Public Notice from the Mayor

We understand that many residents have noticed an increase in their recent Village of Groton municipal electric bills, we are not affiliated with NYSEG, and we want to address those concerns directly.

First, the increase is not related to the installation of our new Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) meters. To date, only 200 of our 1,140 meters have been installed, and these meters do not change billing rates or increase usage. Their purpose is to allow us to obtain readings remotely and more accurately, reducing estimated bills and improving overall efficiency. You can opt out of the new meters; we don't have a set rate for opt out yet as that will be set by the PSC (Public Service Commission) once all the meters are installed.

The primary reason for higher bills is the increased cost of power under our Power Purchase Adjustment (PPA), along with a significant rise in charges from the New York Municipal Power Agency (NYMPA). Our NYMPA bill this month totaled $351,000, compared to $169,000 last month.

In addition, this winter brought prolonged periods of extreme cold — the coldest stretch we have experienced in more than a decade. Municipal electric systems across New York State share power supply costs. While our community may not have experienced the most severe temperatures, northern regions of the state saw extended periods below freezing. Those increased generation costs are allocated among municipal systems based on kilowatt-hour (kWh) usage, similar to how the PPA is structured.

These higher bills reflect broader increases in electricity costs across New York State, driven by higher demand and rising market energy prices.

We remain committed to managing costs responsibly and will continue working to provide reliable and affordable electric service to our residents.

Purchased Power Adjustment (PPA) – We are often asked what this charge is on your electric bill. The Village is billed each month for the kwh sold, demand, and wheeling and transmission charges (the cost of delivering power to the Village). The Village receives its power from two sources. The first source is hydroelectric power from the New York Power Authority's Niagara Project, which is one of the lowest cost sources of power in the country. We have a maximum demand of 4,466 KW that we can receive from this source. If we exceed this demand, we have to purchase the balance (the second source, which we call incremental power) through a joint action agency that the Village participates with other municipal electric systems, the New York Municipal Power Agency. This source of power is more expensive than the hydropower. The Village usually far exceeds the hydro demand during the months of November thru April.

Mayor
Christopher J. Tuttle