

MINUTES – DEERFIELD BOARD of SELECTMEN – AUGUST 5, 2015

A regular meeting of the Deerfield Board of Selectmen was held on August 5, 2015 at Greenfield Community College, One College Drive, Greenfield, MA, in the dining commons. The meeting was called to order and a quorum declared at 6:12 PM.

PRESENT: Carolyn Shores Ness, David Wolfram, Mark Gilmore

Minutes from Previous Meeting

The minutes from June 19, and July 29 were reviewed.

It was MOVED by Gilmore, SECONDED by Wolfram

To accept the minutes from June 19 as presented.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0.

It was MOVED by Wolfram, SECONDED by Ness

To accept the minutes from July 29 as presented.

VOTED: 2, 0, 1 (Gilmore).

Public Comments

There was no public comment.

Selectmen's Comments/Announcements

No announcements

Board of Health Comments / Announcements / Appearances

No comments or announcements.

Discussion/Decision Items

The board considered the FY2017 Budget Timeline and Goals

It was MOVED by Gilmore, SECONDED by Wolfram

To approve the Memos to Town Administrator as presented, and authorize chair to sign, and further to authorize the Chair to work with the Town Administrator in refining the Budget Timeline and Goals.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0

The board considered the matter of an extension to the South Deerfield Fire Department / South County EMS facility lease. No action was taken.

Upcoming meetings:

- August 12, 2015, 6:30 PM – Town Offices, South Deerfield
- August 26, 2015, 6:30 PM – Town Offices, South Deerfield

Public Presentations

The board agreed to participate in the Massachusetts Energy Facilities Siting Board Public Hearing, but to conduct no deliberation, and take no action. (see attached transcription)

Adjourn

It was MOVED by Wolfram, SECONDED by Gilmore,

To Adjourn.

VOTED: 3, 0, 0.

The board was adjourned at 6:40 PM.

Attest: Douglas C. Finn

TRANSCRIPTION

To: The Energy Facilities Siting Board,
One South Station, Boston, MA 02110.
Attn: Stephen August, Presiding Officer.

8/5/2015

Thank you for holding this meeting tonight, and making the trip out here.

The Town of Deerfield will be submitting written comments to you by the August 13th deadline. The Town of Deerfield Board of Selectmen voted against the Pipeline August 20, 2014. The Board of Health voted October 22nd, 2014 a “cease and desist” order for all Kinder Morgan activities in the Town of Deerfield after an exhaustive public hearing process.

We are asking you, tonight, to advocate and support the Town of Deerfield’s request to suspend the FERC EIS scoping process for the Northeast Energy Direct project. According to Paul Cicio, President of the Industrial Energy Consumers of America, representing energy-intensive trade-exposed manufacturing companies,

“...There has been a significant amount of electric generating capacity being replaced with natural gas generation. The U. S. Natural gas market is a domestic market where prices are not influenced by international demand like crude oil is. The U.S. Natural Gas market prices will raise to international levels as more and more exports occur. The U.S. Department of Energy has failed to set any safeguards in the Natural Gas Act. This is a threat to jobs and economic security for all of us. Consumers will be completely vulnerable to the price impacts of increasing LNG exports. The Government Accountability Office has determined that the Department of Energy has not defined ‘Public Interest’. If they have not defined public interest, then how will they know how much LNG exports to approve or deny?”

The Town of Deerfield requests your support of our request to suspend the FERC EIS process until a determination of how much LNG can safely be exported to protect domestic pricing. This is a jobs issue, and an energy security issue, especially for Massachusetts and New England.

The Town of Deerfield also requests your support, tonight, for the suspension of the FERC EIS Scoping process until the Attorney General’s Office has submitted their study, evaluating the need for the proposed pipeline capacity. That study is to be completed by October. The Town of Deerfield asks you, tonight, to advocate and support a “No Action Alternative Analysis” to be included in the FERC EIS Scoping process if it again resumes.

The Town of Deerfield has a long list of concerns, worries and problems. We are especially concerned and distressed about the lack of horizontal drilling information that will occur under the railroad, under Interstate 91, under the Deerfield River, under a contaminated aquifer in the East Deerfield Railroad yard, and under the Connecticut River.

The Information we have received has been perpetually changing and incomplete. The town of Deerfield’s concerns are wide ranging, from the setback from the transmission lines and the corrosion threat from the electromagnetic fields, to many pre- and post-construction concerns of water testing, radon testing, erosion control, storm water run-off, access roads, pipe depth, invasive plants, and lack of adequate emergency response. Please support the Town of Deerfield’s request for the suspension of the FERC EIS Scoping process until our issues have been fully addressed.

Thank you,

Carolyn Shores Ness
Chair, Board of Selectmen
Chair, Board of Health
Town of Deerfield