

**Town of Deerfield  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
April 25, 2016  
MINUTES**

**Call to Order**

5:30p - Chairman Barry called the meeting to order.

**Present:** Stephen Barry, Chairman; Richard Pitman, Vice Chairman; Andrew Robertson, Jeff Shute and Fred McGarry Selectmen

**Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

Chairman Barry asks all to rise and pledge allegiance to the Flag.

**Public Hearing - Northern Pass Intervenor Funding Needs**

Chairman Barry opened the Public Meeting by summarizing the reason for the meeting. He described that Deerfield's electorate has passed a Warrant Article directing that the Board oppose the Northern Pass project as currently laid out, but has also defeated a Warrant Article to expend funds for the purpose of defending that position. Today's public meeting is to hear from the Town whether the Board should spend money as an intervenor and if so, how much. A show of hands was called for to demonstrate who present was in favor of spending tax dollars to defend the Town's position, a second show of hands was called to show who was in favor of spending money beyond \$5,000, and a third to show who was in favor of spending "whatever it takes." The vast majority of the 200-300 people in attendance were in favor of spending whatever it takes.

The Board described that Deerfield is part of a group of Towns including Concord, Pembroke and Canterbury and that legal costs associated with the process have been \$5,000-\$10,000 if participating as a group, and as high as \$50,000 if acting as a single intervenor. Chairman Barry acknowledged that Attorney Steven Whitley was in attendance and has offered to represent Deerfield at an estimated cost of \$5,000 for the remainder of 2015. It was suggested that a Warrant Article for the 2016 funding of legal costs would be appropriate.

A member of the Public asked whether volunteers could make private contributions to a fund for the purpose of retaining counsel, Chairman Barry responded that in Municipal budgeting, the Town cannot spend money without a specific line item, as a result it would be highly likely that any donations would be placed into the general fund. There is no process to earmark donations.

Jack Hutchinson spoke to recognize that the Board is in a tough position and thanked them for their work. He presented a loaf of homemade bread to each as a gesture of appreciation. He spoke that he sees the real threat to Deerfield is not necessarily the lines with the project, but with the updates to the substation and plans for further distribution down line.

Brad Marble of Pleasant Hill Road spoke that he has made contact with an Engineer at Eversource who indicated there are no plans for a new substation in Town.

A member of the Public asked if the Board could advise on how a Go Fund Me page could be established for the cause. Selectman Robertson responded that there are very specific Municipal budgeting laws around what can be accepted and what can be spent. The Town will need to be in further conversation with the State Department of Revenue, Finance Administration and its Counsel, but Selectman Robertson confirmed that the Board will look into the matter further.

It was asked whether Deerfield is making its position known to the Public Utility Commission or to the Northern Pass group, Selectman McGarry responded by describing the Site Evaluation Committee, its members and the general process.

Denny Greig asked that the Board view securing legal representation in this matter as a means to protect the interest of the Town now, but more importantly in the future. She feels it is important to keep a long term view and asked Mr. Whitley to give a synopsis of the process and his involvement thus far.

Mr. Whitley introduced himself. He works with Mitchell Municipal Group in Laconia, NH, a firm that represents only cities and towns. He is representing five other communities in the Site Evaluation Committee process. As intervenor he would work to submit testimony, hire expert witnesses, file motions and question Eversource witnesses on behalf of Deerfield. He noted that he doubts the Committee will reach a decision on the Case in 2016.

David Crummy spoke that he finds it difficult to place a price on the natural beauty of Town. Maureen Quinn voiced support for hiring someone such as Mr. Whitley to keep track of the volumes of information and data going back and forth on a daily basis. Rebecca Hutchinson asked for confirmation that the Planning Board, Conservation Commission and Select Board are all working in coordination on behalf of Deerfield as a single intervenor, Selectman McGarry confirmed yes. She suggested that when the Board is considering counsel that it asks the candidates what Deerfield's unique situation is. It is her sense that Deerfield may have very different needs as a result of its location at the end of the line.

With no further comment, the Board thanked everyone for attending. The Public Meeting was adjourned.

### **Select Board Meeting - Continued**

The Board asked that Mr. Whitley prepares a specific proposal for consideration during next week's Select Board Meeting.

### **Regular Business**

**Accounts Payable - \$132,114.09**

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve

**Second:** Selectman Robertson

**Vote to approve: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 - Motion Carries**

**Payroll Manifest - \$51,154.58 (\$38,496.40 net)**

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman moves to approve

**Second:** Selectman Shute

**Vote to approve: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 - Motion Carries**

**Authorization to move \$198,689.19 from the Fire Engine Capital Reserve Fund to the General Fund to pay off the 2013 Spartan Fire Engine**

**Motion:** Selectman Robertson moves to approve

**Second:** Selectman McGarry

**Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 - Motion Carries**

**Other Business - None**

**Citizens Comments**

Ms. Harriet Cady spoke that the Constitution requires that the republic must represent the individual as much as a group and asked that the Board represent her in her support for the Northern Pass project. She requested to see documentation on how the Board plans to represent both sides.

Ms. Meredith Briggs read a prepared statement of her support for the Northern Pass project. She described her family's long history, deep roots and abundant service to the Town. To those residents who want to "Protect the rural charm of Deerfield," she responded that, "That ship has sailed." She recalled residents "dancing in the street" at the thought of the tax relief the first transformer would bring to Town and noted the roads that PSNH has rebuilt throughout the years. After at least four minutes of her presentation, Selectman McGarry objected to Ms. Briggs continuing her monolog, since none of the speakers at the public meeting were given the length of time Ms. Briggs had to speak on Northern Pass. The Board asked that Ms. Briggs wrap up her statement and submit a copy of her speech for further reading.

**Adjourn**

**Motion:** Vice Chairman Pitman moves to adjourn the meeting of April 25, 2016

**Second:** Selectman Robertson

**Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 - Motion Carries**

**Next Meeting Monday, May 2, 2016 @ 5:30p**

*The Minutes were transcribed and respectfully submitted by Katherine A. Libby, Recording Secretary.  
Pending approval by the Board of Selectmen.*