

Service Committee Minutes

Honorable Council
City of Newark, Ohio
July 6, 2021

The Service Committee met in Council Chambers on Monday, July 6, 2021 , following the Finance Committee with these members in attendance:

Jeff Rath - Chair
Jeff Harris – Vice Chair
Spencer Barker
Jeremy Blake
Ryan Bubb

We wish to report:

1. Consider **Resolution No. 21-40** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO EFFECT A GOVERNMENTAL NATURAL GAS AGGREGATION PROGRAM WITH OPT-OUT PROVISIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 4929.26 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE, DIRECTING THE LICKING COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO SUBMIT A BALLOT QUESTION TO THE ELECTORS.
2. Consider **Resolution No. 21-41** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO EFFECT A GOVERNMENTAL ELECTRICITY AGGREGATION PROGRAM WITH OPT-OUT PROVISIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 4928.20 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE, DIRECTING THE LICKING COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO SUBMIT A BALLOT QUESTION TO THE ELECTORS.

Tim Bubb, Licking County Commissioner, President County Commissioners Association of Ohio – 551 Kensington Dr. Heath, Oh 43056 – A quick overview of the County's interest in this subject and I'll introduce John Leutz and Kirk Mizerek as well and they can provide some detail. Basically we were approached by the County Commissioners Association of Ohio with the suggestion that we in the unincorporated areas of the county, possibly with some municipal partners, consider electric and possibly natural gas aggregation programs on the ballot for this November. This appears to be a particularly attractive year because it's an off year election and often times in more contentious election environments there is so much going on there is a lot of confusion. Electric or Natural Gas aggregation requires a bit of an education process for people to understand the opportunity and make an informed decision. You obviously can't oppose it, but you can take it to the ballot which is what the chairman has offered as a thought. Why is the County government interested? Everyone in Newark is a Licking County constituent, so we share the same constituents and to be honest it's just an opportunity to save money on either natural gas or electric to reduce their bills. If they save money that also circulates back into the community and it's a general savings across the board. Electric and natural gas are commodities, they're sold on the market and anyone can make a decision how they want to do it. Aggregation is simply the thought of group purchasing. Putting together bigger groups and to be able to go into the marketplace and get more favorable rates. Group purchasing, the bigger the group, the more attractive and bringing in experts who can help with the group purchasing so we can make the best buy and save people money seems like a win win situation. There is really no downside for it. What

you as a committee can consider and what we would ask you and the full council to consider is taking both issues to the ballot and as part of the education process, seeing if the electorate is interested in saving some money on their utilities, that's basically it. I can tell you from a county government standpoint, Kirk works for Palmer Energy, they're a consultant, we've worked with them for about a decade on the 30 or so major buildings that we own. Across the state about 4/5 of the counties aggregate both their electric and natural gas at all of our facilities and we've save huge amounts of money through the years. Six figure kinds of savings on gas and electric for our constituents. Group purchasing is the way to go when it comes to these commodities. This is taking it to a different level in Licking County. We as the County Commissioners, I'm speaking for myself and Commissioner Flowers and Commissioner Black tonight, we are considering, as you would be considering in this July timeframe whether to take this to the ballot in November. We're asking you to consider it to be municipal partners and make it an almost complete countywide approach. We can put it on the ballot for the unincorporated areas of the county, the only exclusions would be the 3 townships who have already aggregated, I believe it's Harrison, Etna and Granville. We can put it on the ballot in the other 23 townships, we have invited the administration all the trustees and municipal partners to come and talk about it recently. The municipal partners, just so you will know, who are interested are yourselves, the City of Heath and the soon to be City of Johnstown have expressed a strong interest in joining this to go parallel as partners them through the Ohio Municipal League, us through the County Commissioners Association of Ohio, to bring this to the ballot simultaneously this November, so that our constituents can hopefully understand it and make a decision that could save them some money on their utility bills. That's the County's interest. We have no financial interest in this as a County Government, we're simply interested in trying to bring a program to our community that will save people money and I believe it's about 25 counties in Ohio that already have this. Because this is a favorable year to consider it, it appears that between 8 and 10 counties who do not have it are considering what we're asking you to consider as well and that's an effort to take this to the ballot this year to save money and keep the money in the community. This is John Leutz, he is the Assistant Director of the County Commissioners Association of Ohio, he is an authority on energy, he does this for us and all the counties of Ohio, he really gets it, he's also a former Mayor of Grandview Heights, so he also understand s the municipal side where you are all coming from as well and Kirk Mizerek, who will be after him from Palmer Energy, they are the consultant that we use to basically go out on the commodity market and get us a good deal for utilities.

