energy Aggregation Program ("GEA Program").

SECTION 3. The Township shall accomplish establishment of the GEA Program by participating as a member of a government electrical energy aggregation cooperative, specifically, the Delaware River Regional Renewable Energy Cooperative ("DRREC"), for which the Township of Hopewell in Mercer County, has been designated as the "Lead Agency" responsible for preparing specifications for bid/auction and accepting and rejecting pricing for the provision of electricity generation supply for residential customers from renewable energy sources, on behalf of the DRREC and its members in accordance with the provisions of the NJ Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.), and all other applicable laws.

SECTION 4. As a participating member of the DRREC, the Township hereby authorizes and appoints as its energy agent, the DRREC's designated vendors Commercial Utility Consultants, Inc. and its subcontractor Concord Engineering Group dba Concord Energy Services (hereinafter "Energy Agents") who have been approved by the State as such pursuant to the NJ E-PROCUREMENT Pilot Program (P.L. 2001, c. 30) under the NJ Department of Community Affairs. The Energy Agents shall assist and administer the GEA program at no cost to the Township, the DRREC or its participating members. As part of their services, the Energy Agents shall seek bids via on-line auction from licensed and appropriate third-party suppliers. Should a winning bid which provides a savings on the supply portion of the electric bill for the residential energy aggregation program be selected by the Lead Agency and should Alexandria Township thereafter sign an electric power supplier agreement, individual residential consumers shall nonetheless retain the option not to participate (ie. "opt-out") and to choose any alternatives they wish.

SECTION 5. The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Township Clerk and Township Attorney are hereby authorized and directed to execute or prepare, as applicable, any documents necessary to carry out the purposes of this Ordinance.

SECTION 6. If the provision of any article, section, subsection, paragraph, subdivision or clause of this ordinance shall be adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such order or judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder of any such article, section, subsection, paragraph, subdivision or clause and, to this end, the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared to be severable.

SECTION 7. This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final passage and publication in accordance with law.

BILL LIST:

Comm. Pfefferle made a motion, seconded by Comm. Kiernan to approve the June 26, 2019 bill list.

Roll Call: Aye: Garay, Kiernan, Pfefferle

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

Comm. Pfefferle made a motion, seconded by Comm. Kiernan to go into Executive Session. (6:30 PM)

Roll Call: Aye: Garay, Pfefferle, Kiernan

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried

Open Public Meetings Act RESOLUTION- Executive Session

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 2:4-12, Open Public Meetings Act, permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township of Alexandria, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of the hereinafter specified subject matters.

2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:

___ A confidential or excluded matter under Federal or State Law or Court Rule.

___ A matter involving information that may impair the Township's rights to receive funds from the United States Government.

___ A matter constituting an unwarranted invasion of an individual's privacy rights.

___ Collective Bargaining Agreement or negotiation of the Agreement.

___ Matters involving the purchase, lease or acquisition of real property with public funds which it could adversely affect the public interest if discussion were disclosed.

___ Tactics and techniques to protect the safety and property of the public, including investigations of violations or potential violations of the law.

X Pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiations in which the public body is or may become a party.

**Beneduce Vineyard
Sterling Brook Farms**

___ Matters falling within the attorney-client privilege.

X Personnel matters involving a specific employee or officer of the Township.
Employee Evaluations

___ Deliberations of the Township occurring after a public hearing that may result in the imposition of a specific penalty or suspension or loss of a license or permit.

3. It is anticipated at this time that the above matter will be made public: at the conclusion of the litigation and at such time as attorney client confidentiality is no longer needed to protect confidentiality and litigation strategy.
 4. The executive session minutes will be placed on file in the township clerk's office, and will be available to the public as provided for by New Jersey law.
 5. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.
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Comm. Pfefferle made a motion, seconded by Comm. Kiernan to return to Public Session **(7:17 PM)**.

Roll Call: Aye: Garay, Pfefferle, Kiernan

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried

Comm. Kiernan made a motion, seconded by Comm. Pfefferle to authorize Zoning Officer Mullin to write a letter to Sterling Brook Farms asking them to cease activities.

Roll Call: Aye: Garay, Kiernan

Nay: None

Abstain: Pfefferle

Motion Carried

Comm. Pfefferle made a motion, seconded by Comm. Kiernan to authorize Township Attorney Dragan to draft a response to Beneduce Vineyard's Attorney giving them until October to comply with zoning violations.

Roll Call: Aye: Garay, Kiernan, Pfefferle

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried

The following matters were discussed in Executive Session:

- Beneduce Vineyards
A response is needed to a letter received from Beneduce Vineyards in regards to zoning violations
- Sterling Brook Farms
Zoning Officer Mullin needs to address zoning violations
- Employee Evaluations
Matter to Stay in Executive Session

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Comm. Pfefferle made a motion, seconded by Comm. Kiernan to adjourn at 7:18 PM.

Roll Call: Aye: Garay, Pfefferle, Kiernan

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried

Meeting Adjourned at 7:18 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Michele Bobrowski, CMC/RMC

Township Clerk

I hereby certify that I have reviewed these Minutes of the Township Committee Meeting of June 12, 2019 and certify that said Minutes were approved unanimously by the Township Committee on the 10th day of July 2019.

Michelle Garay, Mayor