

FIFTEEN ROPE FERRY ROAD
WATERFORD, CT 06385-2886



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MINUTES
REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING
Special Meeting
Waterford Town Hall
February 28, 2022

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
WATERFORD CT
2022 MAR -2 AM 10:58
David L. Campo
TOWN CLERK

RTM Moderator Paul Goldstein called the February 28, 2022 Special Meeting of the Representative Town Meeting to order at 7:01 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Greg Attanasio, Mary Childs, Thomas J. Dembek, Susan Driscoll, Timothy Fioravanti, Nick Gauthier, Kevin Girard, Paul Goldstein, Kristin Gonzalez, Ryan Healy, Richard Holmes, Jennifer Kohl, Paul Konstantakis, Cheryl Larder, Michael Rocchetti, Danielle Steward-Gelinas, David Sugrue, Dave Welch.

ABSENT: Michael Bono, Jennifer Bracciale, Timothy Condon, Steven Garvin, Richard Muckle, Ted Olynciw, Dan Radin.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: First Selectman Robert J. Brule; Selectwoman Jody Nazarchyk

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT: Selectman Elizabeth Sabilia; Chair of the Board of Education Patricia Fedor; Chair of the Board of Finance Glenn Patterson.

ALSO PRESENT: Town Clerk David L. Campo; Town Attorney Rob Avena.

ITEM C - CORRESPONDENCE

Moderator Goldstein noted that correspondence was received from residents Margaret Holmberg and Emily Polakowski. (See Attachment)

ITEM D - PUBLIC COMMENT

Waterford Resident Emily Polakowski, 24 Savi Ave, spoke in opposition to the proposed gas line agreement being considered in CALL ITEM 1.

Waterford Resident Theo Beyene, 24 Savi Ave, spoke in opposition to the proposed gas line agreement being considered in CALL ITEM 1.

CALL ITEM 1 – Eversource Gas Line Agreement

PRESENTATION: Public Works Director Gary Schneider; Town Attorney Rob Avena.

MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Rocchetti, to upon a recommendation from the Board of Selectmen to approve the Eversource General Gas Service Agreement for the Public Safety and Police Station buildings and authorize the First Selectman to sign on the Town of Waterford's behalf, pending the review by legal as to form.

Lengthy discussion centered on green alternatives, the length of the contract, requirements of the contract, price control, ability of town to be released from the contract, the condition of the existing oil

tanks and removal concerns, other options, time sensitivity of the contract, and whether the buildings support green alternatives

MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Rocchetti, to move the question.

VOTING IN FAVOR: Dembek, Goldstein, Healy, Holmes, Rocchetti, Steward-Gelinas, Sugrue.

VOTING AGAINST: Attanasio, Childs, Driscoll, Fioravanti, Gauthier, Girard, Gonzalez, Kohl, Konstantakis, Larder, Welch.

MOTION FAILS: 7-11-0

Further discussion ensued.

MOTION IN FAVOR OF ORIGINAL MOTION: Dembek, Girard, Goldstein, Healy, Holmes, Rocchetti, Steward-Gelinas, Sugrue.

MOTION AGAINST: Attanasio, Childs, Driscoll, Fioravanti, Gauthier, Gonzalez, Kohl, Konstantakis, Larder, Welch.

MOTION FAILS: 8-10-0

CALL ITEM 2 – Emergency Legislation

Passed over.

MOTION by Driscoll, seconded by Attanasio, to adjourn at 8:26 P.M.

VOTING IN FAVOR: Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted,



David L. Campo, CCTC

Waterford Town Clerk

February 25, 2022

Hello,

I am writing as a concerned citizen of Waterford who has recently heard about the potential deal to install natural gas in two town buildings.