John Leutz, 209 East State Street, CCAO office – I'm here today on behalf of the Ohio Municipal League and the CCAO, I want to quickly outline the process and why we're doing this for you. The CCAO has been in the acquisition of utilities, gas and electric for our counties for about 10 years. Three years ago the Municipal League talked to us about, well, you guys are doing it and the end result of that is the Municipal League has come in under our program. So, if you chose to do this as the City of Newark, you would actually join the program through the Ohio Municipal League's program and we would work on this together. We use the joint purchasing statute under the Ohio Revised Code to basically go out and competitively bid through the RFP process the acquisition of the supply of power. That section of the code is authorized for this type of activity among local governments, we process through an RFP process, Palmer Energy are our consultants, they have no interest in the energy industry at all, they do not represent a utility or a generator or agent of a generator or a commodity supplier. They merely

consult and advise us, they conduct all of the analysis for bidding the load out, placing the RFP on the market and we'll probably get 8-10 responses if not more because we do this extensively across the state. When we put an RFP out the market understands that we mean business, we're bringing a good quality load to the table and we have a lot of providers of the services who desire to respond to the RFP. Once that RFP comes back it will be given to you to decide as the aggregator of the program or if you chose to cede your authority to the county and put it all under one program, the collective bodies will look at it and make a decision which of the RFP's you would like to accept. We do not have an association with a certain supplier, so we don't bring you a set deal and say here we would like you to join our program and here's what it is going to involve, that's ultimately your final decision as the Council. Based on that process, we have 26 counties right now that are involved in the aggregation process, we have 67 of our 88 counties who are members of our CCO program on its own, whether they're doing facilities or whether they're also involved in our aggregation program. So we bring as Commissioner Bubb said, the ability to consolidate load and volume and the opportunity to bring Licking County's load together, which benefits all of you because there is more load than if you did it separately and then on top of that you have the ability to join into the rest of the load the the CCA and Municipal League are putting out under one RFP at that time, so you get a compounding load, volume situation that gives you the opportunity to get very good pricing and again ultimately we will bring you several RFP responses and you would decide which of those you would like to choose and what pricing structure you would like to have.

Mr. Harris – Which Gas Companies are involved?

Mr. Leutz – We would put it out to bid and see who chooses to respond.

Kirkland Mizerek, Palmer Energy, 5577 Airport Hwy, Toledo, Ohio, - Representing the CCAO and OML. To answer your question, we can only do this behind metered utilities so like behind AEP, First Energy Utilities and that sort of thing as far as natural gas only Dominion and Columbia Gas of Ohio. We're not changing the lines out there, this is actually the gas or electricity that is running through the lines, so it doesn't mess with Columbia Gas or AEP in any way, they already have 3rd party suppliers that are addressing this market so they are independent from that on that perspective. We got involved the the CCA about 12 years ago, actually someone from Licking County , Dale Arnold, suggested someone from the CCAO get in touch with us at Palmer to do an analysis of the program because we are very independent, we have no ties to any utilities or suppliers, we are out there working for you. In this case the CCAO has hired us and we can bring you those opportunities available out there and you can choose to participate or not. This particular program has been very successful, John has talked about the counties and city's participating in the programs, it works very well. Everything is based on the RFP process, that is a very integral part of this process, you need to bid this out. It is very important that everything stays independent and above board. A lot of times what we have heard is other people come here from a supplier and are always trying to say this is what our program is. I'm not talking about a utility, I'm talking about suppliers. You cannot go on a suppliers advise about when is the best time to buy the electricity or the natural gas, that's what the RFP process is for, to get the best possible prices for your constituents. This particular program, one of the founding things, and we talked about it with your Mayor a few weeks ago, one of the concerns was, I believe there may have been other people here who talked about there are fees to get out of the program. There are no fees. If your constituents choose to go through this program there are no fees if

