

BOARD OF SELECTMEN AND SEWER COMMISSIONER'S MEETING

November 16, 2015

Francis Faulkner Room 204

Regular Meeting 7:00 PM

Present: Katie Green, Peter J. Berry, Janet K. Adachi, Franny Osman, Town Manager Steven Ledoux
Absent: Chingsung Chang, Lisa Tomyl Recording Secretary

Chairman Green opened the meeting at 7:00PM

Citizens' Concerns

Jim Yarin, 248 Central Street – long term member of the Transportation Advisory Committee. We have a TAC that doesn't have much effect or have its advice considered. The CrossTown Connect fixed routes were vetted and discussed at a meeting and there was a plan that then was changed more than once without any consultation of the committee. First, the route was extended ½-1 mile, which affected the time. Then the route was shortened by removed an essential portion. Mr. Yarin neither agreed nor disagreed but was concerned about the process. Ms. Osman noted that that the changes had been made quickly on the advice of the consultants.

Gina Manalan, 7 Kelly Road – upset with the constant pounding of rock ledge behind the CVS site, lives 1/10 mile away. Has been going on for 4 weeks, 6 days a week, 9 hours a day. Understands need to finish work before winter but thinks there should be some consideration for residents. Ms. Green requested that Ms. Manalan send an email to the Town Manager and Board of Selectmen for a review of the Site Plan Special Permit conditions about work hours. Ms. Manalan stressed that as Kelley's Corner projects moved forward, the Town needed to be sure that residents still had some quality of life.

Jim Yarin, 248 Central Street – concerned with the lack of stop sign at the foot of Community Way across from CVS and had contacted the Police Department about it.

Chairman's Update and Operational Update:

Ms. Green: Thanked everyone who attended Special Town Meeting, which seemed to be a very successful one. Upcoming events – CPR/AED training on Monday, November 30 at PSF from 9-4, ABRHS Chorus will be celebrating their 21st Cabaret Night November 20 and 21st, Green Acton will have a presentation on Acton's water November 18, next Board meeting is December 7th – presentation by United Way.

Mr. Ledoux: No update.

Public Hearings and Appointments

7:10 PM National Grid Petition for Gas Main Installation, Hayward Road – Dennis Regan, Permit representative for National Grid. Jim Snyder Grant 18 Half Moon Hill submitted and read aloud his Board of Selectmen

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written statement on behalf of Green Acton, urging the Town not to expand new gas lines in Acton and suggesting that the Building and Planning Departments recommend alternative energy sources for Site Plan proposals. Debra Simes, 109 Concord Road - also spoke and submitted a written statement expressing concern that expanding local gas lines indirectly would encourage fracking, and perpetuate long-term dependence on natural gas and other fossil fuels. Debra Hessen, 100 Hayward Road – road was dug up 2 years ago and it took a year to be repaved again; asked about expected duration of disruption. Dennis Regan stated construction would not begin until the Spring. Crews can install 80-120 ft of gas line per day so installation would take about 4 weeks to complete including resurfacing. Board members discussed the issue of alternative energy sources, and the problem of gas leaks. Suggestions included modifying the charge for the Green Advisory Board to include alternative energy, and following up with the Town's state legislators about the status of pending legislation to address the gas-leaks problem.

Ms. Osman moved to approve gas main installation on Hayward Road which according to Engineering Department cannot begin until March 15, 2015, and to explore issues pertaining to alternative energy sources and gas leaks, Mr. Berry second. All Ayes (4-0) Prepared statements of Jim Snyder-Grant and Debra Simes are included and a part of the meeting record.

7:20 PM National Grid Gas Main Installation, Alexandra Road - Dennis Regan, Permit Representative for National Grid. Mr. Berry asked how National Grid was addressing gas leaks. Mr. Regan described how National Grid is running gas surveys and replacing large lines with PVC piping.

Jim Yarin, 248 Central – asked about the uneven road surface.

Pi Tao, 103 Hayward Road – asked who paid for the work and how often the gas lines were checked.

Mr. Regan stated the private residents pay to have the gas main to be installed and the Town does not pay for any of the work.