I am a millennial who is quite concerned about climate change, especially its local impacts on my community and the town of Waterford. Current projections from NOAA and the Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation predict a sea level rise of the Long Island Sound by up to 20 inches by the year 2050. Will I still be able to visit Harkness and Waterford Beach with that level of change? Will floods from natural disasters and 'once in a lifetime storms' impact my neighbors that live closer to the water on a regular basis? Will it make sense for me to move further away from the coast for more protection and security in my property values? I enjoy living in Waterford, but worry about my future here if climate actions are not acted upon promptly by the community and its leaders.

The state of Connecticut has made ambitious strides towards reducing climate change. Connecticut established the 2008 Global Warming Solutions Act and the 2018 Act Concerning Climate Change Planning and Resiliency, which "seek to decarbonize electricity generation, the transportation system, and thermal energy for all buildings, in an effort to cut greenhouse gas emissions [...] to 45% below 2001 levels by 2030" per Governor Lamont's Executive Order 3 from September 2019. This executive order also set greenhouse gas emissions targets of establishing a net-zero carbon grid by the year 2040.

This suggested plan to install natural gas lines for Waterford town buildings does not support the state of Connecticut's plans and goals to reduce climate change. It will directly contribute to further climate change and worsen future impacts to our coastal town by continuing our reliance on fossil fuels and contributing to further greenhouse gas emissions. If natural gas lines and infrastructure continue to be installed, Connecticut's goal of a net-zero future cannot be reached. The goals set by the state include substantial reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2030 and 2040, which are less than ten and twenty years away respectively – these targets cannot be reached by signing long-term contracts for continued reliance on fossil fuels. I suggest pursuing alternative heating sources, such as heat pumps or electric heat, which can be powered by renewable energy.

Thank you for your consideration,
Emily Polakowski

24 Savi Ave.
Waterford, CT 06385

24 Savi

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WATERFORD, CT
2022 FEB 25 PM 2:16
Emily Polakowski
TOWN CLERK

David Campo

From: Margaret Holmberg <margaret.holmberg@att.net>
Sent: Friday, February 25, 2022 12:37 PM
To: pg34@atlanticbb.net; Town Clerk
Cc: Mary Childs; gregattanasio@rocketmail.com; kgirard.rtm@gmail.com; kgonz5@gmail.com; tedolynciw@yahoo.com; dawelch.wfd.rtm@gmail.com
Subject: Eversource proposal

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization.

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To: Moderator Goldstein and Town Clerk Campo
From: Margaret Holmberg, Quaker Hill resident
Date: February 24, 2022
re: Proposed Eversource Agreement

I request that the letter below be submitted to all RTM members.

I write to raise questions about the Eversource proposal to the town of Waterford to be decided at the upcoming RTM meeting. My questions concern both the content and the process around this proposed agreement.

1. Why is the town not considering solar arrays to provide an energy source for these two buildings? Solar power is far more environmentally friendly than gas. Changes in our climate are happening now not in the future, thus consideration should be made for long term climate friendly energy sources. Or why not consider wind power that could be available in the coming years. Is Waterford, a coastal town, preparing for the consequences of imminent climate changes?
2. Why is this decision being made without input from residents? I note that action is required to waive a 15 day waiting period when residents could given information and opportunity to respond.
3. Why is this agreement required to be in effect for 25 years? That is an unusually long period given the rapidity of changing environmental conditions and given the fact that a wind energy source is being developed right now very close to Waterford.

I am also concerned that this is a rapid push by Eversource which has a history of changing its conditions regardless of original proposals. As an example, when residents first installed solar arrays on their homes excess energy could be put on the grid and the resident received credit for the unused energy. Without publicity or public knowledge Eversource was able to get legislation passed that stopped that incentive as of December 31, 2021. It appears that, again, Eversource is pushing a 'deal' that may or may not be stable, certainly not over 25 years.

I do acknowledge that gas is cleaner for our environment than oil so I applaud consideration of alternatives to oil. However, there may well be cleaner alternatives than gas within the next few years if not now.

I urge the RTM to take time to hear from Waterford residents and take time to explore the long term effects and alternative possibilities.