they choose to leave the program. That's a very important thing. If they don't want to participate in it they can get out, there is no problem. That's important for your constituents to have that flexibility in the program. It's a long process to get this on, but the first process is to get you council to approve having it put on the voter ballot this coming November. The County Commissioners have chosen to put it on in November. Other cities seem to be wanting to participate with that as well. It is a long process after that until they are actually receiving the electricity. There are various things put in place by Ohio Code that you have to follow. Your constituents have the opportunity on two different occasions to get out of the program, by mailings, they can call a number, they can go un/register online to not participate if they choose not to. The important thing we have seen and this came as a question from the Commissioners a few weeks ago, is why not do an opt in project, those generally don't work, there are less than a percent or two of people who participate and our history has been in this area, we just did one a little north of here and it was around a \$90 savings per residential household per year. What we've experienced in our estimation is with the power of purchasing you can get very good pricing like that, but that's money that stays in your community. So if you had \$90 savings in 20,000 households that's a significant amount of money that stays in your community. One other thing we've heard as well is people talk about grant money. We don't recommend grant money in this program at all because all you're doing is taking that money from constituents so, if you say you want grant money included in this the suppliers are going to do it, but they are just raising their price to what your constituents are participating in so, we historically recommend not to participate in that activity.

Mr. Rath – I want to ask you to clarify that statement a little bit. What would the purpose of grant money be.

Mr. Mizerek – Many years ago in the northern part of the state there was only one supplier that was able to do this and they initially offered grant money on a per household basis to all the communities, in this latest round of how things are done, that has all gone by the wayside because that was more of a strictly grant to those people in the northern part of the state. What we have seen is some people come to various County Commissioners and talk about we can get you grant money, we can get you a bunch of dollars added to this and all you're doing when you put this out for bid and you say you want \$30 per household and you have 8 suppliers look at that they say okay instead of their number being 4.5 cents now their number is 4.7 cents, so your constituents end up paying for that grant money. After this passes it's a 4-5 month ordeal to get it through the RFP Process, there are numerous things that must take place by law. One more thing I want to clarify is that we handle all of that for you. There is a lot of paperwork involved and we do all of that for you. You may get calls with questions from constituents that may not understand the program and we are there working hand in hand with you or we can train your people to answer those questions or we have a 1-800 number to talk to us directly on any concerns or questions that they may have about this type of savings program. The opportunities are out there, we believe very strongly on the pooling effect when you put all of these counties together, you become the huge entity and the suppliers all want that business. You get much better pricing because of that. We are completely supplier agnostic. We want what's best for your constituents, if the company is financially viable to handle your constituents we want them to get the business, if they can provide an excellent number. One thing Licking County has that a lot of other counties don't is the Rural Electric and such, those people will actually be able to vote on this even though it doesn't affect them at all. I believe Mr. Bubb has talked to the Energy

Coop people and they seem to be mostly neutral or positive about this program. The program has worked very well so far and we continue to gain counties. Historically speaking presidential years are not the best time to put this on the ballot, so this year is a good time if you want to get it passed, but the best part is that even if you have a constituent who doesn't want to participate in this they don't have to. I can't quantify this, but many times you'll get these crazy offers in your mailboxes that say you are going to save X amount of dollars on your electric for the next three months, you're signing onto a contract and after that 3 or 6 months you are at the whim of the supplier they can charge what they want. When they are in this program they cannot do that.

Mr. Rath – I would like to hear from Mayor Hall what you are thinking.

Mayor Hall – I think you have to consider both sides of it. We've sat in this room and talked about pooling resources for a lot of things over the years, trash hauling was one. Single suppliers sometimes can make you a little vulnerable. One of my questions are, it might fit a small city it might not fit a big city and you have to look at that. We have a population that said during trash hauling that they want to make decisions and if they paid more that's okay, but they wanted to be able to do what they wanted to do. Obviously you are deciding whether it goes out on the ballot and they can make that decision. I think without a doubt the burden that you will have is to educate people about what this is all about. I would ask you how many of you or someone you know have changed suppliers in the past so many years and are they happy or not happy. There are surely some shysters out there that can draw you in and get you in trouble and that's not what we're talking about here. Our opinion is to set here and judge the participants and they have accolades so that's a good place to start, but anytime you put something on the ballot that is somewhat confusing, we are taking on some responsibility to educate the public. I think people sometimes get upset because they don't have the savings they expected. This program is really based on participants and the power or collective bargaining. AS they explained if it's a strictly opt in then people won't do it, it has to be an opt out, but if they don't want it they have to take the initiative to get out. I can't throw the needle either way and I think you are having some responsibilities on your backs that you are endorsing a program that you need to think about.

