

Town of New Haven Selectboard Informational Meeting
6:30 pm
Tuesday, May 10, 2016
Town Hall

Present: Vice Chair, Steve Dupoise, John Roleau, Doug Tolles, Jim Walsh, Attorney, Richard Saudek, Carole Hall, Bob Amalang, Herb Singleton and Clerk, Pam Kingman
Absent: Kathy Barrett

Visitors: Geoff Davis, LuAnn Chiola, Peter Rothschild, Annie Perkins, Jeremy Ward, Alan Mayer, John Kipp, Barb Torian, Karen Danyow, Erin Wollam-Berens, Ralph Farnsworth, Eldon Sherwin, William Lepore, Erin Baslow, Caroline Donnan, Karyn Wells, Brett Wells, Paul Wyncoop, Eileen Lawson, John Harnett, Jim McClay, Dan Monger, Kate Van Dine, Suzy Roorda, Case Roorda and Lanny Smith

Steve Dupoise welcomed everyone; he talked about the informational meetings the Selectboard is holding for the public in order to discuss the term sheet that the Selectboard signed on April 13, 2016.

Steve thanked Carole Hall and Attorney, Dick Saudek for all the time and effort they have put in researching this proposed project. Steve acknowledges the term sheet is not the best deal they could have gotten, but after a lot of negotiating, both sides have to agree at some point. He pointed out some of the highlights of the term sheet: The Town would receive 1.4 million every year for the next 40 years with a 1% annual increase, (They have agreed to renegotiate at year 38, so the town could see additional money). Additionally, VGL has offered 4 million towards building a new town garage and fire station.

Sound has been one of the major concerns, VGL has promised to keep the sound level to 40 dba at the neighbor's property lines, Steve, Carole and Dick tried to negotiate to make this decibel number lower, but VGL said take it or leave it.

Another major concern that was heard at the first informational meeting on April 23, 2016, is how the abutters and neighbors around the project site are being treated by the developers. Several of the affected neighbors have said they are being treated poorly.

- Jeremy Ward – Said after hearing about the contaminated wells in Bennington, he is wondering if there are any chemicals that'll be used in the plant. Bob Amalang said it is solid insulation cable that is installed within a conduit, there are no chemicals. VELCO uses herbicides to keep vegetation down, but that does not affect this project.

- Jeremy Ward – Are there fluids in the VELCO transformers? Bob Amalang said yes there are, and VELCO has taken precautions with catch basins that are within the substation.
- Many were concerned with the exterior lighting. Jim Walsh said he had asked for pitch black, but it may be dark skies. Steve Dupoise said the building will not be manned; and the plan is to have downward facing lighting.
- Case Roorda asked for the exact location of the building. Steve Dupoise explained our aesthetics guy thought it would fit the landscape better if it were built into the hill so the tree line behind it was visible. Visually it will make the converter station look smaller. The Agency of Natural Resources will be looking at the small area of wetlands to make sure the area is safe to build in. Carole Hall said VGL has also agreed to more plantings to shield abutters and neighbors.
- Steve Dupoise explained why this cannot be a town wide vote and is instead a survey. New Haven has never voted on non-monetary items. Because of this the Selectboard opted for a non-binding survey. Depending on the outcome of the survey, the Selectboard will go with what the majority of the survey directs them to do, but ultimately they have the final say.
- Dan Monger said once the 1.4 million kicks in along with the 1% annual increase, how do we put aside this money to positively affect the tax base? Will the houses directly affected be assessed every year? Steve Dupoise said it depends on what the CLA of Common Level of Appraisal is at the time. He added VGL will be meeting here with the abutters on Thursday night, May 12th.
- Eileen Lawson asked if anyone has experience working with this company in the past. Dick Saudek said he has similar experience, but not with this company. He explained Vermont Green Line Devco, LLC is the actual company doing the project. Anbaric is a new innovative transmission company that has built several large projects; National Grid is the money behind all of it. There are not many projects like this one. There is one runs from Hydro Quebec to Massachusetts; there is one in New Haven, Connecticut and a few in lower New York. Dick has been involved in negotiating for other towns like Sheffield and Lowell during their wind turbine projects.
- Annie Perkins asked if the Fire Dept. will be required to upgrade their equipment to fight a fire at this facility. Chief Alan Mayer said they have been talking to Anbaric about it, he has requested annual training with Anbaric. When the F.D. trained at the upgraded VELCO substation, they were basically told to just wait until someone gets there who knows the plant; this is a safety precaution for the firefighters. Steve Dupoise said projects like this are mostly operated remotely, so it may be someone flipping a switch to shut the plant down. Bob Amalang added the Fire Dept. will need special relay equipment, just like they would use for any fires at the VELCO substation.

