

**Board of Selectmen
Minutes of February 9, 2016
Selectmen's Chamber, Town Hall**

Present: Tony Archinski, Chairman, Alison Hughes, Vice-Chairwoman, Joseph DiRocco, Jr., Cathy Richardson, Jim Duggan, Town Manager, Attorney James Hall and Recording Secretary Shannon Rowe

Absent: Tamil M. Dristiliaris, Clerk

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by a moment of silence being observed for those who paid the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of this country and for those currently serving in the military particularly in Afghanistan and Iraq.

COMMUNITY INPUT:

* Caroline Zuk, 100 Old Parker Road – Ms. Zuk appeared before the Board and made the following meeting announcements for the Dracut Pipeline Awareness Group; February 11, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Dracut Police Station, February 21, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. at the Pelham Town Hall and DPU Meeting on April 13, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Dracut High School. Ms. Zuk stated that anyone could contact her with any questions and gave the group's email address. Ms. Zuk stated that Andover has shown interest in National Grid's proposed project and urged the Board to not rush any proposals as people look to leader's to protect the residents.

* Randy Boisse, 190 Methuen Road – Mr. Boisse appeared before the Board and discussed utilizing site comments under the Ecomments site on FERC's website. Mr. Boisse provided the Board with a "draft" letter dated February 9, 2016 to Kimberly Bose requesting a new FERC scoping session for the residents that never received notice of the proposed compressor station's location. Mr. Boisse stated that the residents in the area still have not received any notice and also provided copies of the signed land agreements to be included in the letter.

* Dr. Gerard Cassista, 81 Farm Pond Road – Dr. Cassista appeared before the Board and discussed the easements for the power lines, magnetic waves from radiation and the health issues associated with this. Dr. Cassista discussed living near power lines and stated that more lines means more health risks. Dr. Cassista discussed Congressman Markey's statement on the proposed National Grid project and proposed pipeline project. Dr. Cassista discussed the proposed compressor station and stated that natural gas is not needed for this area. Dr. Cassista stated that there is no benefit and the proposal should be denied. Dr. Cassista stated that there is a lot the Town can do.

* Cecilia Mancini, 57 Cart Path Road – Ms. Mancini appeared before the Board and stated that she is concerned with National Grid's proposed project.

(Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes of February 9, 2016)

Ms. Mancini stated that there is not enough information and urged the Board to understand the proposal before they make their decision. Ms. Mancini discussed the negative impact on property owners and discussed the Board doing their due diligence now. Ms. Mancini stated that she would like to know what is being proposed and discussed her concerns with electromagnetic fields. Ms. Mancini stated that she is also concerned with water and air pollution and stated that the character of the area will be completely changed.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT – Mr. Duggan stated that the Betsy Ware has submitted a survey grant for the Historical Commission and discussed the confusion with residents regarding solar developers and the Municipal Aggregation program. Mr. Duggan stated that he sent out a press release for the Municipal Aggregation.

Mr. DiRocco asked if placing solar panels on a home or building requires a building permit? Mr. Duggan stated yes, building permits are required.

Mr. Duggan stated that the Library would be closed on Thursday until 1:00 p.m. for staff development and thanked Mike Buxton and the Department of Public Works employees for their great work during the recent storm. Mr. Duggan discussed the storm budget as of today and stated that the Veteran's Service Officer is continuing her outreach and currently has 36 clients. Mr. Duggan stated that the recent Police Cadet has five weeks left in the Academy and starting in March the Recreation Department will be starting their summer program registrations. Mr. Duggan stated that Bethany Loveless, Council on Aging Director, is back from maternity leave. Mr. Duggan stated that they are wrapping up the budget and will start meeting with the Capital Planning and Finance Committee's. Mr. Duggan stated that he would be filling the full-time Police Dispatcher position and tomorrow is the last day to register to Vote. Mr. Duggan stated that the bid opening for the Cross Rd/Crosby Rd intersection will be March 10, 2016. Mr. Duggan discussed the update of the Police Department risk assessment and stated that the following items are currently being addressed; start of accreditation, creation of a directive system, staff meetings, data technology, Data Vis user driven information system, FTO specializing in training in backgrounds, custodial directive and requirements, elevator security, new SUV's, Sargent assigned to cruiser maintenance, NEMLEC equipment stored correctly, audit of inventory, having a training supervisor and training committee.