Mr. Rath – Mr. Leutz spoke about the governing authority whether it be the city or the county and I guess I am a little concerned or cautious about that. Are we going to be part of that authority or are we going to relinquish that authority to the county or does that affect our savings if we are our own governing authority.

Mr. Mizerek – When you RFP it out it would be the intention to RFP it out with everyone in Licking County as well as other counties and cities across the state for this, whether you choose to have the paperwork handled by them is your choice, you're going to have the same price, when we bid this out you are going to be pooling all in one load, whether it's two separate agreements I don't care.

Mr. Rath – Does the supplier affect the name on my bill?

Mr. Mizerek – No.

Mr. Rath – You say there is a timeframe to opt out.

Mr. Mizerek – There's actually two timeframes. After the successful supplier is picked they send out a communication to all prospective people that can participate they have x amount of time to opt out, 20 days to opt out and after that the Utility AEP or such sends out another letter that says you are being signed into this are you sure this is what you want. Historically the first letter from the supplier will have your County Commissioners

logo on it, will have your logo on it that says this is a program that you voted on and it give you that 20 day opt out period.

Mr. Rath – What happens if I'm past the opt out period and I decide this isn't what I want?

Mr. Mizerek- You call a number and you're out. There is no penalty or termination fee.

Mr. Harris – Can you get back in anytime you want?

Mr. Mizerek – Yes, that's important too because you have people that move here and they want to participate, all they do is call the 1-800 number and they are in.

Law Director Sassen – I think the Ordinance says that after you have enrolled in the aggregation program, then you have the opportunity to opt out of the program once every three years. So you're in it for three years and at the end of that you can opt out or stay in for another three years. So, it's not like you can opt out on Thursday and opt back in the following week.

Mr. Mizerek – That's not accurate sir. The three year deal is that there has to be an opt out period every three years no matter what, but no matter what happens any individual can opt out any time after they've enrolled.

Mr. Rath – So to clarify, does that mean we as a city have the opportunity after three years to say we don't want to participate in this anymore.

Mr. Mizerek – As the city, where that will depend sir is if we do a two or three year agreement, let's say three year agreement. You sign an agreement with a supplier to provide electricity or natural gas for that three year period, you are locked into that 3 year period at that particular moment, but after that 3 year period you can get out if you want. Once your constituents pass the Ordinance, that's it, you guys can aggregate it at that point, if you ever decide you don't want to aggregate you can choose not to aggregate your constituents after that first term.

Law Director Sassen – The major concern I have is the language of the Ordinance, this would be a question that would go to the Board of Elections and the Voters in 2021, I don't think we can do that. It says in section 3 of the language that Resolution passed by Council needs to be certified to the Board of Elections not less than 75 days prior to the general election, but the statute says 90 days.

Mr. Mizerek- you have to have it in 90 days, so it's August timeframe.

Law Director Sassen – August 3rd. So that means we have to change that to say 90 days not 75 days, but if we look at 90 days prior to that, that means we would have to have it to the Board of Elections by August 3rd. We're at committee today, you would have your first reading on July 19th, the second reading on August 2nd, it's not effective for 30 days which would be September 1st, so if you were to pass this according to your standard terms of procedure this wouldn't be effective until September 1st and you will have missed the deadline for sending it to the Board of Elections by 28 days. So, I don't know that getting it on the election for November 2021 is feasible but if we were to move forward it would be for the election of the primary 2022, it would be delayed until May of 2022.

Mr. Rath - What if we put an emergency clause on this?

Law Director Sassen – Waiving the 2nd reading would still require the 30 days which would have an effective date of August 18th which would still be two weeks late for your reporting to the Board of Elections. If you were to put on the emergency clause you would have to come up with a good reason why this is necessary for the immediate preservation of public health and welfare as set forth in the charter. The immediate preservation of the peace, safety, health or welfare, if you could come up with that

reason it could be effective as early as July 19th, but I don't know what that reason would be.

Mr. Barker – On average in this type of scenario, what's the average opt out number, how many people opt out of this program?

