

2016 SPECIAL TOWN MEETING  
April 2, 2016

**ARTICLE 14:**

To see if the Town will vote to grant the Board of Selectmen authority to initiate the municipal aggregation process pursuant to chapter 164, section 134 of the Massachusetts General Laws, or any other enabling authority, to include, but not be limited to, researching, developing and entering into a contract, or contracts, to aggregate the electricity load of the residents and businesses within the Town of Plymouth and for other related services, including consulting services, independently, or in joint action with other municipalities for terms of more than three years, and for such consideration (if any), and on such other terms and conditions that the Board of Selectmen deems in the best interest of the Town, retaining the right of individual residents and businesses to opt-out of the aggregation, or take any other action relative thereto.

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

# Memo

To: Advisory and Finance Committee  
From: Patrick Farah, Planning Technician/Energy Officer  
Date: February 16, 2016  
Re: Municipal Electricity Aggregation - 2016 Spring Annual Town Meeting

Municipal Aggregation is the process by which a municipality or a group of municipalities may purchase electricity in bulk from competitive electricity suppliers instead of an investor-owned utility. The electricity is purchased on behalf of the residences and small businesses within their communities. The Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC) is spearheading this initiative with seven municipalities (thus far) actively participating in this initiative.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, by enacting Chapter 164 of the Acts of 1997, has established a competitive marketplace through deregulation and restructuring of the electric utility industry. The residents and businesses of our Town have substantial economic, environmental, and social interests at stake and are interested in reducing their electricity rates. If an aggregation of electricity load is implemented in our Town, individual residents and businesses would retain the right to opt-out of the aggregation with no penalty and to choose any other competitive supplier or stay with the default utility.

Municipal Aggregation provides municipalities with many benefits:

- Lower electricity supply rates via group purchasing power
- Pricing stability - long term budget certainty
- Broader choices for “green products”
- Local control over contract terms
- Plymouth customers will continue to receive a single bill from their Utility (Eversource)
- Customers will continue to contact their utility for services issues (outages, etc.)
- Customers can opt out without termination penalties anytime during the contracted period.
- Shelters residents from dubious offers