

**COUNCIL FOR THE VILLAGE OF YELLOW SPRINGS
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING:
SOPEC PUBLIC HEARING**

Council Chambers 11AM

Friday, March 17, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

President Housh called the meeting to order at 11:01am.

ROLL CALL

Present were President Housh and Council members Marianne MacQueen, Gavin DeVore Leonard and Carmen Brown. Also present was Village Manager Josue Salmeron. Stokes was absent from the meeting due to work commitments.

PUBLIC HEARING

Housh introduced the topic of aggregating gas prices through SOPEC, noting that providing residents with the opportunity to save on natural gas pricing is a real positive for the Village.

Housh OPENED THE PUBLIC HEARING.

Salmeron stated that he has not received any negative comment or communication from Villagers on the topic.

MacQueen asked whether the aggregated rate might at some point be higher than the open market rate and whether in such a situation a resident could opt out or whether a better rate could be obtained in that instance.

Salmeron responded that indeed the market rate could drop lower than the contracted aggregated rate, and that there are contractual options in that event.

Philip Leppla of SOPEC stated that a reworking of the contract in this event is referred to as a “blend and extend”, and locks in a lower rate while extending the life of the contract, usually by a year.

DeVore Leonard commented that had the Village enacted aggregation a year ago we would now be in just that situation.

Leppla agreed, and assured those present that an individual customer can opt out of the aggregated rate at any time.

Responding to another question from MacQueen, Leppla stated that SOPEC will handle all communication to citizens and will have an 800 line dedicated to responding to citizen questions and concerns. He added that he is readily available to attend Council meetings whenever needed.

Salmeron added that the Village will place an insert in the YS News and will include information on Villagers’ utility bills.

There being no other comment, Housh CLOSED THE PUBLIC HEARING.

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:11pm, MacQueen MOVED TO ADJOURN. Brown SECONDED, and the MOTION PASSED 4-0 ON A VOICE VOTE.

Brian Housh, Council President

Attest: Judy Kintner, Clerk of Council