Subrat Pani, 6 Alexandra Way – development is 15 years old and did not have natural gas – all houses have oil. Worked together to get gas installed and has waited to get this project going, and looking for assistance from the BOS to get the installation started.

Mr. Berry moved to grant the permit for Alexandra Way on the condition they meet the requirements of the Engineering Department to not begin work before March 15, 2016 or on a date approved by the DPW Director or whichever is later. Ms. Adachi seconded. All Ayes (4-0)

7:30 PM Order to Show Cause, Alleged Over Service, Overtime Bar: Kris Wallis representing Overtime Bar. Ms. Adachi moved to continue to December 21, 2015, 8:15 PM, Ms. Osman seconded. All Ayes (4-0)

Selectmen's Business

Transportation Benchmarks Discussion Doug Halley presented slides about the transportation system and proposed transportation metrics. Currently 5 different transportation options in town: Council on Aging van, Roadrunner, Dial-A-Ride, Rail Shuttle, and Cross-Acton Transit, the new fixed-route service

running 10 hours, Monday through Friday. The focus has been on serving groups of people who need service, though conflicting individual needs can make the formation of groups challenging. The fixed-route stops had to be modified in the past week to keep transit time within 1 hour. Graphs show growing confidence in the system, with fewer problems with overbooking and therefore fewer cancellations. 46% of funding from general municipal fund. Centralization has improved dispatch; calls have increased so further investment in dispatch might be necessary at some point. Program trips have increased, especially involving Roadrunner, for example, for grocery-shopping on Wednesday for Chinese residents. Parking spaces for the rail shuttle are limited so there will be a need to expand shuttle-user parking spaces. Current overall transportation budget is \$509,000. Mr. Halley said the Board needed to consider "unduplicated census," with the aim being to increase the numbers from 151 to 180. Acton's service compares favorably with other towns, but need to continue improving.

Ms. Adachi noted that the quality of the service was important, but the Town also needed to keep an eye on the cost to the Town; asked if the 100K LRTA contribution would continue (yes); asked about increasing and/or varying fees, and not simply aiming to increase rides, to account for time of day, length of trip, number of passengers, etc.; asked if shuttle service could be maximized without creating more parking spaces, for example, via fixed stops in town other than commuter parking areas (possible opportunity to lease additional space in connection with services to West Acton Village Works employees); asked whether arrival of Uber might be helpful (no, due to need for accessible vehicles and concern about lack of regulation/standards to assure passenger safety). Mr. Berry noted comments of Mr. Yarin of TAC, and potential process issues; Mr. Halley affirmed that he does consult with TAC but needed to act quickly in modifying the fixed route. Ms. Osman said transportation needed to go where the big numbers were; people's awareness of the services would grow as they saw the services at the train station, at the high school, etc.; she would like to serve commuters without cars. Ms. Green noted that the increased visibility was why people knew about the service. Ms. Osman would like the Board to request: effective communication with the Council on Aging; and streamlining of the various service names, which can be challenging to keep straight.

Debra Simes, Concord Road, suggested that any further expansion of the fixed-route include Nagog Woods and the Colonial Liquors parking lot. Jim Yarin, Central Street, said he would talk with Mr. Halley; recommended that once a route was fixed, it remain so unless it was intended to be temporary; transportation very important as are regular updates to the Board; perhaps consider 2 crisscrossing fixed routes that serve the 3 locations with senior populations; get seniors to travel together, perhaps on a fixed route involving the COA van; fact that fixed-route does not cover lower Great Road is a disservice, and is why public input is important in establishing a fixed route.

Minuteman Regional: Discussion of Boxborough Proposed Amendment: Ms. Adachi reported on the discussion among member-community representatives at this morning's breakfast meeting at the school about the new-building project. The current plan is for the Superintendent's financing proposal to go the School Committee and then to District members, which may schedule special town meetings no

later than February; if any member dissents, the financing proposal will go to District-wide ballot on or before 4/2. Member-representatives at the breakfast meeting had differing opinions about the prospect of a District-wide ballot vote that would supersede a dissenting STM vote; and about the need to address differences among members in an amended regional agreement as part of the effort to move the financing proposal forward. Representatives of 6 member-towns, presumably those that had not approved the 2014 amended agreement, met recently to discuss the various issues. Mr. Berry expressed concern about the District-wide vote and thought that scheduling a STM to vote on the financing was important. Ms. Green noted that a ballot-vote still would provide for voter participation; the Boxborough proposal to amend the regional agreement was interesting but the building project needed to move forward, separate from any proposed amendment. Ms. Adachi noted there would be lots of public outreach before any member-community vote.

