



# CITY OF CONCORD

## Report to Mayor and City Council

**DATE:** December 8, 2021

**TO:** Mayor and City Council

**FROM:** Brian G. LeBrun, Deputy City Manager - Finance

**SUBJECT:** Briar Hydro Associates Renewable Energy Net Metering Agreement

### **Recommendation**

Accept this report and authorize the City Manager to enter into the attached renewable energy group net metering agreement (“Agreement”) with Briar Hydro Associates (“Briar”), subject to amendment by the City Manager. To the extent that there are any substantive amendments, they will be sent to the City Council for approval.

### **Background**

In July 2018, the City Council adopted the goal of achieving 100% renewable energy by 2050. While the City currently purchases 100% renewable energy for its electricity by supporting national renewable sources, this Agreement enables the City to support a local renewable energy resource.

In August 2021, the State of Hampshire passed HB 315, which expands the scope of net metering for municipalities from 1 megawatt to 5 megawatts. Specifically, this law includes a definition of Municipal Host means a customer generator with a total peak generating capacity of greater than one megawatt and less than 5 megawatts used to offset the electricity requirements of a group consisting exclusively of one or more customers who are political subdivisions. In accordance with this new law, the City worked with Briar to create a net metering agreement, wherein the City would include its electrical meters with a volumetric commitment of 9 million kilowatt hours per year with Briar to serve as a Municipal Host for group net metering. In return, the City would receive net metering credits from Briar’s hydroelectric dams, which are eligible net metering facilities, located in the Village of Penacook, Concord, New Hampshire and the Boscawen, New Hampshire. Importantly, the Agreement authorizes the City to reduce its annual volumetric commitment by up to 50%, in response to an action by the City to reduce its electricity consumption through energy efficiency and/or elect to undertake a renewable generation project on City owned land or land owned by any other person located in the City.

## **Discussion**

The Agreement provides for a term of eighteen (18) years, and, is anticipated to produce a net metering credit payment to the City from Briar of approximately \$1.8 million dollars over the term, or, approximately \$100,000 annually. This amount will fluctuate over the years, and is based on 15% of the revenue generated by Briar from net metering for the approximately 9 million kilowatt hours of electricity under Agreement.

If the City Council authorizes the City Manager to enter into the Agreement, Briar has up to one year to become registered with the New Hampshire Department of Energy to serve as a Municipal Host for group net metering. In addition, Briar's registration is subject to Unitil Service Corporation's (the City's electric utility distribution company) confirmation of the electrical meters which Briar include for group net metering as a Municipal Host.

Upon City Council's acceptance of this report, the City of Concord will continue to make great progress in achieving its goal of 100% renewal energy by 2050.