



# *Village of Harriman*

1 Church Street  
Harriman, New York 10926  
TEL: (845) 783-4421

## **SPECIAL MEETING of the VILLAGE of HARRIMAN BOARD of TRUSTEES DECEMBER 1, 2025**

**1:00 PM – SPECIAL MEETING**

### **AGENDA**

- 1. ROLL CALL- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 2. M&R ENERGY – Procurement Proposal**

**VILLAGE OF HARRIMAN, NEW YORK**  
**VILLAGE BOARD MEETING**  
**December 1, 2025 SPECIAL MEETING**  
**Page 1**

7:00pm – Special Meeting

**ROLL CALL:** Mayor Wayne Mitchell, Deputy Mayor Carol Schneider, Trustee G. Bruce Chichester, Village Clerk Jane Leake

**ABSENT** Trustee Sandoval and Trustee Sarker

The Mayor asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**M&R ENERGY – Procurement Proposal**

Mayor stated we have Michele Reis, EVP of M&R Energy who represents a firm who provides energy supplies outside of O&R. The Village's current contract expires on December 5, 2025, which is before our next Board meeting. So we wanted to assure that the Village continues to receive the most favorable rate, therefore we scheduled a special meeting.

Michele Reis stated we are the consultants for Orange County. So, when Orange County goes out to bid and under that umbrella you are allowed to take that service. Basically, they vet everybody. They go through a vigorous bidding process and make sure everything is on the up and up. You are going kind of under that umbrella. I have been with the company for 20 years and have been representing the Village of Harriman that entire time. As the Mayor said, you are coming off a contract that is expiring, and the bid had to be run. There have been a lot of changes in Orange County that have hurt us; as the closing of Indian Point. In addition to that, NY is in a progressive move forward with the clean energy standard to be a certain percentage of green by 2030. They have given that up, realizing it can't be done. Now there is a lot of problems with replacing Nuclear Power. Solar doesn't do it, and wind doesn't do it. So, we are not fulfilling all the requirements of clean energy standards. Now they are talking about opening a new power plant up a little further. So, we will see down the road, which can be a long time from now. So in the interim, energy has taken a big drop down when we had Indian Point open they were discovering a lot of natural gas at the time and the price fell to the floor. But what is happening now is demand is more and more because we are liquefying it and exporting it which we weren't doing many years ago. So, we are becoming a superpower on the LNG (Liquified Natural Gas). It enables us to put it into trucks and ship it. They can liquify it and ship it. What is really hurting now is that we are liquifying it and shipping it to Europe and Asia. We want people to rely on using this natural gas. Now we are using natural gas to producing electric. It is an energy problem. How you solve that I don't know. We did go down at certain points, where we were in the six or seven cents range. That is gone. It is not going to come back anytime soon. If you look at the projects going out, they are expecting increasing rates rather than lower rates unfortunately. I don't like to hear that. I have learned that I can't control these things. Engie was the lowest bidder today. All of these companies are comparable. None of them are hiding anything in their cost. There are always ways to make these numbers look better. Say someone omits the clean energy act, like into your price and they don't factor that in. It may look better, but you are still going to pay for it. There are so many things that go into these prices, that is all factored into the price. I printed out the twelve and thirty six months. The decision is up to you. If you think there is a chance you think the rates will go down, then do the twelve months. During the course of the twelve months, you don't have to wait for this to mature. I feel bad because I waited for it to mature and that is when rates were very high in August and September. We weren't getting that relief that I was hoping to see and then the market just starts to gain momentum. I was worried about the cold coming in because that can cause problems. Now that we are using natural gas for the production of electricity so strongly, both summer and winter are becoming problematic and we don't even get relief in the shoulder months that we use to get. We used to get these reliefs in the spring and the fall, but I don't know if you noticed, but we don't get a lot of spring anymore, so we don't get a lot of relief. We go from cool and then it's hot. The fall turns around too quickly. And hurricane season hurts natural gas and natural gas hurts electricity. So, there is no real relief. Having said that, if you see a point during the twelve months, you don't have to wait until the end. We can keep an eye on it, and I can reach out to you every now and then. After the winter is over, we can look at it. I never like people to lock in really high for long term, but I don't know right now what the

**VILLAGE OF HARRIMAN, NEW YORK**  
**VILLAGE BOARD MEETING**  
**December 1, 2025 SPECIAL MEETING**  
**Page 2**

really high is. If you want to take the chance and go with the twelve months and hope it drops during the life of that at a lower rate, which can happen. They fluctuate all the time.

Mayor asked can we revisit the contract before it expires?

Ms. Reis replied in March or April I can check the rates and reach out to you, and you can sign a new agreement. It won't take the place of this one, but it will ensure that the following year you will be at a lower rate. When you lock this in you are locking it in or you either stay with the market and float. The last two months O&R has been higher than this and they are really inching up there. Where will they go? They are not getting a discount on any of these either. People will say you have to get something cheaper. It is like going into the gas station and trying to negotiate \$1.99 a gallon when it is \$3.29. This is a commodity. It is on NYMEX. These are the major suppliers in our World right now and certainly in our Country and they are all very close. I always say to people pull into the gas station and try and ask the person behind the counter to give you a discount. These are as low as we can get right now. So, you are locked in for that period of time.

Deputy Mayor stated well that is a gamble.

