

SELECTBOARD MEETING

MINUTES

May 15th , 2023

- I. OPEN MEETING- Mike made a motion to open the meeting at 6:00 PM; Al seconded this motion. Chairman Mark Bullard opened the May 15th, 2023, Selectboard meeting at 6:00 PM. Those presents include Al Buckley, Mark Bullard, Michael Daley, Zachary Brown, and Richard Thibeault. Members of the public included: Raymond Gorman & Becky Robinson (Northern Borders Dispatch); Jake Mardin (The News and Sentinel); Donna & Charlie Jordan (Colebrook Chronicle); David White & Sharon Ellingwood-White; Eugene Reid; Joel Tjornehoj; Russ Ingalls, VT State Senator; Larry Labor, VT State Representative; Corey Parent (Leonine Public Affairs), Orlando Martinez, Ryan Scott, Danielle Aretz (National Grid/Twin States Clean Energy Link); David Snedeker, NVDA executive director.
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES-May 1st, 2023- Meeting minutes to the May 1st, 2023 meeting were distributed and reviewed by board members prior to and at the meeting. Mike made a motion to approve the May 1st, 2023, meeting minutes as written, and Al seconded. Chairman Bullard asked if there was any discussion; seeing none, he called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously in the affirmative.
- III. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA- No additions or deletions were made to the agenda.
- IV. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT –
 - a. Corey Parent- National Grid/Twin States Clean Energy Link- Corey opened the presentation by distributing a printout of his slides to the Selectboard. Zach asked the group audience if they would like to have a copy as well to follow along. Slides were distributed. (Copy of the website) Corey started by introducing himself and the firm that he works for. The proposed line will be a bi-directional direct current transmission line that will bring excess power from Quebec down to New England and excess energy from New England back to Quebec. He told the group that this was the first of many meetings National Grid would have with its stakeholders for the project. They hope to learn from past projects and improve their public outreach. Danielle and the rest of the National Grid team introduced themselves. Danielle touched on the fact that the company is looking to find the best benefits for the communities in which the transmission line will be.

She then passed the presentation off to Orlando. Orlando went slide by slide, describing the project at its infancy stages, reassuring the group that the project was in the infancy stage and there was still more work to be done. He touched on the Department of Energy Transmission Facilitation Program the company is in the second phase of. If they are accepted into this program, the Department of Energy will provide up to 50% of the capacity for the project. The rest would be found through private investment. Orlando summarized the benefits this transmission line would have for the local economy and taxpayers. He highlighted approximately \$750,000 to Canaan's Grand List, new jobs, lower energy costs, and the potential for an assistance fund that local communities could draw from. The transmission line will run from the border crossing on VT RTE 141, down VT RTE 114 and Gale Street, and then cross over to VT

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RTE 102. Outside of Canaan, the line will continue down VT RTE 102 to Lunenburg, where it will cross Connecticut and go to Monroe, NH, to a substation.

The project will be utilizing the State's right of way for the entirety of the project in Vermont. Mike asked whether the \$750,000 grand list value would be locked in for a set number of years or would be depreciated each year. Danielle responded and said she would have to ask their tax expert as she did not know. Danielle said that the tax expert may be able to come to the next meeting. Russ Ingalls made comments on the overall power output of the line. Orlando explained that it would be about twice what Vermont Yankee was producing. Senator Ingalls also questioned whether the firm had a viability study and could prove a need for this line. Orlando noted that a private third-party firm, ISO New England and Massachusetts Institute of Technology conducted studies, and found that it is needed in this capacity.

Danielle also pointed out that the transmission line would be used as a balance between New England and Quebec. Neither hydro power, wind power, nor solar are constant, and there will always be a need to balance the energy output between the three. This is the purpose of the line. Charlie Jordan asked questions about the differences to a previous project looking to do the same thing, Northern Pass. He wondered why National Grid could run the line underground when Northern Pass said it wasn't cost-effective. Danielle responded that she could not talk for Northern Pass and their rationale. She guesses that the difference was the routes being taken. Northern Pass was creating a new right of way, whereas National Grid is looking to utilize the existing right of way. Donna asked questions surrounding public input towards this whole project and the timeline.

Danielle and Orlando answered this question. They said the first shovel will probably be in the ground in the latter part of 2026. During this entire time, public input will be studied and considered. Ryan and Danielle commented that environmental surveys might start soon and continue throughout the process. Joel asked questions about the safety of the transmission line and how it may affect the value of his property. A discussion ensued about the difference between alternating current and direct current. The transmission line will be direct current which does not release the heat or electromagnetic fields that the A/C line does. Danielle also added that studies will be conducted to measure the levels of the electromagnetic fields. Joel urged National Grid to include the health risks and answers to his questions in their next presentation. If not, there may be more pushback than they were expecting. Joel's concerns were for the properties right next to the road, like his, which his sits back about 100 feet from VT RTE 141. National Grid agreed to provide more information about the health risks at their next presentation.

