

ELECTRIC AGGREGATION TASKFORCE

Minutes of January 12, 2010

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman/Commissioner Steve Hambley called the meeting of the Electric Aggregation Taskforce to order at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was held in Balcony Room B of the County Administration Building located at 144 N. Broadway Street, Medina.

The following were present and introduced themselves:

Ron Bischof, Montville Township Trustee
Jeff Brandon, Montville Township Trustee
Martha Catherwood, Hinckley Township Trustee
Rick Dumpreth, Chatham Township Trustee
Sally Gardner, Medina Township Trustee
Steve Hambley, County Commissioner

Chris Jakab, County Administrator
Dennis Kreider, Wadsworth Township Trustee
Ron Oiler, Westfield Township Trustee
Rich Pace, Granger Township Trustee
Paul Shaefer, Liverpool Township Trustee
Kathleen Scheutzow, Brunswick Hill Township Trustee

BACKGROUND/STATUS

Mr. Hambley stated that this taskforce was formed for those townships supporting the efforts of the Board of Medina County Commissioners to present a ballot issue for electric aggregation. A decision needs to be made to go with FirstEnergy Solutions or Buckeye Energy Brokers, Inc. The taskforce members also need to decide if they would like to invite Tom Bellish of Buckeye Energy to a meeting (Buckeye Energy is the county's broker). Mr. Hambley noted that they've also been approached by other aggregators. They've also learned that the CCAO (County Commissioners Association) also has an organization they use for gas that is starting to get into electric, although no information has been received from them.

Copies of resolutions have been received from the following townships: Guilford, Montville, Wadsworth, and York. It was noted that Medina Township passed the resolution and it has signatures, a copy will be forwarded. Westfield Township signed a resolution and a copy is being sent, as well as Hinckley Township and Liverpool Township. Brunswick Hills, Chatham, Granger, and Sharon Townships are still considering the issue. Lafayette Township voted not to participate, but they may reconsider the issue; Mr. Hambley is meeting with them on January 19.

Mr. Hambley spoke with Bill Thorne and advised him that he would be sending the paperwork and ballot language for their review. The deadline for placing it on the ballot is February 18. There would be a bidding process.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Hambley noted that the proposal from FirstEnergy Solutions is to provide a residential rate of a reduction of 6%, a 4% reduction for commercial customers up to 500 kWh, and provide a grant of \$30 per household (for those in the FirstEnergy territory). The commissioners' proposal is to split the grant proceeds with the townships. This is a one-time deal for nine years. Currently, they have approximately 80% of the market. There is no indication that they will continue the program beyond this spring.

Mr. Hambley reported that one of the benefits of a broker is that they will "clean up" the list. FirstEnergy only has the list by zip code and a broker has a code for townships/local jurisdiction that would be verified to improve the accuracy of the lists. Buckeye Energy has indicated that the deal is for eight years and consumers are sent a reminder every three years that they can opt out of the program (or there is a fee for opting out earlier). The taskforce members are charged with making a recommendation to the commissioners whether to go with FirstEnergy Solutions or another broker.

County Administrator Chris Jakab reported that based on March 2008 costs, the election would cost approximately \$150 per precinct. Mr. Hambley said that the election costs would be deducted from the grant and then the remainder of the grant would be split 50/50. It is unknown whether Buckeye Brokers offers a similar grant program; they may offer the savings directly to the consumer.

Sally Gardner stated that she spoke with FirstEnergy regarding her personal bill, discussing the discount she has because she has a total electric home. She mentioned aggregation to the representative who suggested that she wouldn't be eligible to participate in a broker program. This would be something to consider. Mr. Hambley noted that she could make a comparison and choose to opt out of being a broker consumer.

It was decided to invite Tom Bellish of Buckeye Energy Brokers, Inc. to the next meeting to answer any questions and to enable the taskforce to make a recommendation to the commissioners.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no one wishing to speak.

NEXT MEETING

After discussion, the next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, January 19, at 8:30 a.m. (*Note:* Afterwards, it was learned that Mr. Bellish was unavailable for that meeting; therefore, the meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, January 20, at 8:30 a.m.)

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

*Minutes taken by Peggy Folk CAP
Assistant Clerk to the Medina County Commissioners*