Mr. DiRocco asked Mr. Duggan to pass along to the Police Chief that the rate of speed being used in the cruisers by the Police Department when going to calls is extremely fast.

Mrs. Hughes asked when the Municipal Aggregation will start? Ms. Ware stated that the Municipal Aggregation will start in February.

Mr. Archinski stated that for the local election, the last day to register to vote is April 12th.

(Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes of February 9, 2016)

Ms. Richardson discussed the trash issue on Colburn Avenue especially behind the PJ Keating quarry.

PUBLIC HEARING:

7:10 p.m. – New England Power Company d/b/a National Grid (Merrimack Valley Reliability Project) – Requesting Franchise Rights to Locate Overhead Transmission Lines Across the Following Public Ways – Merrimac Ave, Methuen St, Wheeler Rd, Broadway Rd and Methuen Rd – Mr. Archinski read the public hearing notice advertised in the Lowell Sun. Motion made by Mrs. Hughes to open the public hearing. Motion seconded by Ms. Richardson. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Bryan Hudock, Project Manager, National Grid, appeared before the Board and stated that Transmission Grid analyzed the current system and there are a number of issues for Northern, Mass and Southern, NH. Mr. Hudock stated that the proposed project is to construct overhead transmission lines from Tewksbury, MA to New Hampshire within the existing public right of way. Mr. Hudock stated that they would not be expanding. Mr. Hudock discussed the DPU filing and having a third party expert for EMF. Mr. Hudock stated that anyone can access their website and all of the information on the EMF report and the project are explained. Mr. Hudock discussed the benefits of the Regional Reliability Project and discussed the incremental tax revenue once the project is placed in service. Mr. Hudock discussed having an open and clear communication with the Board, having a public hearing with the Conservation Commission for the proposed borings, having community meetings, abutter notifications, door to door discussions and stated that the DPU filing is an open process with public hearings.

Attorney Joshua Lee Smith from Bowditch & Dewey, appeared before the Board discussed the ground location connection and only receiving comments from Betsy Ware, Community Development Director. Attorney Smith stated that this is a grant of location permit under M.G.L. 166 S. 22.

Ms. Ware appeared before the Board and discussed her memo to the Board dated February 5, 2016 discussing the grant of location for a utility company. Ms. Ware stated that the proposed project affects five roads and consists of eight lines. Ms. Ware stated that the Board has very specific limited jurisdiction and this is a complicated project. Ms. Ware stated that additional information will be included in the decision and zoning relief is required. Ms. Ware stated that they will need an exemption from the DPU for zoning relief, she can add stipulations to the decision with Town Counsel's review. Attorney Smith stated that they are currently waiting for a hearing in Andover and Tewksbury has approved the project.

Mr. Hudock stated that they filed with the DPU in April 2015 and discussed the other permit they have applied for. Mr. Hudock stated that their goal is to start construction October 2016. Mr. Hudock stated that they are proposing one new line with six separate conductions and two shield wires.

(Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes of February 9, 2016)

Ms. Richardson reviewed tower #64 and #74 and discussed both towers having visual and health factors to the abutters. Mr. Hudock discussed tower #74 and stated that it is the best placement of the structures. Mr. Hudock stated that they did meet with the abutters and they did their best to move the structures as best they could and they are working to address issues with specific abutters. Mr. Hudock discussed their concerns with reconfiguring the tower and wire locations and they have also had discussions with the abutters across the street as well. Mr. Hudock discussed the existing structure at tower #64 and discussed where the new structure would be located.

Mr. DiRocco asked about the third party review of any health issues. Mr. Hudock stated that anyone can review the available literature online and they configure at each right of way with new locations and produce models of EMF levels.

