

TOWN OF WINCHESTER
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
Monday, January 11, 2016
Record

Chairman Lance R. Grenzeback called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the Board of Selectmen Meeting Room located in Town Hall. Present were Vice Chairman James A. Johnson, III, Selectman Stephen L. Powers, Selectman Michael Bettencourt and Selectman E. James Whitehead. Also present were Town Manager Richard C. Howard and Town Counsel Wade M. Welch.

OPENING

*Motion: That the Board of Selectmen adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing matters related to MGL Chapter 30A §21(a)6 – Winchester Hospital PILOT update; Real Estate Negotiations: Winning Farm – MGL Chapter 30A §21(a)6 – Update; Asa Fletcher Fund request – MGL Chapter 30A §21(a)7 – compliance with, or acting under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant in aid requirements] and Personnel Matter per MGL Chapter 4 section 7 clause 26(c).
Johnson – Bettencourt
By Roll Call Vote: Whitehead, Bettencourt, Powers, Johnson, Grenzeback VOTED.

*Motion: That the Board of Selectmen adjourn from Executive Session to Public Session, not to return to Executive Session.
Johnson – Bettencourt
By Roll Call Vote: Whitehead, Bettencourt, Powers, Johnson, Grenzeback VOTED.

Notification of Meetings and Hearings

-] Monday, January 18, 2016 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday – Town Hall Closed
-] Monday, January 25, 2016 – Board of Selectmen Meeting – Regular Session
-] Monday, February 1, 2016 – Board of Selectmen Meeting – Regular Session [tentative]
-] Monday, February 8, 2016 – Board of Selectmen Meeting – Regular Session [tentative]
-] Monday, February 22, 2016 – Board of Selectmen Meeting – Regular Session [tentative]

Chairman's Comments

Chairman Grenzeback informed the audience that the MBTA will be holding a hearing on their proposed fare rate increases and late night service reductions. Those who are interested should check the MBTA's website for additional information.

Selectman Whitehead reported that he has received word from the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture that the emerald ash borer has advanced as far as Worcester, MA. Those residents with ash trees should talk with their landscaper.

Town Manager Reports / Comments:

Health Insurance Rates – Authorization for Manager to sign contract with HPHC

Town Manager referenced the information contained in the packet and the request to authorize him to sign the contract for renewal of the health insurance product. He noted that the Board may wish to have a comprehensive presentation from the Town's insurance consultant prior to making this authorization. Consensus of the Board was that a briefing / presentation would be beneficial to both

Board members and employees. Chairman Grenzeback pointed out that the proposal from HPHC is for a 0% increase in the health insurance rates.

MBTA Train Station – Winchester Center

Town Manager noted that the 15% design has been completed and a working group meeting is scheduled to be held in the next few weeks. The objective is to have the design team also make a presentation to the Board in the next few weeks, most likely during the month of February. Town Manager noted that repairs have also been completed on the platform and the ramp is now open for use by commuters.

416 Cambridge Street – 40 B Proposal

Town Manager noted that this is under consideration by the Zoning Board of Appeals and recommended that the Board arrange to obtain some commentary from both legal counsel and staff to make a series of recommendations either jointly or individually to the ZBA in their efforts to reach a conclusion.

Waterfield Parking Lot

Town Manager informed the Board that with assistance from the Town Planner, he has held a series of meetings to bring a consultant on to help the Board shape an RFP. Meg White, the Town's Special Projects Engineer has been assisting in this effort as well. A draft RFP will be developed that is similar in structure to that utilized for Wright-Locke Farm RFP, i.e. similar framework but entirely different content.

FY2017 Budget

Town Manager reported that the FY2017 Budget is in draft form and all departmental budget requests for the upcoming fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016 have been received. He pointed out that the Manager's Budget must be submitted to the Finance Committee by February 15th.

Selectman Powers reiterated that the 416 Cambridge Street – 40B proposal will be discussed by the Board on January 25th. Chairman Grenzeback noted that the decision will rest largely with the State, however the ZBA has been holding detailed hearings on the project design, drainage, fire access, traffic impacts, etc., with the ZBA making a final report on conditions related to this project sometime in early February. He noted that the Board of Selectmen has no direct jurisdiction in this matter however what the Board will do after reviewing all of the testimony before the ZBA, along with comments from the neighbors, is putting together a letter to the ZBA so that the Board of Selectmen's comments are on record.

