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# Long Hill Committee adopts ordinance for third party energy supplier

Commercial Utility Consultants will hold auctions for cheaper energy suppliers.

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Posted: Friday, March 6, 2015 5:00 am

By **BRIAN WOODS** Staff Writer | [0 comments](#)

**LONG HILL TWP.** — The Township Committee voted unanimously at its Wednesday, Feb. 25, meeting in favor of adopting an ordinance to pool residents into a third party energy supplier.

At the meeting, the committee passed an ordinance to join the Morris Area Energy Cooperative. Stacia Scaduto, a representative for Commercial Utility Consultants, was at the meeting to answer questions about the newly adopted program.

The program goes by terms. A year term has been most often discussed. The committee can choose whether to opt in again after the initial agreed upon term.

Through the program, Commercial Utility Consultants will bid for energy suppliers that come at a lower cost than JCP&L or PSE&G. Residents can choose to opt out of this plan and stick with JCP&L or PSE&G, but they will initially automatically be opted in.

“The advantage to the residents would be that the price they would pay for the energy supply would be less than the JCP&L or PSE&G price, but it would never go above that price,” said Mayor Brendan Rae.

“Those companies (JCP&L and PSE&G) will continue to deal with such things like power outages and all the things they do now. All the residents are in until they decide to opt out. It is not a difficult process to opt out. It is done through the website,” he continued.

The third party supplier would only be the energy supplier, but not the utility that distributes it. Scaduto explained that JCP&L and PSE&G do not generate the supply portion of energy.

“Energy supply already possibly comes as far as Canada. We do pay a portion of JCP&L to maintain the line. They have no idea where they are getting the supply from, and that’s OK, because that is not what they get paid for. JCP&L are legally not allowed to make money from the supply because of deregulation. It doesn’t hurt anybody,” said Scaduto.

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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
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#### Rummage Sale for Charity

Fri, Mar 20, 9:00 am EDT  
Bishop Janes United Methodist Church, Basking Ridge

#### West Morris Central High School presents "Urinetown"

Thu, Mar 19, 7:30 pm EDT  
West Morris Central High School, Chester

#### Registration for Schiff Summer

Committee members thought residents might be concerned that they are already opted in to the program. However, Committeeman Guy Piserchia explained how that is already the case.

“It is important for everyone to understand, you already are opted in. The BPU (Board of Public Utilities) has made that decision for you. This is replacing what is already an opt in program that already exists,” said Piserchia.

The committeeman also said that he has had discussions with the presidents of the BPU and JCP&L, and representatives from PSE&G, and they all called the Energy Cooperative a “no brainer.”

The reason why is because residents cannot be charged more than what the BPU rate is now. The BPU determines the rates for JCP&L and PSE&G. If the third party supplier’s rates went over the BPU rates, then residents would be switched back to JCP&L or PSE&G rates.

“The whole point of the program is so residents are getting the best rate available and not paying higher than what the default rate is,” said Scaduto.

One resident, Dennis Sandow, was concerned with government putting their hands in energy supply.

To ease possible fears that the township had anything to gain, Scaduto explained that state statutes require that townships not benefit in any way from the energy cooperative.

“We don’t make any money. There is no skin in the game for the township here. This is all really for the benefit of the residents,” said Committeeman Bruce Meringolo.

Sandow also suggested that this ordinance could turn out to be null, because more alternate energy suppliers charge more than the JCP&L rate.

Scaduto said that could be the case, and that her company, Commercial Utility Consultants, look for a minimum of 5 percent below the JCP&L or PSE&G rate before switching to another energy supplier.

Commercial Utility Consultants are consultants and not potential bidders.

There were also questions of how third party suppliers could compete with BPU rates for JCP&L or PSE&G.

“As far as competition and how we can compete against the state rate and the BPU, that is because we are allowing more suppliers into the market that just cannot compete in the state’s auction. They are just not that large. There is no way they would be able to supply or attempt to supply what the state needs, and be divided out amongst all the utility companies,” Scaduto explained.

“So it opens the market up to a smaller energy company to come in and say, ‘Hey this is a great small percentage of folks that we can absolutely supply the energy for,’ and they can be very much more competitive against the state’s rate,” she continued.

### Opting Out

Scaduto also went over how to opt out of the program.

After Commercial Utility Consultants finishes an auction among energy supply companies, it would send information to residents stating the rate that was obtained, the length of the contract, and how it compares to what a resident paid with JCP&L or PSE&G.

After reviewing the information, residents could send a tear-off section of the notice back to Commercial Utility Consultants saying they want to opt out. The opt out period is 30 days, Scaduto said.

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Mon, Mar 09, 12:00 am EDT  
Schiff Nature Preserve, Mendham

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The Center for Contemporary Art, Bedminster

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