

SELECTBOARD MEETING JUNE 18, 2012

PRESENT: Chairman Paul Rooney; Board member Denise Lindahl; Board member Drexell White; Administrator Barbara O'Leary; Town Clerk Jeanine Tucker; Finance Director Vicki Eugley; Maureen O'Keefe on behalf of the Northport Village Corp. and residents concerned about the proposed LPG tank in Searsport.

Citizen Concerns:

Paul Sheridan spoke to the Board about concerns he and a few other residents of Northport have surrounding the proposed LPG tank that DCP Midstream has applied to construct in Searsport. The DCP Midstream application is now before the Searsport Planning Board for final review, Sheridan asked the Selectboard to convey the concerns of Northport residents to the Searsport Planning Board. He expressed that the cost to Northport is yet to be disclosed, adding that Emergency Services will need new equipment and additional training to be prepared should there be an incident at the facility. Sheridan also spoke of how property values will go down along the shorefront; a drop will be seen in rentals due to the impaired scenery and there will be a decline in boating on the bay when the ships deliver product. Sheridan ended by stating that he feels as though the DCP project is just another prime example of "Empty promises from big oil".

Mitzi Lichtman also spoke to the Board. Lichtman agreed with Sheridan that the Board needs to forward comment for a standing on behalf of the residents. Lichtman proceeded to state that she believes the LPG project is a direct tie in with the proposed East/West Highway and that it is taking advantage of a small community. She went on to mention how an environmental impact study has not been conducted and how there is no back up-secondary cooling system planned should the primary system fail. She concluded by expressing the need to protect our environment as it is a valuable resource.

Cara Crosby also spoke regarding the proposed job creation. The figures she had were that the tank would employ 12 to 24 people where the restaurant directly beside the site employs nearly 40 people. She asked the Board to make the comparison. Crosby informed the Board that there will be a 'Balloon Test' on Thursday to demonstrate the height and size of the proposed tank. Administrator O'Leary confirmed that she had been given that information as well. Crosby asked O'Leary if she were aware of the flame that would be emanating from the tank and if it were going to be permanent or intermittent. Board member Drexell White explained that the flame is part of the cooling and pressure balance.

Judy Rohweder mentioned that the tank is the equivalent of a half megaton hydrogen bomb with the same repercussions should it 'go off'. Rohweder added that the temperature needs to be a constant negative 44 degrees. She also mentioned concerns about increased trucking on the highway and dangers surrounding mishandling or accidents. Rohweder surmised that if the tank was not allowed to be placed on the Mystic River it should not go here either as gas leakage would be devastating to the environment and the Board needs to forward Northport's voice to the Searsport Planning Board.

Shirley Rand concluded the public input by telling the Board that she had attended a meeting about the proposal and how the people at the meeting were well informed. She added that the Penobscot Bay is very well known and that people come to enjoy it. Seasonal visitors will be impacted by the boat traffic, when deliveries to the tank are made, as the bay will have restricted access. Rand continued by relaying that she has been told by many people that they will be selling their property so they are not putting their families in danger by staying. She finalized by stating that there are no laws to stop this project but it will be built on a fault line and concerns of disaster need to be heard maybe by an even higher level than the State.

Chairman Rooney asked if anyone else wanted to add something, everyone present who had wanted to speak had done so. Board member Denise Lindahl thanked everyone for taking the time to come to the Board with their comments and concerns. Lindahl explained that the Board would take things under advisement.

Northport Village Corp.:

Maureen O'Keefe spoke to the Board on behalf of the Village Overseers expressing their gratitude for the efforts that went into the Fireworks Ordinance which was recently passed at the annual town meeting. O'Keefe stated that the ordinance will be going on the Bayside website and is being posted at different locations in the Village area.

Lindahl asked O'Keefe if the Overseers have any comment to add regarding the LPG tank in Searsport, O'Keefe replied that they may have heard public input but they did not have anything for her to bring forward.

Chairman Rooney asked if the Overseers had hired a police officer yet, O'Keefe said that one has been hired and has already started working. Lindahl asked if he had been informed of the Fireworks Ordinance, O'Keefe assured her that he is.