Mr. Mizerek – I have to go through a process here to tell you. Let's say there are 20,000 households, they're already shopping, the supplier gets a list from the utility, so this usually only goes out to 60-70% of the households out there, after that we see usually less than 10%, is what our experience has been. I can't really give you a number, but it's less than 10 %. We see people that opt out and unfortunately they thought they were signing up for it and then we get a call later asking to add them.

Mr. Barker – You mentioned small commercial users, define for me what that is.

Mr. Mizerek – A small commercial user is less than 700,000 kwh per year and not have more than 5 locations, so it's not for your Wendy's or McDonalds, it's for a Doctor's office or small family owned restaurant that sort of thing.

Mr. Blake – Thank you all for your presentation. I'm curious because it's interesting your coming tonight because about a month ago a group talked about aggregates, very similar to what you're speaking of tonight, the piece they had a conversation with me about was the actual campaign effort. I guess hearing Director Sassen talk about the deadlines, I'm curious what efforts would you provide to educate the public before actually voting on this.

Mr. Mizerek- There are numerous efforts that we do not just talking to the various Council Members, there's newspaper advertising, twitter, Facebook all that sort of thing, there's numerous public hearings. One thing that I hear and this is where the relationship gets involved is you telling me what your constituents need to be educated. What is best suited. Because what you need here may not be best for southern Ohio and what their people want, so I need to work with you on that. I just handed out what we do generally for this process and it seems to work very well. I can't promise that it's going to pass, I don't know if it will pass, I think it's a better chance than not.

Mr. Blake – Around here yard signs and door to door stuff seem to be what work.

Mr. Mizerek – We've never done yard signs and historically door to door hasn't worked. Public hearings work very well, obviously with video technology in place that does help, we're always willing to do that. Word of mouth. One thing that we always felt was very important was whether it's the County Commissioners or City Council members, the Mayor, if you're behind it, if you're out at the coffee shop and talk about it the word of mouth it gets around very quickly as well. There are a lot of avenues we can use and John just passed that out to you to give you a few ideas.

Mr. Marmie – How often does the RFP go out?

Mr. Mizerek – It depends. Historically we look for suppliers who give us 12,24,36 month deals, no longer than 3 years.

Mr. Marmie – And that's how long the rate is locked in?

Mr. Mizerek- Yes.

Mr. Marmie – Mr. Leutz mentioned we can either have a volume with ourselves or with the CCA and you tried to say there can be different RFP's coming through but with the same supplier so I was confused about you saying we could do it by ourselves or by volume through the county.

Mr. Mizerek – Not different RFP's. You can choose to cede your authority to the county and then they can run the whole RFP process for you, or when we RFP it out we will include the city as well as the county and the other cities that are participating as well,

they're all going to be in the same exact RFP. Your area here is going to get a rate and it's going to be the same as the Commissioners rate, whether you choose to transact that on your own accord is what we're talking about the ceding for, not the actual rate.

Mr. Marmie – You've been very clear to say that there's no residential termination fee, what are the termination fees for commercial?

Mr. Mizerek – That depends, sometimes there are and that's one of things we have to bring to you when we get the results back. Sometimes there could be a \$50 termination fee there, but we bring that to you and the next one might be no termination fee and it may be just slightly higher. That's where we bring the options to you. So, you still have the option not to have those. I won't say there's not a commercial, but very rarely there could be, but you still make the final decision before we go. We might forgo that first supplier to go to the second supplier that's still a money saving rate, so there is no fee.

Mr. Marmie – How does Palmer get paid through this process?

Mr. Mizerek – Great question. Fundamentally the price to participate in this program on a KWH basis is .00045 and of that .00045. Palmer gets a .0003 of that and the .00015 that's left over is split up between the OML the CCAO and whether it's the County Commissioners or in this case Newark City will get a small piece, you're not going to get rich off this, it's not a lot of money, it's really meant just to cover some of your administration costs, it might be a few thousand dollars a year. I want to make sure you understand we look at right now as you're taking time, you're in a building, you're looking at having public hearings, that is some cost. It's meant to cover those types of administrative costs, it's not a let's go build a park thing, it's not that much money.

Mr. Rath – I'll ask Mr. Marmie a question. You are typically the emergency clause police. I see no reason good enough to warrant the emergency clause, do you?

Mr. Marmie – I do not.