Mrs. Hughes discussed the existing right of ways and asked if the lines could be taller crossing the roadways? Mr. Hudock explained what is there now and what the new height would be. Mr. Hudock stated that the proposed design is the most cost effective way possible. Ms. Jessica Farrell, National Grid, appeared before the Board and explained the relocating of the lines.

Attorney Hall discussed having Mike Buxton, Public Works Director, conduct a physical inspection and discussed the elevation of the wires for transportation vehicles and discussed if the traffic could bare it.

Ms. Farrell stated that the lines are required to be 23' by Mass Highway and the lines would be 25' to 28' depending on the voltage of the wires.

Mr. DiRocco stated that he would like to see the EMF reports with the draft stipulations.

Dr. Gerard Cassista, 81 Farm Pond Road, appeared before the Board and discussed EMF information. Mr. Hudock stated that the EMF's are based on field tested software with multiple configurations.

Mr. Tom Berube, 270 Wheeler Road, appeared before the Board and stated that he was concerned with the moving of the lines and the lines being near gas lines. Mr. Berube discussed the awful looking power lines near the St. Francis Church, the proposed pipeline project and now this project. Mr. Berube stated that these lines are crossing near his home and will affect the value of his home.

Mr. Randy Boisse, 190 Methuen Road, appeared before the Board and asked if this upgrade requirement is for the proposed Kinder Morgan compressor station? Mr. Hudock stated that this project is completely independent and has no association with the Kinder Morgan project. Mr. Boisse asked if the additional voltage is needed for the proposed compressor station? Mr. Hudock stated no, they would still get the proposed compressor station.

(Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes of February 9, 2016)

Ms. Cecilia Mancini, 57 Cart Path Road, appeared before the Board and stated that they need to digest the report, discussed the previous project being extremely disturbing and the existing lines being extremely loud.

Ms. Lisa Lipomi appeared before the Board and stated that she is trying to understand what this project is about, she feels as though not all of the facts are available and it doesn't make sense. Ms. Lipomi stated that the information is not complete to make a decision and they need to make sure people know what is going on.

Mrs. Hughes the why are there zoning implications if the lines already exist? Ms. Ware discussed the Building Inspectors zoning determination.

Attorney Smith discussed going to the DPU for an order allowing the exemption on the zoning and discussed the Statue. Attorney Smith stated that the Board would only be permitting the Grant of Location requests. Attorney Smith discussed some locations not being jurisdictional, EMF impacts and visual impacts not being part of the intent of the Statue. Attorney Smith stated that they are willing to continue to work with the Town, Board and residents.

Mr. DiRocco asked about easements and asked if they can have as many as they want? Attorney Hall discussed easements regulated by the State and Federal Government, non-conforming usage and having to comply with the Zoning By-Laws.

Ms. Richardson stated that she does not want to approve the project until the abutters near towers #64 and #74 are satisfied.

Mrs. Anna Corey appeared before the Board and asked if National Grid applied for relief from the general public to pay for this project? Mr. Hudock discussed how funding takes place and stated that it does not affect the location of the lines. Mrs. Corey asked then why make the changes? Mr. Hudock discussed the goals of the project, right of way safety and clearances. Mrs. Corey discussed the moving of the lines. Mr. Hudock stated that they cannot meet reliability the way the lines are now.

Motion made by Mr. DiRocco to continue the public hearing until February 23, 2016.
Motion seconded by Mrs. Hughes. Under Discussion:

Mr. DiRocco stated that he would like to see the draft stipulations and the EMF information.

Ms. Richardson stated that she would like the abutters directly impacted by the project appeased.

(Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes of February 9, 2016)

Mr. DiRocco asked Attorney Hall would the Board can and cannot permit? Attorney Hall discussed the Statue and stated that the Board has every right to help the residents with their concerns, review the height of the lines and review if this impedes on traffic.

Motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEMS:

* Jakob Levasseur – Discuss Eagle Scout Project at Costello Square – Mr. Duggan stated the he had a great meeting with Jakob Levasseur, he was very impressed with his proposed project and thanked Mike Buxton, Public Works Director, for all of the help his Department will be giving to Jakob for the project. Mr. Duggan stated that the Veteran's Service Officer also helped Jakob regarding the history of the Veteran that Jakob will be including in his project. Jakob Levasseur introduced himself to the Board, stated that he is an Honor Student at the Richardson Middle School and is a member of Boy Scout Troop 80. Mr. Levasseur presented his PowerPoint presentation to the Board and discussed his proposed Eagle Scout Project at Costello Square. Mr. Levasseur stated that the student that painted the Varnum painting in the Selectmen's Chamber is painting the electrical switch box at Costello Square. Mr. DiRocco asked how Mr. Levasseur is funding his project? Mr. Levasseur stated that he would be fundraising for the project and receiving help from the Department of Public Works.

* Lori Cahill, Conservation Agent – Request Acceptance of a Donation from AECOM for a Peer Review at 950, 960 & 970 Broadway Road – Motion made by Mr. DiRocco to accept the \$5,000 donation from AECOM for a peer review at 950, 960 & 970 Broadway Road. Motion seconded by Ms. Richardson. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Duggan stated that this is the initial donation for the peer review.

* Kevin Richardson, Police Chief – Request a Stop Sign Location for Arthur Avenue at Arlington Avenue – Motion made by Mr. DiRocco to approve the stop sign location for Arthur Avenue and Arlington Avenue. Motion seconded by Ms. Richardson. Motion passed unanimously.

* Norman Carver – Request Re-Appointment as a Bonded Constable – Motion made by Mr. DiRocco to re-appoint Norman Carver as a Bonded Constable. Motion seconded by Ms. Richardson. Motion passed unanimously.

* Chairman Archinski - Create a Sub-Committee to Review All Varnum Day Award Nominees – Mr. Archinski reviewed the minutes of the Board's February 10, 2015 meeting and stated that a motion was made by Mrs. Dristiliaris and passed unanimously, to create a Sub-Committee to review all Varnum Day Award nominations. Ms. Richardson and Mrs. Hughes volunteered to be on the Sub-Committee along with Ms. Rebecca Duda.

(Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes of February 9, 2016)

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Archinski stated that the Finance Committee, Capital Planning Committee, Open Space Committee, Government Rules and Regulations Committee, Affordable Housing Partnership Committee, Conservation Commission and Dracut Cultural Council are looking for new members.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

* Mrs. Richardson presented the Board with the following handouts from the last Pipeline Coalition meeting; Conservation Commission guidance regarding KM petition for survey access, schedule of public comment hearings to be held by the DPU, press release regarding MA and NH Towns question serious health impacts of Kinder Morgan proposed gas pipeline, letter to FERC regarding concerns from the Municipal Coalition Against the Pipeline, NH Municipal Pipeline Coalition and Northeast Municipal Gas Pipeline Coalition and the Petition of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments for a Forman Evidentiary Hearing. Ms. Richardson stated that she would like the Board to review the Petition for the next meeting and look at creating a Dracut version of the Petition.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion made by Mr. DiRocco to approve the minutes of December 8, 2016. Motion seconded by Mrs. Hughes. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Ms. Richardson to approve the minutes of December 22, 2016. Motion seconded by Mr. DiRocco. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Ms. Richardson to approve the minutes of January 19, 2016. Motion seconded by Mr. DiRocco. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR:

The Chairman read the information in the Community Calendar.

Mrs. Hughes stated that there is a ham and bean supper at the Centerville Sportsman's Club on February 27, 2016 at 4:30 p.m. and the Dracut Firefighters Ball also on February 27, 2016 at Lenzi's at 6:00 p.m.

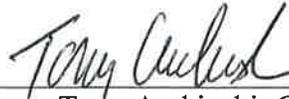
(Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes of February 9, 2016)

ADJOURMENT:

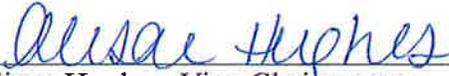
Motion made by Mrs. Hughes to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Mr. DiRocco.
Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN



Tony Archinski, Chairman



Alison Hughes, Vice-Chairwoman

ABSENT

Tami M. Dristiliaris, Clerk



Joseph DiRocco, Jr.



Cathy Richardson