



MINUTES

REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING  
BOARD of SELECTMEN  
Special Joint Meeting  
Waterford Town Hall – Auditorium  
February 22, 2023

RECEIVED FOR RECORD  
WATERFORD, CT  
2023 FEB 24 P 2:30  
ATTEST: *David L. Campo*  
TOWN CLERK

Moderator Paul Goldstein called the February 22, 2023 Special Meeting of the Representative Town Meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

First Selectman Robert J. Brule called the February 22, 2023 Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 6:00 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL (Representative Town Meeting)

PRESENT: Greg Attanasio, Michael Bono, Jennifer Bracciale, Mary Childs, Harry Colonis, Timothy Condon, Thomas J. Dembek, Susan Driscoll, Timothy Fioravanti, Steven Garvin, Nick Gauthier, Kevin Girard, Paul Goldstein, Kristin Gonzalez, Ryan Healy, Richard Holmes, Lindsay Khan, Jennifer Kohl, Cheryl Larder, Dan Radin, Michael Rocchetti, Danielle Steward-Gelinas, David Sugrue (Speaker Phone), David Welch.

ABSENT: Theodore Olynciw.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: First Selectman Robert J Brule, Selectwomen Elizabeth Sabilia; Selectman Richard Muckle.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT: Chair of the Board of Education Pat Fedor; Chair of the Board of Finance Glenn Patterson.

ROLL CALL (Board of Selectmen)

PRESENT: Robert J. Brule, Richard Muckle, Elizabeth Sabilia.

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Town Clerk David L. Campo; Town Attorney Nicholas Kepple.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Moderator Goldstein noted the following items received for correspondence: A letter from Town Attorney Kepple in regard to the RTM's role in the Data Center process. Letter from RTM Member Dan Radin in regard to his support and concerns for the host municipality fee agreement for two datacenters. Email from Waterford Resident Carl Shaffer in regard to his concerns for the proposed datacenter project. Written Comments from State Representative Kathleen M. McCarty supporting the proposal between NE Edge, LLC and the Town of Waterford. Email from Waterford Resident Kathleen Coss in regard to her concerns for the proposed data center project.

Moderator Goldstein made a statement of how he would like to see the meeting proceed between the two bodies. The meeting will begin with Item 1 from the RTM Agenda, Public Comment, Items 4 and 5 from the BOS Agenda, followed by Items 2 and 3 from the RTM Agenda, then adjournment.

MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Rocchetti, to move Public Comment after Item 1 of the RTM Agenda.

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

MOTION by Sabilia, seconded by Muckle, to move Public Comment after Item 1 of the RTM Agenda.

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

ITEM 1 (RTM AGENDA) – NE Edge, LLC Proposed Host Municipality Fee Agreement Informational Meeting

MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Dembek, to approve a request from the Board of Selectmen to conduct a joint informational meeting for the Board of Selectmen, the Representative Town Meeting and the residents of Waterford regarding the NE Edge, LLC's proposed Host Municipality Fee Agreement. The proposed Agreement was submitted to the Board of Selectmen requesting the Town become a Host Municipality under Connecticut Public Act No. 21-1 in order for NE Edge, LLC to pursue the construction of two Qualified Data Centers (subject to all relevant local, state and federal reviews and approvals) on property off Rope Ferry Road owned by Dominion Energy, LLC. Pursuant to State law and the Town Charter, the Board of Selectmen would be acting on the proposed Agreement and the Representative Town Meeting would be asked by the Board of Selectmen to concur with its decision on the Host Municipality Fee Agreement.

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

First Selectman Robert Brule gave an opening statement and introduced the following presenters: NE Edge, LLC Managing Member George A. McLaughlin III, NE Edge, LLC Attorney William E. McCoy, and Dominion Energy – Millstone Power Station Vice President Michael J. O'Connor.

Town Attorney Kepple summarized State Legislation in regard to data centers. He encouraged the public and the members to stick to the issue of whether the Town of Waterford wants to be a host town. Presentation commenced and issues discussed ranged from the presenter's background, compensation of the agreement, potential employment, noise abatement, possible timeline of project, and Millstone's future at the site.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Waterford Resident Joe Toner, 11 Old Mill Rd, spoke in support of the project and the use of the local unions.