- The construction phase was discussed, this will last over 2 construction seasons. Hours of operation will be 7 am – 6 pm, Monday – Saturday, no holidays. There will be more noise during construction, which is normal for any project.
- Kate Van Dine asked why they came through Vermont, why not keep the whole project in New York. Steve Dupoise said the VELCO substation is the closest and largest substation closest to convert D/C power to A/C power. They need the shortest distance for the D/C line to be converted to A/C. Bob Amalang said this is new technology, and the wave of the future.
- Decommissioning of the plant was discussed. Dick Saudek said it requires a bond to decommission, and that goes through the Public Service Board. Steve Dupoise said the need for electricity is not going away, it is only getting stronger. He wants people to think about the future of our town, what is best for us and best for future generations.
- Karen Danyow asked if there is any expense to the town to monitor the sound. Steve Dupoise said Anbaric fronted the town \$75k to help defray the costs of hiring experts like Herb Singleton from Cross-Spectrum Acoustics. Anbaric has also added an additional \$35k to help with compensation of said experts. Cross-Spectrum Acoustics did a 13 day study on abutters' property to get a baseline. The town will have to pay for further noise studies after the project is up and running. Dick Saudek added the town needs to monitor the sound, if an agreement is reached, then the sound piece gets added into the Certificate of Public Good. That way the town would get more participation in the hearing process.
- Dan Monger asked if the Board was confident with the noise levels being within WHO (World Health Organization) limit within the term sheet. Herb Singleton said he can't be definitive on what the converter station will sound like. He has brought equipment with him to give a demonstration. One of his consultants from Cross-Spectrum Acoustics drove to Long Island, New York to record the sound levels of an existing converter station. The consultant took the reading 100 feet from the converter station. This may not be the same exact sound we will hear from the proposed converter station here in New Haven.
- Bob Amalang talked about the VELCO power line. It is currently not running at capacity. The 345kV line can accommodate up to 12,000 MW, he feels Anbaric will not increase the flow by much at all. He also said there should be no additional noise coming off the VELCO 345 kV line nor will the lines need upgrading from this project.
- Tim Bouton asked the agreement relates to this specific project. When it comes time for upgrades, does the company have to go back to the PSB, and does it trigger new negotiations. Dick Saudek they would need to go back to the PSB if they change the configuration of the building. Tim Bouton is concerned the town

will lose its ability to negotiate. Dick said he is always watching what the Legislature is doing and what bills passed. Currently they are taking more consideration for towns having a say.