Fish Ladder Update

Town Manager noted that a meeting was held on this issue earlier today with personnel from the Division of Marine Fisheries, the DPW, Conservation Commission and legal staff. He recalled that funding had been requested from the entity that indicated they would provide the funds for construction of the fish ladder, however it has been almost a month and there has been no word back. As a result, there is no direct feedback on funding and there is no reason to expect that the funding will not be received for the design and construction.

Town Manager indicated that the meeting held earlier was a good meeting and there were a series of things that the DPW discussed with the representatives from the State concerning the operation and maintenance of the fish ladder once it is constructed. This project continues to move along and the Dept. of Fisheries has Town Counsel's effort at an MOU; a Maintenance and Operating Agreement

would be attached to the MOU, which at some point might necessitate modification depending upon information received after the fish ladder is installed. He reported that all parties at the table are working in the same direction.

Town Manager reported that there was a meeting earlier today about the Skillings Culvert with a full range of staff in attendance. The consultant, VHB, has now endorsed the change order for the EFPBC / Town of Winchester contract for the construction of the High School that will have that contractor perform all of the soil remedial work required within the project limits at Skillings Field. Town Manager noted that some of this field is under the jurisdiction of the EFPBC / contract for Winchester High School; the remainder is with the Town. The portion for the baseball field and new parking lot, which is under the EFPBC jurisdiction will see the remediation done by the project contractor as a part of the change order to be considered by the EFPBC next Wednesday. Simultaneously, the Town will issue a contract for the installation of the culvert and remediation of the soil beyond the project limits at the northern end of the field. A project schedule has been prepared and both teams will be acting in concert; the culvert work will precede by a few months the remediation efforts, reconstruction of the ball field and reconstruction of the parking lot. The expectation is that this will be discussed by the EFPBC next week, the issue finalized and sent to MSBA for their finalization, and in the Spring construction will be underway.

MATTERS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Joseph O'Connor, 7 Wainwright Road referenced the Board's January 25th meeting where the 416 Cambridge Street 40B project will be an agenda item for discussion and asked whether the public would have an opportunity to comment at that time. Selectman Grenzeback responded that there would be an opportunity for public comment. He recalled that Mr. O'Connor had previously informed the Board that the developer would be putting out balloons to indicate the dimensions of the proposal. Mr. O'Connor noted that the developer has yet to do this, and indicated that he will contact the chairman of the ZBA and request that this be done.

DPW Director Jay Gill, Veterans Services Officer Al Wile, VFW Quartermaster Gregg Quill, Mrs. Edward F. O'Connell and Kevin Brown, DPW Employee came forward. Veterans Services Officer Al Wile requested that the Board welcome Kevin Brown back to the Town's employment after having served in the Middle East Theater of Operations. Director Gill informed the Board that Mr. Brown left Winchester about eleven months ago. The Department of Public Works is happy to have Mr. Brown back because he is an excellent employee with superb skills and lives in Winchester.

Kevin Brown informed the Board that while deployed, he was a part of a crew that constructed the largest free-standing structure in Iraq since 2007. Director Gill informed the Board that he is happy to have Mr. Brown back on his staff.

BUSINESS

WinCam Board of Directors Appointment – Term to Expire: November 15, 2018

Candidate for reappointment: Melodie Wing

Melodie Wing informed the Board that WinCam is enjoying its temporary space on Swanton Street but is in discussion with the School Department about getting back into Winchester High School. WinCam staff is excited about the equipment that will be available to them in the High School auditorium, which will be used for Spring 2016 Town Meeting.

*Motion: That the Board of Selectmen reappoint Melodie Wing to the WinCam Board of Directors for a term to expire November 15, 2018.

Johnson – Whitehead

All in favor.

VOTED.

NStar d/b/a Eversource Energy – Woburn to Wakefield Transmission Line Presentation

Present: William Zamparelli and Jack Lopes, Community Relations, Beverly Schultz and David Velez, Project Managers

Chairman Genzeback announced that the Board would be scheduling two public informational sessions on this issue, the first on January 27th and the second on February 10th, in the Lincoln Elementary School Auditorium at 7:00 PM. The January 27th meeting will primarily discuss the Woburn to Wakefield Transmission line and the February 10th meeting will discuss the Mystic Line to Woburn. He noted that the Town will be working with Eversource to get notice out to residents and information will also be posted on the Town's website.

Chairman Grenzeback noted that the objective this evening is to provide an update on the progress of the project and provide answers to questions forwarded to Eversource prior to the holiday season. He stressed that the meetings on January 27th and February 10th are informational sessions and not public hearings because there is no action to be taken by the Board of Selectmen. He requested that those in attendance make note of anything that they feel may have been missed this evening so that answers can be provided for the January 27th presentation. He explained that a specific web page will be constructed about this project as the Town is seeking ways to push information about the project out to the public.