Special Tax Assessment Agreement, Associated Environmental Services: Board members discussed the draft agreement.

- Section I(4) provision for an annual payment of 10K toward Cross-Acton Transit: Concerns about this provision, recommendation that the provision be more flexible, with reduced years, a more general transportation service reference, etc.
- Section I(5) right of first refusal of leased space at \$10 per square foot for a term of 5 years: Mr. Ledoux said it could be an option for Recreation or Engineering, still located at the Nagog space.

Ms. Adachi requested clarification of the employment numbers constituting a material default in Section I(13). Ms. Osman asked about AES's obligation to hire individuals with disabilities; Mr. Ledoux said that AES was a federal contractor so would be obligated to consider the disabled or lose its contractor status.

Jim Snyder-Grant, Half Moon Hill, recommended taking the proposed school bus-parking possibility off the table, given the location of the parking area in Groundwater Zone 2.

Ms. Adachi moved pursuant to Article 6 of November 10, 2015 Special Town Meeting to approve Special Tax Assessment Agreement between Town and AES substantially in form presented to Board tonight, with final changes that Town Manager may approve in consultation with Town Counsel, Ms. Osman seconded. All Ayes (4-0).

Selectmen's Reports: The Selectmen Reports were included in the Selectmen packet and there were no questions.

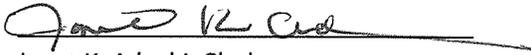
Consent Agenda

Ms. Green held Item 7, 2016 Permits, Licenses, recommending approval contingent on licensees' being paid up. Mr. Berry moved to approve Consent Item 7 with that condition, Ms. Adachi seconded. All Ayes (4-0). Ms. Adachi moved to approve Consent items 8-15, Mr. Berry seconded. All Ayes (4-0).

Ms. Adachi moved to adjourn, Ms. Osman seconded. All Ayes (4-0). Meeting adjourned at 10:00.

Board of Selectmen
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Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janet K. Adachi", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Janet K. Adachi, Clerk

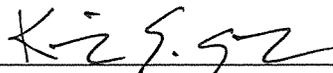
Board of Selectmen
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**MOTION REGARDING SPECIAL TAX ASSESSMENT AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE TOWN OF ACTON AND
ASSOCIATED ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS, INC.**

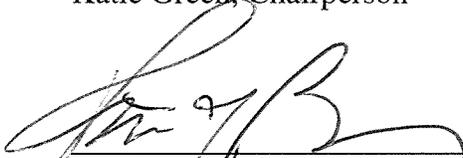
Move pursuant to Article 6 of the Special Town Meeting held on November 10, 2015, that the Board of Selectmen approve the Special Tax Assessment Agreement between the Town of Acton and Associated Environmental Systems, Inc., concerning the real estate located at 8 and 10 Post Office Square in Acton, shown as Parcel 59-2 on Town of Acton Atlas Map E4 and Parcel 2 on Town of Acton Atlas Map F4, substantially in the form presented to the Board this evening with such final changes as the Town Manager, in consultation with Town Counsel, may approve.

Dated: November 16, 2015

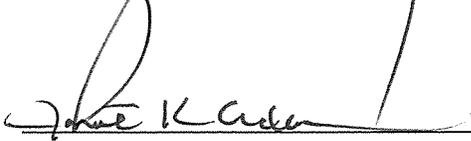
TOWN OF ACTON
By Its Board of Selectmen



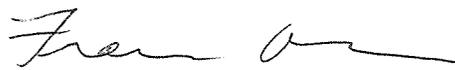
Katie Green, Chairperson



Peter J. Berry, Vice-Chair



Janet K. Adachi, Clerk



Frances J. Osman

Chingsung Chang