O'Keefe asked if there was anything the Board would like her to take to the July 15th meeting of the Overseers, Rooney asked that she inform them that the \$25,000.00 annual request from the Overseers to aid in Village financing had been passed at Town meeting.

Roads:

Beech Hill Road:

Administrator O'Leary informed the Board that road Commissioner Amon Morse was not able to attend the meeting. She relayed his concerns surrounding a 500 foot section of Beech Hill Road that is seriously damaged and needs reclaiming. His concern is that more damage will be done if the matter isn't addressed soon. He had discussed the section with F.C. Work & Sons and was told by them that the project should be under \$5,000.00 and that they could get to it now, unless the Board opted to put it out to bid. Morse told O'Leary that it was an approximate 500 foot by 8 foot section 12 inches deep needing roughly 200 yards of gravel. He had also mentioned that Marriner's would be another couple of weeks before they began the paving bid work they were awarded.

Chairman Rooney asked that specs be written up for this project and put it out to bid which would be opened at the July 16th meeting along with ditching and brush cutting.

Salt/Sand Shed:

Bill Lane of Gartley & Dorsky had contacted O'Leary to set up a site visit with Morse for a review of work that has been done on the site and what still needs to be done. Morse had checked on

the work done so far and informed O'Leary that there is an area that is 3 inches lower than it is supposed to be, rocks had been used for fill where loam and seeding was to be placed. Morse agreed to meet with Lane in the morning.

Withdrawal form RSU #20:

Town Clerk Jeanine Tucker had contacted the Commissioner of Education in Augusta about the affirmative vote to investigate the withdrawal process by Northport residents on June 12th. Tucker was informed by Jim Rier at the Department of Education that a letter from the Selectboard stating why they believe the residents want to go through the process would need to accompany the results of voting.

Under motion by Board member Drexell White second by Board member Denise Lindahl the Board voted 3-0 to have Administrator O'Leary forward a letter offering the Boards assumption for explanation as an increase of 17% to the school budget and a decline in enrollment as reasons why the residents voted in favor of the withdrawal process.

Public Hearing:

General Assistance Ordinance:

Chairman Rooney opened the meeting to Public Hearing for review of the General Assistance ordinance at 6:35p.m.

Rooney explained that by State Statute any changes in the General Assistance Ordinance must undergo a public hearing. He stated that the biggest change in the ordinance was a decrease of 10% in overall income, and that the threshold had been lowered as well. He added that the bottom line is less people will qualify for assistance. O'Leary mentioned that housing assistance will only be covered for a 9 month maximum for any 12 month period.

Rooney called for public comment. Mitzi Lichtman commented that it would appear the State is passing the burden onto Towns. Rooney replied that bigger cities such as Portland and Bangor are facing a nearly one million dollar loss for services not reimbursed by the State. With nothing further Rooney closed the public hearing at 6:40 p.m.

Under motion by Board member Denise Lindahl second by Chairman Rooney the Board voted 3-0 to accept the changes to the General Assistance Ordinance.

Maine Municipal Safety Grant:

First Responder Chief Henry Lang and Administrator O'Leary had applied for a Safety Grant through Maine Municipal Association in April. O'Leary had recently been informed that the application had been approved for up to \$2,000.00 toward radio upgrades to address band and frequency changes that were coming.

NIM's Training:

O'Leary had been informed by Lang that evidence of completion of the 100 and 700 NIM's Training would need to be provided by everyone who had taken it; otherwise they will have to take it again.

Arsenic:

O’Leary had been researching filtration systems for arsenic removal and contacting plumbers willing to install them. She informed that she had contacted Norlens and Haskell for estimates. Haskell gave her a high figure of \$5,000.00 for the Town Office and Fire Department with no mention of doing a site visit. Norlens told O’Leary that they could come this week and do a walk through for a free estimate.

O’Leary added that in speaking with Henry Lang she had learned about units available at Home Depot that connect to the faucet and have a valve to filter water when needed. Another option is a unit that attaches to the cold water line and has a separate faucet that would come up through the sink. O’Leary said she would continue looking into the different options and report back.

M.M.A. Inspection Report:

O’Leary had received the written Maine Municipal Association report from the Risk Management inspection. She informed the Board that nearly everything on the report had been addressed with the exception of the guardrail placement at the Transfer Station to prevent someone from falling into the demo/debris and recycling dumpsters. O’Leary said she was waiting for clarification on specs for the railing.

