

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
PUBLIC HEARING MONDAY APRIL 27, 2009 – 7:00 P.M.
MAYOR MATTHEW E. BRETT PRESIDING

MEMBERS PRESENT: Binder, Porter
OFFICIALS PRESENT: Street Commissioner Johnson, Fiscal Officer Romanowski
GUEST: Leith Herington the Executive Director from Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC)

Mayor Brett called the Public Hearing to order.

Leigh Herington explained that in May 2002 residents of the Village had the opportunity to determine whether or not they wanted the Village to supply them with gas or electric and they voted positively to allow that to happen. Once they did that the multiple communities joined together to form a public entity called Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC.) NOPEC is a non-profit organization formed for one purpose which is to aggregate the purchase of gas and electric. What that means for the residents is that every two years and now for electric every three years, all the residents are given the opportunity to participate in NOPEC or opt-out of the program. If the residents do nothing, then they become part of the aggregation.

NOPEC originally had an agreement with Green Mountain Energy but they pulled out in 2006. From January 1, 2006 until the end of 2008, First Energy was actually providing the electricity. That program ended December 31, 2008. Mr. Herington said NOPEC has entered into a contract Florida Power and Light and beginning, hopefully, August 1, 2009, that electric program will continue again and will go for the next 22 months. Mr. Herington said there would be an auction on May 13th which will determine what the average residential person in northeast Ohio will pay for the electricity beginning June 1st for the next 24 months. Mr. Herington said once they find out what that price will be Florida Power and Light will supply electricity beginning August 1, 2009. Mr. Herington said assuming that price is sufficient for NOPEC to offer it, then they will start the program automatically August 1, 2009. What this means is the residents will get another opt-out notice and if they do nothing, they will be part of the program. If they opt-out, they will go back to First Energy. Mr. Herington said if NOPEC is offering the program, the cost will be lower than the people who are with First Energy's regular territory. These opt-out notices should go out sometime in June or July. If residents do nothing, they will automatically be in the program for 22 months. Mr. Herington said the only way they wouldn't offer a electric program is if the auction comes in too high where the cost wouldn't benefit residents.

Mr. Herington said the gas side of NOPEC is very complex because there are a lot gas suppliers. He said the electric side is less complex because you produce electricity and you use it, you can't store it. Gas can be stored and therefore it is a whole different commodity and much more complex. Mr. Herington said to see if you are getting the

lowest price on gas, you have to compare the price on the NOPEC website to other options – an apples to apples comparison at PUCO. Unless people opted out of the program they are in it. If they want to find out for sure that they are part of NOPEC, they can call 1-888-848-7914. Residents can stay in the program by doing nothing. Mr. Herington said the biggest problem they have is people leaving NOPEC and wanting to come back in. Mr. Herington explained that when residents go to the default supplier, they have to be in their system for 45-60 days. Then when NOPEC does their next “mover’s mailing” they will be picked up. Mr. Herington explained that a “mover’s mailing” is sent every 60-90 days for people who move in the district or they go from another supplier back to the default supplier and then in 60-90 days when NOPEC does a “mover’s mailing” if the resident doesn’t opt out, then the resident will become part of the NOPEC program.

Mr. Herington said residents will get an opt-out notice every two years, that’s the law, but as long as they don’t do anything, they will stay with NOPEC.

Matthew E. Brett

Mayor

Danielle Romanowski, Fiscal Officer