- Peter Rothschild likes the project, likes the new technology, but is greatly concerned about those who will be directly affected by it. Peter said it is almost impossible for individuals to take on a large conglomerate. Many in the audience are also concerned about those who are directly affected, and are concerned that they be treated fairly. Peter said he would be in favor of it if he knew these folks were being treated fairly. Steve Dupoise said Joe Rossignoli from National Grid and Alex MacClean from K & E Partners are meeting with all those who are directly affected this Thursday night in the Town Hall. Dick Saudek said VGL will come in with a very lowball amount offer for these people who are directly affected.
- Erin Baslow whose property abuts the land where the proposed converter station will go, said they will be looking directly at it, and they are not happy. She and her husband have met with Joe Rossignoli and Alex MacClean several times, they tell them to stick around to go through the 5 year plan, but she and husband don't want to stick around to find out. She has approached several lawyers who have all told them they would not win, and therefore the lawyers won't take the case. She added Joe Rossignoli said they have no intention of spending a million dollars for the appraisal process. Steve Dupoise told her not to let Joe intimidate her.
- Noise at night was discussed. You will hear the plant more at night because traffic along Route 7 and Route 17 will be lighter. Herb Singleton confirmed this after his 13 day study showed even now, it is quieter at night because of less traffic flow along Route 7 & 17.
- Caroline Donnan said after reviewing the term sheet she is concerned with what is not in there. She is greatly concerned with noise and lighting. Dick Saudek said the term sheet sets out the initial agreement on basic terms. He likened it to a commercial contract list that would have terms on both sides.
- Geoff Davis said Dark Skies is a non-profit; they set certain standards that he would like to see added to the term sheet. He too is concerned about the way those directly affected are being treated, he would like to hear about how Thursday night's meeting between Anbaric and "those directly affected" goes. He said this will directly affect how he fills out the survey on the project. Pam Kingman said that meeting is open to the public.
- John Kipp said some on the Selectboard voted in favor of the term sheer, some did not. He would like to hear from those who are not in favor and why. Doug Tolles said he was one who voted no. In his opinion he does not trust these people. They have met secretly with several people in town and it leaves a rotten

taste in his mouth. Alex MacClean (K & E Partners) is entangled with the Jay Peak scandal right now, and she was Gov. Shumlins aide. It is that email correspondence that Shumlin is trying to have erased; he has concerns about her ethics. He has concerns about noise levels and wants to be certain the acceptable dba level be in the final contract so that we have leverage to make them fix it. He is also concerned the VELCO substation may emit a louder constant hum than it already does, and there is no remedy within the term sheet to fix that. 40dba level he feels is too loud and is concerned there are no limits within the term sheet. He added he would not want this thing in his backyard, and he will be saying no on the survey.

- Suzy Roorda asked about increased traffic. Steve Dupoise said there will be an increase during construction on Routes 7 & 17. She too is concerned about noise emitted from the VELCO substation; she lives on Main St, and can already hear the hum from the VELCO substation. Bob Amalang said the hum could conceivably be less when Anbaric ties in.
- Barb Torian said she is hearing lots of unanswered questions and concerns. If the survey comes back undetermined, will the Selectboard have an opportunity to re-negotiate.
- Jim Walsh said he has suggested having a clerk of the works during the construction phase, someone who could make weekly reports to the Selectboard. He is one of those folks who is directly affected by the project, so therefore he abstained when it came time to vote on the term sheet because of the conflict of interest. He has concerns about the impact the noise will have on the town. He wants to be sure if the project goes through that the agreement is done well.
- Lanny Smith said it sounds to him like a village / town merger, but in this deal the village is getting screwed. This is a quality of life issue. He lives on North St., and he can hear the VELCO substation hum now, he is very concerned that this is just opening our town up to more energy projects; all the solar projects gave New Haven an enema. He saw a study that shows substations lowers property values by 10 -20 %. He reiterated – money is not the issue, our quality of life is.

At 9:15 pm everyone went outside to listen to Herb Singleton's demonstration of the sound that was recorded from the converter station on Long Island, New York.

The next scheduled meeting is on Tuesday, May 17, 2016.

Adjourn: 9:15 pm

Respectfully submitted:

Pam Kingman

Approved:



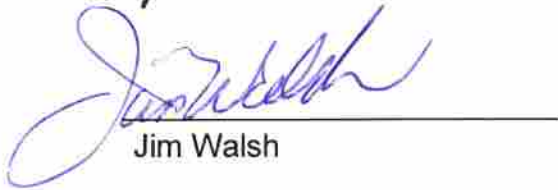
Vice Chair, Steve Dupoise



John Roleau



Doug Tolles



Jim Walsh