Mr. Rath – Mr. Bubb. My comment to you would be, how do you feel about putting this on the ballot in the primary election in 2022? It does not seem feasible to get this on the ballot for the November 2021 ballot.

Mr. Bubb – Good point. I don't have a quick answer to that. It appeared that November had some potential, May of 2022 may have some potential as well.

Mr. Rath- Midterms and Primary are certainly a much more crowded ballot.

Mr. Bubb – That's the difference and I agree with you, I appreciate your point. In your particular circumstance with the charter you have to ask that emergency clause question. If it's not appropriate, it's not appropriate. We will discuss it. From a County standpoint we haven't made a final decision yet either. We are considering it. Part of our consideration is whether we can make it a total county side approach and whether we have some municipal partners to go with because I think it's a legitimate county wide approach if we go together. We're certainly open to the idea. We still think this has value. At this point the discussion was regarding November, but I see your point as well and that's a point of discussion for this month as well. I don't have an answer right off the top, but I understand the consideration.

Mayor Hall – One quick thing. Sometimes there are costs associated with ballot issues in the Primary, more than in November. It's probably a somewhat busy May ballot, but you understand we have a lot of Township Trustees up this November. It's just a financial input I want to give that at times when we put something on a Primary ballot as a City, we can get charges a fair amount of money because there isn't a lot on the ballot. We can talk to Brian Mead over there and get his feel for things, I don't think he can give us

anything exact, but I think it would cost more in May than in November. I think that's a fair statement.

Mr. Rath – This legislation specifically speaks of the fall of 2021 election?

Law Director Sassen – It does. In section three.

Mr. Mizerek – That was given to you just as an example, it doesn't matter to me when you do it.

Mr. Rath – It is an example, but it is legislation that is on the table, so we need to vote on the legislation. The way I see it as the chair, is voting on this at this point in time is a moot point because we're not going to be able to make the fall deadline. I guess I'm open to taking motions if you want to make one, but if we were not to make a motion on this then this issue would simply be tabled and would be allowed to be brought up at a different time with a different discussion as far as which particular ballot we wanted to put it on. Knowing that it's going to have to be 180 plus days before we have this discussion again to get it on any ballot.

Mr. Marmie – If you fail to act, it dies. If you want to table it, you have to bring it to the table and table it.

Mr. Rath – Okay, I'm going to request that we fail to act, because this legislation speaks of the November election which is not possible for us to make. It does not prohibit bringing a new issue.

Mr. Blake – I'm just curious about, I just want to hear comments about urgency about wanting to act and I would throw out even the possibility of November 2023 to avoid the Governor's election next year and all the business that's going to happen next year. If we were to wait for the next "off year" that would be 2023 time frame. How would that timeframe impact you when you're doing these presentations across the State.

Mr. Leutz – It is your choice when you choose to do this. The Commissioners could go forward and put it on the ballot this November and a couple other committees, you could choose to come in later, if it doesn't fit your current planning. They could do it in November and if it passes you could bring it at the May Primary and then join at that point, but once we do a contract, put it out for RFP, if you come in after we've done the RFP and have a contract for this proposal then you just come in with the next group. Then after that you move into the program. You would have a temporary program until the general program expires.

Mr. Lang – If we did put it on the ballot in May of next year and it fails, would the City be out anything and then could we bring it back in 2023.

Mr. Leutz – What you're doing is the State requires you to receive authority to be an aggregator from your constituents. Whenever that takes place you are then an aggregator. You can do it for a while, you cannot do it for a while. We have a county right now that aggregation approval at the Primary this year and they're not moving forward because we could not bring good prices for them. So, you have plenty of discretion and flexibility. Ultimately from our standpoint we want to make sure the residents of Newark get the very best rate and program opportunity we can bring to them.

Mr. Rath- Mr. Leutz, Mr. Mizerek and Mr. Bubb, we appreciate you coming to us tonight and you realize there is at least an interest in having a discussion and possibly move forward with this, but obviously at a better time. We'll look forward to hearing from Mr. Bubb.

Mr. Leutz – We're here for you anytime. When I was Mayor of Grandview Heights I actually put in place the first natural gas aggregation program in the State, before it was

authorized by State law. We worked off of contractual agreements with Columbia Gas, so I am kind of close to this idea. I think it will work well for your community.

Meeting stands adjourned

Jeff Rath - Chair