Waterford Resident Anthony Sabilia, 217 Boston Post Rd, spoke in support of the project.

Keith Brothers, President of the State Building Trades, that he strongly supports the project and the use of union workers with a preference in hiring from within Waterford.

Waterford Resident Dennis Alfera, 5 High Ridge Dr, had concerns in regard to traffic, noise and the location of the project.

Waterford Resident Brian Bowen, 22 Race Rock Rd, had concerns with noise, how the noise study would be conducted, lighting.

Noank Resident Kevin Blacker, encouraged the Town of Waterford to look for hidden costs ranging from Millstone's future to fire protection.

Waterford Resident Chris Bachant, 15 Spithead Rd, supports the project as a representative of the Carpenters' Union.

Waterford Resident Jim Dunning, 11 Old Mill Rd, and member of Local Iron Workers' Union supports the project and is a great opportunity for Waterford.

Waterford Resident Ingrid Naar, Great Neck Rd, spoke in opposition of the project in regard to noise and the history of similar projects around the country.

Waterford Resident Mike Buscetto, 207 Great Neck Rd, spoke in support of the project.

Mystic Resident Jim Ferlong felt that the issue was not given enough notice to the public.

The presenters were invited to sit for questions from the RTM and BOS members.

Lengthy discussion ensued. Subjects ranged from statements of support, future of Millstone In Waterford, support for union work, the RTM's roll, the town's need to be proactive to possible issues, time frames, experience of the developers, current power output of Millstone.

ITEM 4 (BOS AGENDA) – Host Municipality Fee Agreement with NE Edge, LLC

MOTION by Sabilia, seconded by Muckle, to approve the proposed Host Municipality Fee Agreement between the Town of Waterford and NE Edge, LLC pursuant to Public Act No. 21-1, for construction of two Qualified Data Centers on Dominion Energy, LLC property on Rope Ferry Road.

Discussion ensued

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

ITEM 5 (BOS Agenda) – Request that the Representative Town Meeting Concur with the Board of Selectmen on the NE Edge, LLC Host Municipality Fee Agreement

MOTION by Sabilia, seconded by Muckle, that the Board of Selectmen request that the Representative Town Meeting concur with the Board's decision to approve the Host Municipality Fee Agreement with NE Edge, LLC pursuant to Connecticut Public Act No. 21-1, for construction of two Qualified Data Centers on Dominion Energy, LLC property on Rope Ferry Road.

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Rocchetti, to move ITEM 3 of the Agenda ahead of ITEM 2.

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

ITEM 3 (RTM Agenda) - Concur with the Board of Selectmen on the NE Edge, LLC Host Municipality Fee Agreement

MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Dembek, to approve a request from the Board of Selectmen for the Representative Town Meeting to concur with the Board's decision to enter into the proposed Host Municipality Fee Agreement with NE Edge, LLC, pursuant to Connecticut Public Act 21-1, for construction of two Qualified Data Centers on Dominion Energy, LLC property on Rope Ferry Road.

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

ITEM 2 (RTM AGENDA)- RTM's Role in Connecticut Public Act No. 21-1

MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Dembek, to accept the RTM's role in Connecticut Public Act No. 21-1 in determining whether the Host Municipality Fee Agreement should be terminated in the future if ever there were a default, or in the alternative, to delegate the role of potentially terminating the Agreement to the Board of Selectmen.

MOTION by Driscoll, seconded by Condon, to amend the motion to read as follows: MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Dembek, to accept the RTM's role in Connecticut Public Act No. 21-1 in determining whether the Host Municipality Fee Agreement should be terminated in the future if ever there were a default.

MOTION TO AMEND PASSED: Unanimous

MAIN MOTION WITH AMENDMENT PASSED: Unanimous

MOTION by Steward-Gelias, seconded by Condon, to adjourn the Representative Town Meeting at 8:17 P.M.

VOTING IN FAVOR: Unanimous

MOTION by Sabilia, seconded by Muckle, to adjourn the Board of Selectmen at 8:17 P.M.

VOTING IN FAVOR: Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted,



David L. Campo, CCTC  
Waterford Town Clerk