

Board of Selectmen Meeting  
Minutes

Date: April 23, 2014

Members Present: Janet Flinkstrom, Mike McCallum and Steve Ingerson

Time: 7:00 p.m.

2) Motion to approve minutes of April 9, 2014 as recorded.

Motion: Mike McCallum                      Seconded: Steve Ingerson                      Vote: Unan

3) Motion to approve minutes of April 16, 2014 as recorded.

Motion: Mike McCallum                      Seconded: Steve Ingerson                      Vote: Unan

4) Warrant #W41P approve and sign in the amount of \$51,788.02 subject to further review.

Motion: Mike McCallum                      Seconded: Steve Ingerson                      Vote: Unan  
MM - Abstain from line  
with Jean Lindquist

5) Warrant #W42B approve and sign in the amount of \$155,708.98 subject to further review.

Motion: Mike McCallum                      Seconded: Steve Ingerson                      Vote: Unan

6) Motion to approve and sign on ambulance write-offs: 3/10/13 thru 7/24/13 for \$2,639.88.

Motion: Mike McCallum                      Seconded: Steve Ingerson                      Vote: Unan

7) Motion to approve and sign on ambulance write-offs: 11/13/13 thru 2/14/14 \$37,819.10.

Motion: Mike McCallum                      Seconded: Steve Ingerson                      Vote: Unan

8) Motion for Selectmen's acceptance of resignation of Dispatcher Mark Lafferty effective April 27, 2014.

Motion: Mike McCallum                      Seconded: Steve Ingerson                      Vote: Unan

Chairman thanked Mark for his service to the town.

Presentation by Kinder-Morgan/Tennessee Gas Pipeline; Discussion, Q&A:

Representatives from Kinder-Morgan: Allen Fore – Director of Public Affairs

Carey Diehl – Kinder-Morgan, Hopkinton, MA Office

Mike Lennon – Site Acquisition Project Manager for Northeast Expansion

Several Union Workers were in attendance holding a sign supporting their union. Also present was a union representative.

Slide presentation was given by Kinder-Morgan, including maps of proposed route of pipeline, list of current and potential customers, about their company, approximate time-line for project, government boards committees and licensing processes. If they decide to go ahead with project approximately 2 years will be dedicated to informational meetings and plans for project.

Q – Who are your customers?

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A - We are still in the process of obtaining customers.

Q - Will the local Conservation Commission be involved in the process?

A - Yes, if the project moves forward.

Q - Are there alternative routes being looked at?

A - Yes, there are other routes being looked at.

Q - What are the sizes of the pipes?

A - Potential sizes for pipes were given - all varying

List of government agencies and bodies that would be involved in the process was discussed.

Start of project for go ahead purposes would begin in October.

Q - Has KM been denied any permits for other projects like this.

A - No and company would not pursue any project that is not feasible.

Q - Are you in competition with any other company for this project?

A - No, not for a project of this magnitude and size.

Comment from resident. Your company is a monopoly.

Q - Will your company go to government for "eminent domain" if necessary?

A - Yes, after all other avenues and possible solutions are exhausted, this would be a process.

List of possible towns involved in pipeline was listed.

Q - Will there be pumping stations constructed along the way?

A - Yes and their positioning would be determined during the project process.

There will be many jobs (temporary) created by this, mostly in 2017 & 2018.

Co. encouraged residents to speak with other towns where company has worked.

Q - Why are you choosing to come through agricultural/rural area instead of areas like Rt. 2 or 495?

A - It is best to use the "path of least resistance", but final approval for route chosen will come from governing federal and state agencies.

Company states there are approximately 45 homeowners involved in project map.

Q - How many pump stations are there in Western part of state?

A - Approximately 7 - In this area approx. 2 to 3

Q - What is a pumping station?

A - Typically they take up about an acre of land. About the size of a large house, it would be concealed from view and would not run all the time. They will send pictures to BOS when they send the slide show presentation.

Q - Resident concerned about blasting due to large amount of ledge in Ashby.

A - This will be looked at in great detail before any decisions are made.

Q - Resident has lived in Town 40 years. She has learned that the proposed pipeline in her yard would not even be for gas for anyone in Ashby! What will be the benefit to the Town from this pipeline? She sees the commercial benefit to the company but, what is the benefit for Ashby?

A - Tax revenue and possible gas hook-up for residents only if the local utilities want it.

Q - Why are we moving in this direction of fossil fuels instead of working with windmills and Geo-thermo? Shouldn't we be moving in the direction of renewable green energy?

A - Would take many years to get to this point with renewable and in the meantime something needs to be done now.

Comment from resident - Feels that once the process is presented it will be a "done deal".

Rep. for union workers spoke on reasons for union workers and union wages.

He explained some policies and procedures they follow.

Q - What will happen to tax valuations if pipeline goes through town? Sited 2 million lawsuit.

A - Co. makes every effort to work with individual homeowners involved to see that it does not affect their property in a negative way.

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Comment – Resident concerned about OSHA violations that company has recorded and what is being done to correct this. Co. was fined \$300,000 and people lost lives.

A – Discussed safety measures used by Co. and invited anyone to go to their company website to look at their safety record.

Q - Will residents have problems with insurance and mortgages with pipeline in town and near their property?

A – Have never heard of this problem arising.

Q – Is there any flexibility in the route?

A – Yes, there is but, looking for straightest route possible.

Q – Why was town of Carlisle not used for routing?

Not answered.

Q – How deep will pipes be in the ground?

A – Minimum by law is 3 ft but could be 5, 10, and 15 up to 30ft.

Q – Resident asked why the Co. kept using the words “common good” and could they explain this? Exported gas would not benefit anyone here. At what cost are we giving up to someone else’s benefit?

A – FERC would determine this.

Q – How close to a dwelling can the pipeline be?

A – No closer than 50 ft.

Comment from resident – 20% of gas lines in Mass. are currently leaking. Why are they not trying to take care of this before starting on another project and what is to say these new pipes won’t start leaking in due time?

Q – What is capacity of gas going through these lines?

A – 2.2 billion cubic feet per day.

Q – What are the safety measures to detect leaks?

A – Several different types of detection were explained.

Comment - resident – Ashby has very little to gain and an awful lot to lose with this project. Company was thanked for their presentation.

Any Other Business Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chairman:

9) Motion to reappoint Joe Mazzola as Veterans’ Agent for Ashby.

Motion: Mike McCallum

Seconded: Steve Ingerson

Vote: Unan

Assistant to the Board of Selectmen’s Report: Read by MM. All info is available on Ashby website.

Public Comments (if any):

SI asked about pre-town meeting plans. JF will check with Moderator and Jennifer Collins to see if this is necessary.

SI asked about background checks for Town employees. JF said we could take this up at the next BOS meeting.

10) Motion to adjourn at 9:32 p.m.

Motion: Mike McCallum

Seconded: Steve Ingerson

Vote: Unan

Signed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates Minutes Approved by Board of Selectmen: \_\_\_\_\_