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Mark, Zach, and Eugene asked questions about preexisting utilities and how the line will be buried. Danielle stated that the transmission line would have to work around the public utilities already in place in the State's right of way. The engineers for the project will be researching that extensively. Orlando stated that the line would be buried approximately 6-8 feet in the ground to get below the frost line. The lines would be running through conduits and then encased in concrete. National Grid was thanked for coming in, and Selectboard looks forward to working with them further.

An audio recording of the presentation and question and answer period can be found on our website: Canaan-vt.org.

- b. Becky Robinson and Ray Gorman- Northern Borders Dispatch- Becky and Ray were in to update the board on the grant they recently submitted for a Computer Aided Dispatch system and to relocate a radio repeater on top of Monadnock. Becky reported that their application was not accepted, so now they were looking at other ways to get this software. She explained that each cruiser and fire engine would be equipped with devices that the dispatcher could use to share the location of calls. This would eliminate confusion over the radio about the location of 911 calls and would stop the dispatcher from having to repeat information. It would be at the fingertips of the first responders. They will continue to look into this software and other grants.

Ray also reported that they were working with Lemington to see how a radio repeater could be placed on top of the fire tower on Monadnock. Ray said that they hope to add this site, as it will eliminate a multitude of dead zones for the first responders in Vermont and New Hampshire. Becky distributed maps showing the coverage areas of the current Cree Notch site and the proposed Monadnock site. The dispatch board will continue to work on adding this site.

- c. Sheriff Trevor Colby- Essex County Sheriff's Department- Prior to the meeting, Sheriff Colby distributed a report on the department's dealings in Canaan. He did not stay for the meeting as the agenda was too packed. The board will contact him if they have any questions and set up another meeting with him.

V. REPORT FROM HIGHWAY-

- a. Reclassifying Roads to Class 3 from Class 4- Zach told the board that reclassifying a road wasn't as simple as voting at a meeting. Zach distributed the procedure that has to be followed. The board reviewed this procedure prior to and at the meeting. The board discussed options and will move forward with the process. The board agreed that since the road had already been upgraded to the standards of a Class 3 road, the board would have no issues with it. Richard told them about the Orange Book that the Agency of Transportation published. That is where Richard found the information and forwarded

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it to Zach. He commented that it is an excellent resource for the Selectboard and himself.

- b. Damage on Old Country Road- Richard showed the board the pictures of Old Country Road prior to and at the meeting. Richard reported that he had contacted the Grant in Aid program to see if the Town could use our funds to fix this road. This year, there is no money in the budget to fix it, so it would be great if other funds were available. He told the board that Eric Pope and Jason Sevigny from VTrans will be up on Tuesday to look at the road with Richard and discuss the next steps. The board was in agreeance that the road needed to be fixed. Richard said it is a Class 4 road, but it still has to be passable during the summer. Mike added that it should be a priority as that is a way off Canaan Hill if Canaan Hill Road ever washes out. Richard said he would take money from other line items in his budget to ensure the road gets fixed. Mark asked Richard if he had sent the pictures to Cunningham Logging or other contractors. Richard said no, but he had been talking with the Cunninghams about it and how to fix it.
- c. Ride Around- The ride around will still be this Saturday at 8:00 AM. Mark may be unable to make it, but the other two Selectboard members will be there with Richard. They will look at Old Country Road when they go around. During this time, the Selectboard will also look for yards that violate the Town of Canaan's junky yard ordinance. If they find homes, they will be noted, and letters will be sent out.
- d. The board discussed gating Old Country Road in the Spring as they do for Hudson Road. Richard thought it would be well worth it after fixing the road. This way, excess traffic would not go on the road during the Spring and ruin it.

VI. REPORT FROM WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT –

- a. LED Light Rebates- Zach reported that the Town had paid Rodney Smith the deposit for the project and that he would be scheduling the work soon.

VII. SOLID WASTE –

- a. Stump Dump- Richard asked the Selectboard if the Stump Dump could be organized better. Everything gets thrown into the burn pile, making it difficult for the Stump Dump to be cleaned up. Richard asked if the stump dump could be broken up into burnable and non-burnable items. This way, the yard would remain clean. The Selectboard saw no issue in doing this and saw the benefit of separating the items. Al will talk with David Therrien about having people sort out their stump dump materials.
- b. Appliance with Freon- Mark, Al, and Zach told Mike what had happened last year and what plans they were trying to set up. Al reported that he has been in contact with Ray Gorman and is working out a solution for the disposal of these appliances. Currently, the deal will be for the appliances we currently have at the transfer station to be disposed of at the Colebrook transfer station. This would solve the issue of the remaining fridges. The board discussed alternatives and methods so residents could

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dispose of these appliances at the Canaan Transfer Station. Mark said the appliances can be disposed of as long as the freon is removed. Al will continue to look into this and find a solution.

