Town of Canterbury Selectmen's Meeting January 4, 2016

Selectmen Present: Bob Steenson

Cheryl Gordon

George Glines

Town Administrator: Ken Folsom

The meeting was called to order at 5:36PM.

I. Appointments

Craig & Corinne Pullen

Corinne explained they wanted to meet with the Selectmen to present their concerns and to let the Board know that there are several residents that feel the way they do. They want to see the Northern Pass lines buried in Canterbury.

Representatives from the Society for the Protection of NH Forests Will Abbott & Matt Leahy

Will explained the process that the Northern Pass has had to take. Northern Pass submitted the application to the State in October 2015. On December 18, 2015, the application was deemed to be complete and the next phase would be to establish a committee to hear all the public concerns.

Will explained that there is a formal process that is governed by statute to petition the SEC to become a formal Intervener. The deadline to submit the petition is February 5, 2016. The SEC will begin the deliberative process, a detailed agenda for the Public Hearings will be coming soon. Will explained that the Town and/or land owners may petition to become an Intervener. Bob asked how many Towns have filed to intervene. Will reported that Concord and 5 or 6 towns in Grafton and Coos County have submitted petitions. Bob explained that he is in favor of filing to become an Intervener if that gets the Town to the table, but he has a degree of discomfort representing opposition to the project without going before the townspeople. This would be accomplished at the annual Town Meeting.

Bob asked for the specific steps to take to file to be an Intervener, it makes sense to preserve our status. Will stated that the Forest Society has filed to intervene. He will email Ken the required documents to file.

Craig explained that he feels that the Town has several reasons to intervene. The proposed towers would go through the properties at both exits 17 and 18 which are the gateway to Canterbury, the depreciation of properties and the watershed protection.

Larry Phillips asked Will to address what could happen to the project. Will explained that if Northern Pass was denied the proposed project, they will come back with another, they are not going away anytime soon.

Bob explained that burying the lines is not without impact. There are wetlands to cross and some blasting would need to be done. Will reported that all that would be needed is a 4 foot wide and 4 foot deep trench. The Forest Society has hired a Wetland Scientist to study the impact to the wetlands outside the existing right-of-way,

Anne Emerson asked if the line is buried is there a way to eliminate the electromagnetic fields. Larry Phillips explained that the underground magnetic field would be eliminated by the lines being buried.

Nancy Hacking asked if the tax revenue would be different if the lines were buried. Bob reported that the value of the entire project would be higher and would have a slightly higher revenue.

Howard Moffett explained the various ways to become an Intervener. We could join with another Town and/or use Town Counsel. The SEC anticipates a large number of individuals seeking Intervener status. The SEC has asked the AG's office to appoint a deputy to work with individuals to ensure their concerns are recognized. Peter Roth will be the Attorney for the public.

Will explained that the project has been identified as a "Merchant Project". This is different from a Reliability project (ensures enough power is available), a Merchant project is not needed to keep power on, but rather for future use and profitability.

Will reported that the Northern Pass has applied to the Public Utilities Commission to use the existing right-of-way. Ever source has petitioned the PUC to exclusively lease the right-of-way to Northern Pass.

Lisa Carlson questioned if a private landowner could deny Northern Pass the use. Will reported that the Forest Society is arguing that with Northern Pass on land owned by the Society.

Corinne asked the Board if they would like to form a sub-committee to assist the Selectmen in petitioning for Intervener status. Bob reported that they could use some assistance, but wanted them to be aware that there is a fairly significant portion of people in Town that don't think this is a big deal and it would be challenging to appropriate any funding.

The Selectmen thanked everyone for attending.

II. Administrative

The Board signed: A/P Manifest

P/R Manifest

Forest Fire Warden Appointment Slip

Leave Request

Intent to Cut – Tax Map 234 Lots 3 & 4, Tax Map 235 Lot 7

Land Use Change Tax

Disabled Exemption Application

Bob made a motion to go into non-public session at 8:06 PM to discuss advice from Town Counsel. George seconded the motion. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.

Bob made a motion to exit the non-public session at 8:33 PM and to permanently seal the minutes due to the nature of the discussion. George seconded the motion. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.

The Board reviewed the proposed 2016 budget.

III. Approval of Minutes

Bob made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 21, 2015 Selectmen's meeting as amended. Cheryl seconded the motion. All in favor by roll call, motion carried.

IV. New Business

The Board reviewed correspondence from Town Counsel regarding the Town of Canterbury v. Calvin Dunn.

The Selectmen reviewed notification of a \$2,600 grant being awarded from NH the Beautiful for metal storage containers.

A letter from an unknown resident was reviewed regarding the attire of an employee.

Bob made a motion to appoint Chief Angwin as the Forest Fire Warden for the Town of Canterbury. Cheryl seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

The Selectmen reviewed a letter from the Estate of Harry Lamprey asking to have the late penalties waived on the December 2015 taxes until the Executor has been named to the Estate. Bob made a motion to grant the request as presented. George seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

A brief discussion was held on a parcel of land on Blue Boar Lane. Jan will check to see what can be done to unmerge these lots.

George made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 PM. Cheryl seconded the motion.

The next Selectmen's meeting will be held on January 11, 2015 at 6:00 PM at the Meetinghouse

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Stout Administrative Assistant