Bill Zamparelli, Eversource Community Relations Representative thanked the Board for the opportunity to present the project this evening. He introduced his colleague, Jack Lopes. Mr. Lopes explained the difference between a transmission line and a distribution line: transmission lines are like the interstate highway system, the backbone of the electric system carrying bulk supply of electricity. Distribution lines are lower voltage and carry power to local businesses and homes.

Mr. Lopes outlined the agenda for this evening:

- Electric Transmission vs. Distribution:
- Need for both projects;
- Benefits of both projects for the Greater Boston Area;
- Woburn to Wakefield Line Project
 - Overview & maps
 - Analysis of route alternatives
 - Construction process
 - Overall schedule
- Mystic to Woburn Line Project:
 - Overview & maps
 - Analysis of route alternatives
 - Construction process
 - Overall schedule

Managing Impacts During Construction

Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF)

Proactive Project Outreach

Project Contacts

Mr. Lopes explained that ISO New England has identified inadequate transmission resources to serve the Greater Boston area, including potential overloads to the existing 115-kV and 345-kV systems serving this area.

The Woburn to Wakefield and Mystic to Woburn Line Projects are part of a suite of projects designed to meet growing customer electrical demands and maintain system reliability in the Greater Boston and

surrounding area. These two new projects were selected by ISO New England as a part of the “preferred solution” to solve this need. The benefits of both projects for the Greater Boston area are as follows:

- Improves reliable electric service;
- Reduces energy costs;
- Creates economic benefit during construction: direct benefit (construction jobs) and indirect benefits (hotels, restaurants, etc.);
- Produces significant new property tax revenue for the towns in which the new facilities are located;

Woburn to Wakefield Line Project:

- Proposed new 345-kilovolt (kV) underground transmission line;
- Connect the Eversource Woburn Substation in Woburn with the National Grid Wakefield Junction Substation in Wakefield;
- Approximately 8.4 miles: Woburn (1.4 miles), Winchester (1.6 miles), Stoneham (1.8 miles), and Wakefield (3.6 miles);
- Includes improvements within the existing Woburn and Wakefield Junction substation properties;
- Overall project investment of approximately \$107 million;
- Coordinating closely with towns in planning, construction and restoration phases

Mr. Lopes indicated that various criteria were used to evaluate many routes with the project area, along with input from municipalities and state agencies. Most routes use public roadways, but railroad rights-of-way, parkland, and some private lands were also considered in the route selection analysis. Of the dozens of potential routes initially identified, the Companies completed in-depth analysis of three primary routes and several variations to the primary routes, as presented in the Project’s Petition submitted to the EFSB in September, 2015.

Beverly Schultz, Project Manager for the Woburn to Wakefield Line Project, informed the Board that this is a 345kV underground transmission line, connecting the Woburn Substation to the Wakefield Junction Substation. The route in Winchester is currently Lake Avenue, Woburn to Pickering Street, Woburn, to Border Street, Cross Street and Washington Street, all in Winchester. A proposed route and route variation has been put forward to the Siting Board. Ms. Schultz reported that the overall project investment is about \$107million.

Ms. Schultz informed the Board that during a meeting with the Town Engineer, DPW Director and other Town staff, they were advised that Winchester would prefer the shortest route possible. Also reviewed was a path to avoid the Washington Street / Cross Street intersection by going through Davidson Park and Calvary Cemetery onto Central Street in Woburn. The Cemetery has indicated that they are running out of space and planning to eliminate their access road, which was the proposed route rather than through the center of the Cemetery. Also reviewed was a path going over Route 93 to Marble Street in Stoneham; MassDOT has indicated that they have plans to replace this bridge in approximately 2021 but design details are unknown at this time. Consideration was given to going through Stoneham at Fallon Road. Routes were scored and several different criteria utilized based upon traffic volume, land use, environmental impacts, etc.

In response to Vice Chairman Johnson’s reference to the comment that Davidson Park was considered and how much consideration was given to this idea, Ms. Schultz explained that the Davidson Park area was not selected because of Article 97 requirements. She noted that this land is park land and would require an act of the Legislature to have the line go through it, therefore not seen as a good option. She recalled that this option was previously discussed with the Town Manager and Town Counsel.

