

**Town of New Haven Selectboard Informational Meeting**  
**6:30 pm**  
**Monday, May 23, 2016**  
**Town Hall**

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

Visitors: Suzy Roorda, Case Roorda. John Madden, Kevin Commins, Ed Rybka, Ralph Farnsworth, Richard Choquette, Tim Bouton, Rodney Cyr, Ralph Bushey, William Lepore, Suzanne Loker, Pat Kennelly, Alan Mayer, John McKinley, Roger Sturtevant, Fabian Bourgeois, Amy Bourgeois, Jim Gallott, Erin Baslow, Bill Baslow, Karen Gallott, Sarah LaPerle, Jacqueline Malloy, Vanessa Malloy, Richard Shappy, Stuart MacCrellish, Anne Cady, Pat Laffin, Mark Morrison, Virginia Morrison, Candace Davidson, Eldon Sherwin, Jeanette Sherwin, Bridget Kipp, Susan Smiley, Janet Wiseman, Bob Regan, Gail Regan, Marcia Dupoise, Angela Dupoise, Pam Marsh, Gail Freidin, Harvey Smith, Susie Leonard, Cindy Kayhart, Peter Rothschild and John Madden

**Steve Dupoise** welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming.

Steve also thanked Carole Hall and Attorney, Dick Saudek for all the time and effort they have put in researching this proposed project.

Steve said at the last meeting there was a question regarding lighting at night at the converter station. VGL said they are committed to the Dark Skies standards. (You can view this on the town website)

There was another question about the buried cables that will run from Beekmantown, New York to New Haven. These cables will be 400MW, one positive and one negative. VGL has said they will not increase the amount to 800MW as they were originally proposing. Once VGL has applied to the Public Service Board, they are committed to 400 MW.

Roger Sturtevant lives close to the VELCO power line; he is concerned about an increase in EMF's. Bob Amalang said there will be no increased risk from VGL. There was a comprehensive study done at the Salisbury Elementary School, and it showed with the new 345kV line there was a slight increase in EMF's, but it was much lower than they thought it would be. Bob said you can get more EMF's from small appliances and smaller voltage lines, than you get from high voltage lines like VELCO.

Roger Sturtevant asked if any EMF studies have been done around the VELCO power lines for those living close to the lines. He would like the town to get a before and after

level. He has had several family members die from cancer, and they have all lived close to the VELCO power line. Steve Dupoise said it is something they can consider looking into.

Fabian Boureois asked how close is safe to live next to the VELCO line? Bob Amalang suggested having another EMF study done, possibly this could go through the Public Service Board.

Peter Rothschild asked if this doesn't get the approval through the survey, and it goes to Middlebury, will there be power lines that run back and forth from Middlebury to New Haven? Steve Dupoise said this has not been made clear to him.

Susie Leonard is concerned about the clause on page 6 that says the town will be ok if they move the location of the converter station back up on the hill. She is not happy about this. She would like to get confirmation from ANR so we know the exact location of the building. Steve Dupoise said there is a concern about a small strip of wetland; this may affect the location of the converter station. It depends on what the Agency of Natural Resources says. ANR will not weigh in on this until there is an application for a CPG filed.

Eldon Sherwin questioned the latest mailing that went out. Steve Dupoise and Carole Hall confirmed it was not from the Town.

Eldon Sherwin asked why Ferrisburgh is getting compensated for their roads when New Haven is not. Steve Dupoise said it will not affect our town roads, only Route 7. Jim Walsh added this cable will be buried within Ferrisburghs town right of way, which is why they are being compensated.

Susan Smiley referred to the term sheet, she asked about the added clauses. Dick Saudek said on page 8, number 11 shows the list of clauses. These are the principle clauses; they will be refined in the actual agreement / contract. The term sheet was written so the average person could understand it, and it sets out the basic terms of what the final agreement / contract will say.

Dick added because VGL Development LLC is a Delaware limited liability company; he wanted to ensure if we ever have to sue them, it can take place in the Vermont Court system. He added that once the survey results are tallied, the Selectboard will take the next step, but is ultimately the PSB who decides if the project goes through. And this all depends on the proposed large wind farm in northern New York, which hasn't been built yet. This project is not a foregone conclusion. If the company were to go bankrupt, it will

be defined in their Certificate of Public Good that if they sell it, the buyer cannot operate without abiding by the original contract.

John Madden has concerns about the project; it doesn't feel right to him. He handed out studies documenting health issues from high tension wires. He is also concerned with the amount of noise; no one wants to listen to a constant hum. He feels we will regret this if we move forward with this project.

