

Board of Selectmen  
Special Meeting  
Fire Safety Complex  
April 22, 2008 - 6:00 PM

MINUTES

1.0 First Selectman Joyce Okonuk called the Special Meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Selectman John Bendoraitis and Selectman Russ Blakeslee were present. Also in attendance were Attorney Andrew Lord, Mary Ellen Wieczorek, Administrative Assistant and audience of 34.

The Selectmen have not had an opportunity to discuss the project as a whole and consequently, the Selectmen will not be entertaining public comment this evening. Attorney Andrew Lord was invited to attend to explain the project status at the state level.

Andrew Lord - Legislature passed PA 07-242 regarding electricity promoting the development of peaking power plants (quick start) to provide electricity for high demand (peak times) or during line loss. State looking for 500mw of power and there are eight different companies submitting 11 proposals. The legislature required that NE Utilities and United Illuminating submit proposals. The DPUC and Office of Consumer Council have reviewed submittals and as of this date, no reviews have resulted in the CL&P proposal for Lebanon being recommended. Still answering interrogatories. Concerned Citizens filed request for intervener status outlining reasons why their alliance would be helpful in the hearings. The Attorney General filed similar request and was denied. DPUC hearings are scheduled for end of May with draft decision received by mid-June.

Bendoraitis: If DPUC denies petition from Concerned Citizens, if the Town wants to become a party, would it be likely the Town would be denied? Lord: The Town may submit opinion letter, but may not be granted an intervener status. It would not hurt to send in petition or letter outlining the Town's concerns and to state opinion as to why the Town is opposed.

Municipal Consultation Process: 60 days prior to Citing Counsel submittal, they present to municipality – Town has 60 days to hold hearings, etc. with the public. After application submitted to Citing Counsel, then Citing Counsel hearings held. If Town objects to project and PZC or IWC issues an order, the Citing Counsel would need 6 out of 9 to negate the order. The Citing Counsel has 180 days (minimum) to approve or deny.

Selectman Bendoraitis: Conflicted with the project stating that he wished CL&P would have been forthcoming with factual information, providing more data. Major factor that "tips" against the project is that diesel will fuel the facility. Truck traffic and safety issues along with wear and tear of the road. Pollution is a concern with diesel emissions; more open to natural gas.

Selectman Blakeslee: Agrees with Bendoraitis' statements. Additionally, at the Town Meeting both sides had good points and also many points were exaggerated. Does not support diesel and feels proximity of plant is too close to wetlands and is concerned about heavy trucks on the road. Blakeslee stated that this is wrong project and the wrong place.

First Selectman Okonuk: Has kept an open mind throughout the process. Major concern with project was change in fuel. Initial proposal was for a natural gas fueled facility and once the letter of interest was submitted with CL&P's proposal, the next meeting the plan changed to low sulfur diesel. The Selectmen toured a similar type facility in Wallingford to grasp the full depth

of the proposal, and visualizing the facility on Card Street, gave rise to much concern. Town sent a letter asking CL&P to site the facility back from the road stating it was much too close to the road – our letter was rejected. Okonuk stated that this proposal is not consistent with the town's Plan of Conservation and Development and preserving the rural character of Lebanon. Additionally, the proposal is placing edges of this infrastructure well within the buffer of the wetlands. Being familiar with highway concerns, she knows that the curves and width of Card Street could not withstand the large vehicles needed to build the facility, and the handling of the tanker trucks for fueling the plant. She listened to the many people who spoke at the Town Meeting about quality of life, and thought about why so many of people have chosen to live in Lebanon – the clean air, views, farms and rural character. This project will contribute nothing to these qualities and in fact, is inconsistent with the PofD. The entire Town was invited to attend the town meeting last week and was given the opportunity to hear details and ask questions. She cannot support this project for all the reasons stated in addition to the opposition by the Lebanon community. Okonuk stated that she would like to move the following Resolution, prepared by Attorney Lord. The Resolution was read to the audience (copy to follow minutes). There were no comments/objections by the Selectmen.

Motion by Okonuk, seconded by Bendoraitis that the Lebanon Board of Selectman pass a Resolution in opposition to the proposed CL&P peak power plant project on Card Street. Vote: yes. Unanimous.

The Town will need to perform a financial review of project funds. Attorney Lord will draft letter from the Town with the Resolution and can also assist in filing a motion with DPUC, if Town desires.

Motion Bendoraitis, seconded by Blakeslee to adjourn the meeting at 6:42 PM. Vote: yes. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Okonuk  
First Selectman