- c. Al asked the board if the blue Canaan Trash bags could be sold at the Transfer Station so that when individuals need bags on the weekends, they can purchase them there. The board discussed this request and saw no issue with it. A conversation started about the quality of the last shipment of bags. Zach told the board that there were about two boxes of unusable bags. The board discussed alternatives to the blue bags.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS –

- a. Alice Hunt Cemetery Lot Sale- Phillips/Moulton- Zach presented a warranty deed for the sale of a lot in the Alice Hunt Cemetery. Jaimie (Phillips) and Kyle Moulton have paid the required \$300 for the lot. Mike asked if there was ever a reason the Selectboard voted down a sale. Zach said the only reason would be for nonpayment. Mike made a motion to approve the sale of lot 210N in the Alice Hunt Cemetery to Jaimie Philips and Kyle Moulton; Al seconded this motion. Chairman Bullard asked for any further discussion; seeing none, he called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously in the affirmative. The Selectboard executed the warranty deed.
- b. Tax Sale Property at 433 VT RTE 141- Zach presented the tax collector's deed to the board for the Town's newly acquired property. Zach reminded the board that this property was not bid on at the 2022 tax sale and thus became the Towns. He has been in conversation with Bill Davies, Esq. to see what the Town can do with the property. Currently, there is nothing the Town can do, as half of the building is in Canada and half is in the US. Mike and Mark asked if the previous owner had been paying his provincial taxes in Canada. Zach said he had been, but he would contact St. Herménégilde to see if he had paid his current year's taxes. No further action was taken.
- c. Streetlight at 123 Ethan Allen Drive- Mike reported that he and Emmett Reid went to look at the blown streetlight in Ethan Allen Park. While looking at the pole, they would see that the wire had been cut, most likely with a weed whacker. Emmett assumes that that is most likely the issue but would need an electrician to look at it. Zach will contact Rodney Smith to see if he can look at it.
- d. Alice M. Ward Memorial Library Update- The selectboard jumped to this agenda item when Sharon Ellingwood White was still in attendance. Zach told the board that Sharon had turned in her resignation from the job of library director. The trustees are currently looking for a replacement and have a few applications thus far. The board thanked Sharon for her time and hard work.
- e. Canaan Border Rider's Permission to Use CCF- The Canaan Border Riders need landowner permission to put a trail through CCF land on VT RTE 253. They will be improving the existing road to make it a usable trail. Al made a motion to grant permission to the Canaan Border Riders; Mike seconded this motion. Chairman Bullard asked for discussion. Zach said that the Community Forest Committee meeting was this Thursday, and members from the Border Riders may want to attend to tell the

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committee what they would like to do. Chairman Bullard called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously in the affirmative and was executed by Chairman Bullard.

- f. Law Enforcement Proclamation- Zach presented a proclamation to name the Week of May 15th Peace Officer and Law Enforcement Memorial Week. The board read through the proclamation. Zach stated that this proclamation was asked for by state agencies looking to promote the Federal proclamation and law enforcement officers. Mike made a motion to approve the proclamation and to proclaim May 15-21, 2023, Peace Officer and Law Enforcement Memorial Week; Al seconded this motion. Chairman Bullard asked for any further discussion; seeing none, he called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously in the affirmative, and all board members signed.
- g. Zach stated that the NEK Riders ATV club had contacted him to see if they could attend the Selectboard meeting. Zach had asked them to attend the following meeting as this agenda was already full. They were happy to do this and asked Zach if he could see if the Selectboard had any issues with the trails opening back up. The Selectboard saw no problems and looked forward to speaking with them in two weeks.
- h. Zach told the board that the next meeting would fall on Memorial Day, and the office would be closed. The board agreed to move their bi-weekly meeting to May 30th, 2023.

IX. OLD BUSINESS – No action/discussion was taken.

X. OTHER BUSINESS – No action/discussion was taken.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION – No action/discussion was taken.

XII. SORT MAIL/SIGN WARRANT – Warrant 10-23 for \$51,510.90 was signed and executed by the board.

XIII. ADJOURN MEETING- Mike motioned for the meeting to be adjourned, and Al seconded. Chairman Bullard called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously in the affirmative. Chairman Bullard adjourned the meeting at 9:00 PM.