Gail Smith asked when construction would start, and when the town does receive its payoff. Steve Dupoise said construction wouldn't begin until 2018; the first payment would begin the year which the project is built and in operation. The money that has been promised to the Fire Dept. and the Town for a new garage will begin within 60 days after the date of commencement of construction.

Gail Smith said this feels like David and Goliath, it is a big operation, and New Haven is up against some big folks, do you feel our hired experts can handle it? Jim Walsh said when they first came to the town; he reached out to Attorney Dick Saudek, knowing Dick has a wealth of experience. Jim said as far as the experts we have hired, he would personally have a hard time recommending someone who has previously worked at the VELCO substation.

There was more discussion about the size of the cable staying at 400MW. If they were ever to increase the size to 800MW, the VELCO substation and power line would have to be completely upgraded. Steve Dupoise will make sure they get verification of the size of the cables if the project goes through.

State Representative, Harvey Smith said in Montpelier the Legislature has really listened about renewable energy and how towns want more of a say. He has never seen such a change in the Legislature before, now giving towns' local control / local support.

Concerns about the noise the converter station will make were raised. Herb Singleton from Cross-Spectrum Acoustics said the abutters will not hear the converter station during the day because truck traffic on Route 7 & 17 will mask it, however during the night time hours they will hear it; but it will be fairly low. He has a sound demonstration he has set up outside for all to hear. A colleague of his tape recorded the converter station on Long Island, New York. This station is about 10 years old, so the sound will not be exactly the same. There is currently no other facility like this in the United States, so to get an exact sound replication is near impossible. The hum currently heard from the VELCO substation will always be there.

Bridget Kipp asked about tonal noise, and how it can literally drive you crazy. She read about a woman who had a noise in her house, she followed the noise and found it was coming from a substation 9 miles away. Herb Singleton said tonal noise does tend to be bothersome because it is a constant hum or whistle, and it is readily detected by the human ear. Broad band noise is more of a static noise.

Also discussed was how those directly affected will have to prove their property values have decreased after this project has been in operation for 1 year. Erin Baslow, who is an abutter, attended the meeting hosted by VGL for abutters and those directly affected. She said no one in the audience believed the experts VGL had there.

Tim Bouton asked why this project is going into an area zoned residential when there are several highway commercial lots just down the road. Steve Dupoise said they need to be as close to the VELCO substation as possible. They looked at two sites which were in the highway commercial zone, but those sites were not determined to be suitable.

Gail Smith asked who owns the land where the converter station is proposed. Steve Dupoise said Mike Lee owns the land.

Case Roorda said he lives in the village and can hear the hum from the VELCO substation now; he is concerned that may increase. But there has been no concession for those who may be affected by this new converter station that live a little farther out. Steve Dupoise said the point people worked along with VGL to look at the tax map and decide who would be the most effected by the project. Steve encouraged all in attendance to stay and listen to the sound sample Herb Singleton has set up.

Jim Gallott said initially there were 2 properties considered, what happened to them? Kathy Barrett said the first location in the junction had too big of a wetland area and the second location, explosives were a concern.

Bridget Kipp said she has attended several Selectboard meetings and informational meetings. She has an idea of how most of the Board members feel, some seem to have their heels dug in. She asked if the Selectboard could honestly say if the survey comes out to 70 against the project and 30 in favor, will they change their minds in favor of the how the results come out. Bridget asked Board members individually if they would change their "vote". Kathy Barrett and Steve Dupoise all said yes they would change their vote in favor of what townspeople wanted, according to the survey results. Jim

Walsh said that according to the Term Agreement, he was not eligible to vote on it. He will be seeking legal counsel. (Doug Tolles and John Roleau were absent)

Jim Walsh said the 29 acres along Main St is owned by TDI which is another utility company. They could conceivably bring another line in. He wants to be sure this project (VGL) if it goes through, that it gets done right, and gets done well. He quoted from the term sheet on page 7, b that states because he is a neighbor to the project had to abstain from voting on the term sheet. The house he owns nearby is for sale, he will not be living there in 6 years.

**At 8:20 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, June 7, 2016.

Adjourn: 8:15pm

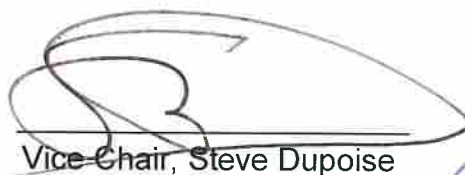
Respectfully submitted:

Pam Kingman

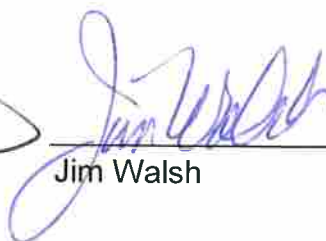
Approved:



Chair, Kathy Barrett



Vice Chair, Steve Dupoise



Jim Walsh

