

From: Mayor
Sent: Saturday, April 9, 2016 11:36 AM
To: Politi, John
Subject: Re: Energy Choice Aggregation Choice - John Politi

Dear Mr. Politi -- Thank you for your thoughtful reply.

Very truly yours, Jon Mark

From: Politi, John <jpoliti@iona.edu>
Sent: Friday, April 8, 2016 7:08 PM
To: Mayor
Subject: Energy Choice Aggregation Choice - John Politi

Dear Mayor Mark,

Thank you for your response to my editorial in the April 1, 2016, issue of, [The Scarsdale Inquirer](#). It was most proper to "inform the community of the present thinking of the village board and staff on this subject." Although, I feel that a subject of this magnitude should have been formally presented publically to the village residents as a whole.

I certainly believe it to be a reasonable response by the board to monitor the progress of the pilot project and to defer a village decision to a later date. With that said, I found it very interesting that a total of 17 other Westchester cities, towns and villages, which I'm sure are managed by individuals just as intelligent, forward thinking and astute as our Scarsdale Board, saw enough positive aspects in the program to at the very least enter into a "pilot project" for the benefit of their residents.

I also disagree with your comment that "the experience of other communities, in regard to the ratepayer savings dimension of municipal aggregation, is "among the weakest of rationales for a municipality to use its regulatory authority to switch residents and businesses to a new electric energy supplier under the auspices of an aggregation program." What if I may ask are the strongest reasons to switch - which you made no comment on in your article? We all know that the statewide regulatory environment is constantly evolving - constantly.

You shared Con Edison's lower variable pricing for December 2015, as well as January - March 2016. Which just happened to be during a period of time when our energy industry nationwide collapsed and prices plummeted. Meanwhile, Sustainable Westchester illustrated a 12 month average for 2015 which was more favorable. This is not a fair comparison. Staff research regarding economies of scale is always a "moving target," so your comment that the "ratepayer savings, may not hold true over time and varying conditions," is unqualified and unquantifiable.

You also referred to Chicago, but forgot to include that as Mr. Weigman shared with me,

"The experience in Chicago is well documented and occurred under completely different energy market conditions than we have now in 2016. The Chicago rates were fixed before the energy commodity markets had fully absorbed the impact of shrinking energy demand in the recession. Energy supply prices did fall due to overuse at that time."

Again you complicate the issue by informing the public that "added local government costs are not reflected in in aggregation supply - the costs of funding outreach programs an ongoing oversight become budget line items for the municipality seeking to promote an implement an aggregation program." Meanwhile, as reported in the 11/14/15 lowhud Journal News - "**SCARSDALE - Renovating and expanding the village library is estimated to cost \$19.5 million, with taxpayers potentially on the hook for an \$11 million bond, according to officials.**" I find it very difficult in understanding your rationale regarding cost savings.

Your article ends with the comment that Scarsdale residents are free to pursue rate savings (no actual savings were shared in your article) readily available to them without local government intervention. I've personally received these mailing from unknown out-of-state firms and would never even think of signing up with them. In a community as affluent as Scarsdale why not raise the additional 11 million dollars for the library by going door-to-door and/or holding fund raisers and waiting until you have the necessary funds. Why not consider repairing our roads which are atrocious - let's do that with a bond. Obviously, it's not as glamorous or leaves anyone with a glowing legacy.

So I look forward to your "wait and see" approach. Although having lived here for 22 years I doubt very much that Scarsdale will ever enter into such a program that has the ability to reduce what are the highest electrical rates in the nation. I do hope that we have the opportunity to meet at some future date, and that the board sees its way to hold an unbiased and informative meeting on this subject.

I want you to know that I respect you very much. I hold our Trustees, Village Staff and Community Volunteers in the highest regard for everything they do each and every day. I hope that we can have the opportunity to meet in the future - thank you.

Kind regards,
John

John A. Politi, Jr.
Adjunct Professor & Director, Action Learning Program
Hagan School of Business, Iona College
New Rochelle, NY 10801
jpoliti@iona.edu
(914) 517-7574 (O)
(914) 517-7577 (F)
(917) 747-4848 (C)