Ms. Reis responded for one year. Say for example that in March or April you saw a rate starting in December 2026 for seven or eight cents you should sign it. This is a good rate compared to where we have been for a while and something you can live with. It really is about budgeting. That is really what it is about. So, if you are guaranteeing the service from one year to the next then you won the gamble, I think. I have seen these rates get ugly. I have seen Central Hudson at twenty two cents and O&R at eighteen cents, during really cold weather.

Mayor stated I know during our last meeting you had explained a little bit about sometimes the rates may be lower, but they may not be addressing all the things that would benefit the Village. Can you explain that?

Ms. Reis responded someone could show you a lower rate, but is everything included in your price? Someone can come forward saying we have eight cents, which is preposterous. If someone shows you something like that you know something is wrong. Some companies will give you a price that doesn't include everything in your price, so then you will get a bill and have line items. You probably don't realize, but for every account you have with O&R you pay a capacity cost. It is called Cap Tag. O&R will give you a capacity tag for each account and they pin those capacity tags to the Village on the highest usage days of the year, and it is all done remotely. They can figure out how much the Village of Harriman needs on the highest usage day of the year and then you pay to rent that wire for that capacity. So, if you are using 10,000klw hours because everything is going. It is a snapshot in time and that is your rental fee for the wire and that is included in these costs. If someone doesn't put the capacity tag in it is not a fair apple to apples and then they have a clean energy standard. It is amazing to me what is really included in all these prices. It is like wow, and you are not always aware of that.

Mayor stated the companies M&R recommends to us would not have any of those outlines. These are clear vetted companies.

Ms. Reis replied yes, that is right. They are pretty fair with apple to apples comparisons.

Deputy Mayor asked so this will include our generators and electricity?

Ms. Reis replied every account you have provided is included. There is a whole list of them.

Mayor asked Engie jumps out quickly to me and the twelve month and the thirty six months, any pros and cons for signing with the twelve month oppose to the thirty six month other than running the risk that you might be locking yourself in for a longer term at a rate that could potential go lower?

**VILLAGE OF HARRIMAN, NEW YORK**  
**VILLAGE BOARD MEETING**  
**December 1, 2025 SPECIAL MEETING**  
**Page 3**

Ms. Reis responded that is the risk. That is the big risk that I don't like. I can't push you one way or another that would be wrong to do that. The downside in doing the long term is that rates can drop between now and then. The upside is that rates go up between now and then. But what if we are sitting here from a year from now and we are looking at twelve cents, which has been the trend lately. I still would not pursue you going for a year. The trick for the year is to really watch it, put it on your calendar and bug me, which I prefer.

Mayor replied I can do that.

Ms. Reis stated could you see it drop down in the interim, absolutely. But once you see it grab it, don't hesitate because then you will miss it. Again, you have no control over this. I think these are so close. You have to watch this stuff because it is a big expense for you. I'm hearing from Municipalities that this is becoming one of their biggest expenses.

Mayor responded we are a tiny Village so it is. It doesn't seem like we use a lot, but for us it is a lot.

Ms. Reis stated the less you use the less people you have to offset it.

Trustee Chichester asked if we see a drop and we lock in and then another month or so we see a drop again can we go for that as well?

Ms. Reis replied no.

Trustee Chichester asked how long before we can do it again?

Ms. Reis responded you can do it again tomorrow. So, if you lock it in today and this goes straight to Engie, they book it and you are locked in. Any time from that point until the maturity day you can request a price.

Trustee Chichester asked if we see a drop and we go to lock in then. Then in another month, three months, six months we see it get lower again, can we grab that?

Ms. Reis responded you can for the next year. You can keep doing this for as long as you want to do it. Say we have a mild winter, that would be a beautiful thing. But that is not what is being forecasted which is causing problems. We are hoping for a mild winter and then in March it is down to eight cents. You can lock in 2026-2027 for eight cents. Say 2027-2028 drops another penny, lock it in. Let's hope we see some relief in March. Last March we did not, but a lot of that has to do with getting the new energy norm right now in the Hudson Valley. We don't have a handle on it since all of this has happened. An overzealous clean energy standard and then Indian Point closing. It is like a moving anomaly. We have an energy problem in the Hudson Valley and how do we deal with it. They separated us out and we are zone G. We used to be in with a further upstate zone, and they price cheaper because they have all that Niagara mohawk. They did that several years before they closed Indian Point. That hurt us too. So, we are like a zone all by ourselves. We lost some benefit from Upstate New York.

Mayor stated great information. I would make a recommendation that we lock in at a twelve-month rate with Engie at 9 cents, which is a lower rate than what we are currently paying.

**MOTION** was made by Mayor Mitchell to authorize the Mayor to sign the M&R Agreement to lock in for a twelve-month rate at nine cents per kilowatt hour.

**SECOND** by Trustee Chichester

**AYE:** Mayor Mitchell  
Trustee Chichester  
Deputy Mayor Schneider

**VILLAGE OF HARRIMAN, NEW YORK**  
**VILLAGE BOARD MEETING**  
**December 1, 2025 SPECIAL MEETING**  
**Page 4**

**MOTION** was made by Deputy Mayor Schneider to adjourn Special Meeting at 1:32pm.  
**SECOND** was made by Trustee G. Bruce Chichester  
**ALL IN FAVOR**

Respectfully submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jane Leake, Village Clerk