

Special Meeting
December 7, 2016

A special meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Homer to hear a presentation on MEGA CCA, held on Wednesday, December 7, 2016, in the board room of the Town Hall building was called to order by Supervisor Frederick J. Forbes, Sr., at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Frederick J. Forbes, Sr., Supervisor
Larry R. Jones, Councilman
Michael R. Park, Councilman
Barry E. Warren, Councilman
Kevin M. Williams, Councilman
Patrick M. Snyder, Attorney for the Town
Anita W. Jebbett, Town Clerk

OTHERS PRESENT

Louise Gava, Project Leader, MEGA
Doug Barton, Business Relations Manager, MEGA
Donald Ferris, reporter, The Homer News
Linda Jones, Cortland County Legislator

Supervisor Forbes introduced the Board to Louise Gava, Project Manager of Municipal Electric & Gas Alliance (MEGA), and Doug Barton, Business Relations Manager, who gave a presentation on Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) recently authorized by the NYS Public Service Commission (PSC). Gava explained that towns, cities, and villages in New York State may now join together to obtain better pricing for their residents on their gas and electric bills. MEGA is a not-for-profit organization that will serve as the CCA Administrator for program design, community education and outreach, PSC compliance, and competitive bidding for the bulk purchase of both gas and electric power for a grouping of municipalities.

Project Manager Gava explained that there is no cost to the municipality to participate, and noted the interest already expressed by the Village of Homer and the City of Cortland in joining the program. She explained that MEGA recoups their costs by adding .001 per KW hour to each utility bill. This type of program is already operating in Westchester County in New York State and has been ongoing in several other states for a number of years.

There were several questions from Board members concerning the "opt-out" policy of the program. Customers would have 30 days to "opt-out", or they would automatically be included in the aggregate. Gava explained that they would go out to bid for pricing every 18 months to 3 years. In the case of electricity, National Grid would still be delivering the power and repairing the lines, the difference would be in the supply charge. She did not promise a huge savings for customers, but Gava did say residents would see savings, particularly during periods of fluctuation in energy supplies.

MEGA representatives Gava and Barton thanked the Board for giving them the opportunity to explain the MEGA CCA program to them. Board members agreed to consider joining the CCA.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Anita W. Jebbett
Town Clerk