



Selectmen Meeting 03-24-15

Approved Minutes

Present: Select board members Charles Moser-Chairman, Bernie O'Grady, Louise Lavoie
Administrative Assistant Jeannine Phalon, several members of the public

Call to order: 7:32 PM

Next meeting: April 14, 2015 at 7:30PM to be held at the Mann House

Approval of Manifests:

Noted board of Selectmen signed payroll and accounts payable manifests prior to meeting

Approvals:

- **Motion** by **Charles Moser** to approve March 10, 2015 Selectmen meeting as submitted, **seconded** by **Bernie O'Grady** – vote **3-0** in the **affirmative**.

New Business:

- Conservation Commission appointment letter for Lundy Lewis was signed by the Board.
- Conservation Commission letter to Thomas Donovan, Director of Charitable Trust, regarding easements on Town land, was reviewed and signed by Select Chair Moser and Conservation Commission Chair Robert Larochelle. Letter to be mailed or emailed to appropriate cc's by commission members.
- The Board reviewed and approved memo titled SEC 125 drafted by Brenda Wiley, bookkeeper, regarding implementation of pre-tax healthcare deductions, to be given out to employees. **Motion** by **Charles Moser** to implement employee share pre-tax medical expense as suggested by Brenda Wiley. **Seconded** by **Bernie O'Grady** – vote **3-0** in the affirmative
- Kinder Morgan presentation: 8PM
Select Chair Moser first wanted to thanked Jim McCormick, Rick Griffith, the School Board, and Jeannine Phalon for all their help in the organization of this meeting. Chairman Moser stated we have a full house tonight and would like to set some rules of procedure to make things go as smoothly as possible. After the presentation by the Kinder Morgan team, you may line up at the microphone set up in the middle aisle to ask your question. He asked to limit your questions to one and a possible follow up. Please be respectful of one another and the last question will be taken at 9:45PM
-Select Chair Moser then introduced Allen Fore, Vice President of Kinder Morgan. Mr. Fore introduced the following people: Mark Hamarich, Jim Hartman, and Curtis Cole as members of the Kinder Morgan team. Mr. Fore stated they have had several public meeting over the past several months. The public can follow the project by FERC docket # PF14-22-000. He then presented a slideshow which is available on the Town's website, masonnh.us.
The floor was then open to the public for questions.

- Bill Rendle, Mason resident, stated that Mason is a rural town with no commercial or business use permitted except by special exception. Do you think eminent domain power grants the right to alter zoning?

-Allen Fore stated they would be looking for guidance from the zoning board and the federal government makes that determination with the certificate of public convenience.

-Richard Rosen asked about the safety at which the pipeline runs at full capacity. What is the kill zone and how many people would be affected. He also wanted to know the maintenance plan. Should there be any catastrophic event, gas release, fire, ect., it would depend on the incident. The way the pipeline is designed there are valves to shut off areas of the leak to isolate the leak. The pipeline will be maintained like the ones already in place over the last sixty years. There was an incident during construction in 1981, but these are rare.

-Joseph Wiley asked about the four hundred foot survey corridor and the restoration of the land. What is going to happen with the trees being cut down on his property? There would be fifty feet of easement which will have new vegetation, not trees, grown. Jim Hartman answered there would be negotiations with the property owners as part of the plan. He then asked how Kinder Morgan would compensate for the loss of wood and maple syrup production. Again, this would fall into negotiations with the owners.

-Pam Lassen asked if Kinder Morgan was going to continue to maintain insurance or bond for the liability of the pipeline. Jim Hartman stated they do maintain insurance and would continue to provide. She then asked specifically about after construction is complete and maintaining insurance and a bond to cover any damages from the pipeline. Jim Hartman stated there would be a plan with the Town.

-John Lewicke stated his property would be affected greatly and what compensation would there be. Jim Hartman asked if they have looked at his property yet. John stated no and told them to stay off his property. Jim replied he respects that, but their goal is to be able to make the necessary survey to be able to negotiate a price and plan.

-Michelle Siegmann asked if they affirm or deny knowledge of the Fitchburg Power and Light filed sworn statements at the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities indicating a slowing of demand that large users, which are supposedly to be supplied by the Fitchburg Lateral, are attempting to jettison their contracted unused natural gas onto the market. And to please explain why this lateral should be granted a certificate of convenience?

-Curtis Cole stated that their customers are asking for it and the way they would do that is to go through the Fitchburg lateral. Once they install the pipeline to Dracut, it would increase deliveries in Massachusetts and Connecticut. They are talking to NSTAR and National Grid, but NSTAR has not signed on as of today. If we do not have a signed agreement, we will not have the need. We have to prove to the PUC there is a need by the promised contracts and customers. Without it, we will not build.

-Liz Fletcher wanted to know what facilities are planned where the lateral meets the mainline. Curtis Cole stated there will be a valve station with a twenty five by twenty five foot area with above ground piping to isolate the main line. There will be a pigging station as well. She then asked about the way the pigging process is. The pig station is above to clean the pipe, down with the gas, and is a closed operation and the pig will come out and would capture the liquids and sludge in enclosed tanks. There is always a possibility if there is a problem in the line, there may

be another valve station. There will be some venting of the pipes, primarily methane, and there are chemicals released but there are no studies showing anything higher than normal.

-Barbara Devore stated the proposed thirty six inch pipeline is slated to pass through Mason's largest aquifer. What is your plan to ensure that no residents will be left with contaminated, damaged, or dry wells?