Transfer Station:

Board member Lindahl asked O’Leary if there had been any more thefts at the Transfer Station, O’Leary said that there have not been any thefts and that metals were hauled off by D.M.&J last week.

The Board and Administrator O’Leary discussed the possibility of having Transfer Station stickers available for sale at Wentworth’s Grocery for Saturday afternoons when the Town Office is closed; O’Leary said that she would ask John Wentworth about it and work out the details with him.

Code Officer:

Code Officer John Larson told O’Leary that he would be drafting a Mobile Home Ordinance for the Selectboard and Planning Board to review, but did not provide a timeline for completion. O’Leary said that Larson had his first windmill application come in for Little Harbor Lane. The matter will have to go through the Planning Board per the ordinance.

Proposed LPG Tank:

The Board took this time to confer about the proposed LPG tank in Searsport. Board member Drexell White mentioned that the Searsport Planning Board has the discretion to allow/disallow comment from anyone but the abutting property owners. White added that comment may not have a legal standing but it had not stopped people from having their voices heard. Rooney stated that Courts have ruled in the past that one does not need to be an abutter to prove being impacted by a project.

White stated that Northport would be impacted by a catastrophic event whether it was from the tanker in coming up the bay or if it were the LPG tank itself. White also clarified that the bay would not be shut down completely when a tanker travels through, that there must be an 18 minute radius kept around the ship at all times as it travels up the bay.

Lindahl asked at what point would be the comment period, White replied that period would be within 30 days of the application being declared complete and a public hearing would be called. Rooney asked White and Lindahl if they would like O’Leary to draft a letter to the Searsport Planning Board voicing the concerns of Northport residents. White said he felt as though it wouldn’t hurt to go on record stating the impact the proposal would have on roads and that it is not a though through project. Lindahl stated she did not want to sign onto a form letter but was willing to forward resident concerns.

Residents Shirley and Carl Rand asked White how the 18 minute buffer around the incoming tanker would be enforced, White explained that the tanker would have an escort. White also informed them that the tanker would not be allowed to anchor in the bay, it would be going directly into a birth for offloading and this would only happen six or eight times a year. The Rand’s mentioned how this would be the largest tank in the county and how the laws needed to protect against this are not in place. They then asked if White would be sending an individual letter, White replied that if a letter gets sent it would be from the Board as a whole and not as part of some movement already going.

Under motion by Chairman Rooney second by Board member Lindahl the Board voted 3-0 to have Administrator O’Leary draft a letter and forward it to the Searsport Planning Board informing them of the concerns of Northport residents.

Finance Director:

Vicki Eugley and Administrator O’Leary had drafted a job description for Finance Director that better describes the work already performed by Eugley as Bookkeeper. Chairman Rooney stated that after reading the description he has a better understanding of the work involved and it was more than he expected.

Under motion by Chairman Rooney second by Board member Lindahl the Board voted 3-0 to accept the job description for Finance Director as written.

Under motion by Board member Lindahl second by Board member White the Board voted 3-0 to appoint Vicki Eugley to the position of Finance Director.

Office Estimates:

Eugley provided the Board with two estimates for work on a new office upstairs in Town Hall. These estimates did not include the additional work of extending heat to the space; she had a separate estimate for that from Bill’s Burner service for that.

The Board compared the two estimates and discussed breaking them out into separate jobs.

Under motion by Chairman Rooney second by Board member Lindahl the Board voted 3-0 to have Ron McIntyre do the carpentry work, Mike Alley do the electrical and Bill’s Burner Service extend the heating system for the new office.

Appointments:

Under motion by Chairman Rooney second by Board member Lindahl the Board voted 3-0 to approve the following appointments:

E.M.A. Director & Health Officer: Peter Simpson

Fire Chief: Mike Alley

Warrants were reviewed and signed.

Under motion by Chairman Rooney second by Board member Lindahl the Board voted 3-0 to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2012 and May 7, 2012 meeting as corrected.

Under motion by Chairman Rooney second by Board member Lindahl the Board voted 3-0 to adjourn at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeanine Tucker
Town Clerk