Jim Hartman stated they would have an agreement with the landowner to have the well inspected beforehand and afterwards, from a third party contractor, in writing to be responsible for the protection of the well. Mark Hamarich stated the blasting is a controlled blast and is a rare event to have damage or impact outside of the needed space.

-Gary Elsworth stated he did not want any more land to be paying taxes on that he cannot use. The former governor of Massachusetts stated within the past year the need was flat, why do you want more gas? Why not go the Massachusetts route since they will receive the benefit. Curtis Cole stated the projections show it losing generation capacity and we need to replace it even if it shows it to be flat. In order to maintain EPA requirements is to take facilities offline and they are meeting the request of the demand. As for exporting, Kinder Morgan is not authorized as an interstate pipeline. They are only gassed to Dracut, which is tied to Spectra, which has filed to reverse the line to bring in any gas north or south. A lot of companies cannot compete with Marcellus shale gas and they are obligated to sell at capacity if they were to approach them. Gary Elsworth asked why not go back to the Massachusetts route since they would be the ones who will benefit. Curtis Cole stated that part of this is due to the co-location in the NH adjusted route and FERC is interested in the expansion of natural gas delivery and Liberty Utilities is actively talking about expansion and they have to have customers and they have to meet those standards.

-Tabitha Davies made a statement to Kinder Morgan of how does blowing up people's homes and our ecosystems help Mason. Response was it doesn't.

-Donald Hodges stated ninety four percent of this is for Massachusetts and Connecticut, only 6 % of New Hampshire would benefit. You would sacrifice our town for Fitchburg Massachusetts. Curtis stated the twenty two percent is to serve Liberty. Vermont Nuclear facility has closed and they are looking to replace some of that energy.

-Frank Edelblut what was the impact on the municipal wells on the Wilton line on Rte 31. Mark Hamarich asked for the location for them to look at it.

-Joe McGuire stated the fact of thinner walled pipes will be used in rural areas, and our lives are just as important here as the city. Mark Hamarich stated that it is correct that they will use a class one pipe which is what is being used in over eighty percent of their pipeline and it is safe. It is up to date code. Design standards are for a safe and effective pipeline.

-Stanley Brown asked where the steel will be made for the pipe. Mark Hamarich stated they prefer US steel and are not looking to export that, but whether it is domestic or imported, they will be made to US standards and he does not believe that Kinder Morgan has any Chinese approved material standards.

-Dennis from Manchester was there to represent the union workers who will benefit from the pipeline project and create jobs in New Hampshire.

-Carol Iodice stated neighbors lost wells with blasting only a half mile away. Where are you co locating twelve inch pipeline on private property? Mark Hamarich stated they are not co-locating the Fitchburg lateral and looked at a couple of alternatives and have come up with the better solution. They are finding the best route with the least impact at this time.

-Judy Forty asked how does Kinder Morgan get permission to go through wetlands that owners could not get. Mark Hamarich answered that they cannot take over a seventy five foot right of way through wetlands. Construction technique use nine inch mats and follow necessary techniques and guidelines.

-Bob Broden asked about the Fitchburg line and why did it change from the original plan to go through Hollis. Alan Fore stated the Beaver Brook Association came up with three different alternatives, one being this one going through Mason. The team wants to bring the right people to these meetings so they can go back with the information to make the right decisions and listening to everyone is important in that process.

-Al Broadbent stated the pipeline would go right through his and his daughter's property and is concerned with all the trees that are going to be cut down and losing his well from the blasting. He doesn't care to have the gas being exported and the company profiting. Jim Hartman stated he is concerned about the property owners and wants to be able to meet with each owner so they can see where each property is affected and make it a better fit. He also stated that there is a study that shows there is negligible affect to property value.

-Sharon Elsworth was curious to the solution for the pipeline which is proposed and going right through her living room. Jim Hartman asked for her address and will follow up with her so that will not be the case. It is very important for the property owners to communicate the issues with Kinder Morgan.

-Mary Broden was concerned with the possibility of explosions and the Town not being prepared for such an event with our volunteer fire department. She was also concerned with possible death and evacuation zones. Mark Hamarich stated what they will have operation center with a compressor station and will isolate the gas flow and protect the area. First Responders will work together with Kinder Morgan and have a role in the emergency preparedness plan.

-Ron Dube suggested for Kinder Morgan to pack and go home.

Buddy Doherty from Brookline stated why they set the time for Brookline meeting at 6PM knowing that there would not be enough time for the people of Brookline before having to come to Mason at 8PM. This is why the Board of Selectmen cancelled and rescheduled for another date and time.

-Charles Moser stated we are running out of time and will take one more question.

Chris Adams from Brookline stated it is evident that this pipeline would not benefit this town or the state. He suggested having the route go along Rte 3 instead.

-Sarge Collier is concerned with the blasting and losing his well. Feels this would be an emergency and who should he call. Jim Hartman stated he should call him at 860-763-6033 so he could remedy it personally.

Old Business:

- Charles Moser agreed to review TDS Communications agreement for cable. All Board members agreed with the contract. The contract only requests one signature which will be signed by Select Chair Moser once it has been reviewed by him.

Public Communications:

- Listed above

Non Public:

- **Charles Moser** made a motion to enter into **Non-Public** per RSA 91-1:3, II (a) and (e)
Seconded by Bernie O’Grady Vote 3-0 in the **affirmative** at 10:04 PM
- Re-entered Public session at 11:35 PM and then immediately adjourned.

Respectively submitted,

Jeannine Phalon

Administrative Assistant