Ms. Schultz indicated that residential land use, industrial / commercial land use, sensitive receptors such as schools, public transit facilities, historic resources, potential traffic congestion, high impact crossings, public shade trees, wetlands, areas of environmental concern, potential for sub-surface contamination due to historical land use, length of each route, width of each street, utility density, angles, and whether trenchless crossings were required, all were reviewed. When routes were scored, the score was based upon a total path, with one route being compared to another; all of this is required by the Siting Board.

Explaining the construction process, Ms. Schultz noted that the typical procedure is a construction train that utilizes several different contractors with different expertises. One contractor will be the lead and cut the pavement, the next contractor will excavate the pavement and soil, the third contractor will install the pipe, the next crew will install the cement back-fill, the roadway is then temporarily repaired and after the entire project is completed, repaving is done to the Town's requirements.

Ms. Schultz noted that there is an excavation that is about four feet in width and five feet in depth, however when the manhole is installed it is much larger, eight feet wide / eight feet deep by thirty feet in length. She explained that she has been in discussion with the Town about the development of a Memorandum of Understanding setting up the terms of the project and how Eversource will construct, as well as whether or not the Town will require Eversource to close streets when a location is particularly difficult. She noted that none of these decisions have been made and traffic management plans are yet to be developed. The project is designed to the 75% level with this information having been provided to the towns and agencies involved. Ms. Schultz recalled that open houses were held in Woburn, Stoneham and in Winchester on April 29, 2015. In September of 2015 a petition was filed with the Department of Public Utilities Energy Facilities Siting Board, the agency designed to review projects. To be fair, the Siting Board considers the company's interest, the public's interest, and environment when considering the design, evaluating the project based upon reliability and cost, as well as on the impact to both the natural and human environments. The Siting Board exists for the purpose of review to make sure that the process is fair.

Ms. Schultz reported that the Siting Board held a public hearing on this project in November of 2015 in the Town of Stoneham. It is expected that evidentiary hearings will begin in March of 2016 and the discovery process has begun. She recalled that there was an option for anyone interested to become an intervener or an interested party and several parties have chosen to participate as formal interveners, including the Town of Stoneham and ISO New England, the agency requiring that this project be constructed. A decision is expected in the first quarter of 2017 with construction to begin in March and completed in 2018. The Host Community Agreements will stipulate work hours, review process, mitigation available, making the Town whole as a result of the project, grants of location to place the facility, street opening permits, Town involvement in the review of the project during construction, review of the actual design, etc.

Mystic to Woburn Line Project

- Proposed new 115-kilovolt (kV) underground transmission line;
- Connects the Eversource Mystic Substation in Everett and the Eversource Woburn Substation in Woburn;
- Approximately 7.2 miles in total length through Boston (0.3 mile) Somerville (1.4 miles), Medford (3.2 miles), Winchester (2.3 miles) and short distances in Everett and Woburn;
- Includes improvements within the existing Woburn and Mystic Substations;
- Initial project investment estimate: approximately \$70 million.
- Coordinating closely with town in planning, construction and restoration phases;

David Velez, Project Manager for the Mystic to Woburn Project which is similar but also utilizes different technology than the Woburn to Wakefield project, in that it is a 115kV project accomplishing

the reliability of the transmission system. The project connects the Woburn Station to the Mystic Station located in Everett; total length of project line is 7.2 miles, of which approximately 2.3 miles is located in Winchester; improvements will be made at both substations to accommodate the new line. The estimated budget for this portion of the project is approximately \$70million. Eversource has been and will continue to work closely with the affected towns in the planning and construction of the project. The preferred route runs from Woburn, through Winchester, crossing Pond Street, down Woodside Road, down Wildwood Street to Fletcher Street, out to Bacon Street to Main Street into Medford along Route 38. Six different routes were reviewed and various variations and alternatives, impacts, etc. were considered. Mr. Velez also noted that these routes are weighted and scored against each other. Trenches will be two feet wide and five feet deep; manholes are 10 ft. x 10 ft.; river and rail crossings are at the Aberjona River and Wedgemere Train Station. Cable is pulled from manhole to manhole. Manholes are usually installed first.

Mr. Velez recalled that several open houses have been held on this project including one in Winchester on April 29th. The Siting Board held a hearing in Medford on May 20, 2015 and Evidentiary Hearings are to begin on January 20, 2016.

Traffic Management:

Mr. Velez informed the Board that a traffic management plan has been developed by a professional engineering firm with input from municipalities and in accordance with State Code. Police detail officers are required and paid by Eversource. Steel plates will be installed across the trenches to allow access to private property. Mr. Velez explained that the hours of construction are negotiated with each municipality. Outreach will be done via mailings, door-to-door, websites, etc. The project will have both a hotline telephone number and email address.

Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF)

Dr. Peter Valberg, PhD., an independent consultant retained by Eversource. Dr. Valberg has a background in physics and public health, having earned his PhD in physics from Harvard. Dr. Valberg taught physics at Amherst College, later teaching public health at Harvard University School of Public Health.

Dr. Valberg noted that electro magnetic fields derive from the fact that lines in homes, distribution lines and transmission lines have voltages on them that give rise to the electric field, or another way of saying that charges can exert force from other charges. The magnetic field derives from current in the lines, either in homes, distribution or transmission lines. The current is another way of indicating moving charges. Magnetic fields are the center part of any motor, changing electricity into motion.

Dr. Valberg explained that in the proposed transmission lines, the one feature that is very important is that they are underground, and for an underground line, the electric field is shielded completely, so there is no above ground electric field; the only thing that can be detected from these lines is the magnetic field. The magnetic field is the same field that is created by distribution lines that are underground, the wiring in a home that carries current, as well as by the appliances within a home that create a magnetic field. Characteristic of transmission lines, the three phases that carry power in the line all add up to zero, with the fields cancelling each other out. The fields from overhead lines are higher because the individual conductors are far apart. Underground lines are packed close together which makes the cancellation of the fields of the individual conductors to be very good.

Dr. Valberg noted the following:

- Because the proposed transmission lines are underground, the ground will shield the electric field completely. Magnetic fields are not shielded by the earth or by most materials, but they rapidly decrease in magnitude with increasing distance from the source.
- To help put the exposure in context, residents are exposed to magnetic fields from a variety of everyday sources, including household appliances such as microwave ovens when warming morning coffee, refrigerators, electric can openers, hair dryers, etc. While these everyday exposures are well within recommended ranges, the level of magnetic fields is often much stronger than the level from transmission lines. Electric and magnetic fields associated with this transmission facility are well below established, scientifically based limits on EMF exposure.
- As a matter of course, Eversource and National Grid designs new transmission facilities to mitigate the potential for EMF exposure. For this project, the projected EMF levels, as analyzed and corroborated by an independent industry expert fall well below the accepted health guidelines for magnetic field exposure.

The following is a list of 345-kV Projects in New England:

Massachusetts

Lower SEMA

Boston – Stoughton

Greater Springfield Reliability Project

Connecticut

Interstate Reliability Project (Joint with National Grid)

Greater Springfield Reliability Project

Middletown-Norwalk (Joint with United Illuminating)

New Hampshire

Merrimack Valley Reliability Project (Joint with National Grid and currently under review)

Proactive Project Outreach

- Stakeholders
- Municipal officials
- State and federal elected officials and regulators
- Regional Planners
- Property owners and tenants
- Businesses
- Community Groups

Project Communication for Municipalities

- Briefings and Presentations
- Email updates

Public

- Door to door outreach
- News releases / media advisories
- Informational mailings
- Dedicated 1-800# and email address
- Door hangers
- Project website

The Board was informed that design requirements require multiple levels of redundancy, something that is enforced by ISO, in order to call on multiple stations at any moment. The Woburn Station connects to certain distribution lines because the network is regional. Approximately six (6) lines service Winchester. Beverly Schultz explained that redundancy is created between the substations. She noted that at this time, there is no connection between Woburn and Wakefield, which this project would rectify. In response to the question concerning how Winchester benefits, Ms. Schultz explained that transmission facilities bring power to the substation with other lines serving the community; Winchester is served primarily from Woburn.

Vice Chairman Johnson requested information on where the existing transmission lines are and where they come from. He indicated that residents do not realize what is in the street currently. He asked about the pipe size and what would be going through those pipes. Beverly Schultz explained that typically there are three cables in one pipe with oil inside for cooling purposes. In this particular project there is a cable in each of three pipes with one spare pipe. Vice Chairman Johnson pointed out that these types of installations are everywhere.

Selectman Bettencourt asked about the potential savings to residents and electricity users. Ms. Schultz explained that this project would allow the independent service operator to call up additional service in a power outage in a better manner; generations costs will also be reduced.

Chairman Grenzeback raised the question related to the extent that the routes are still open for discussion and the flexibility for Eversource to make changes to the routes. Ms. Schultz indicated that the routes mapped were noticed to all abutters. Different routes or changes to the route would require renoticing to the public and holding additional public hearings.

Vice Chairman Johnson questioned why the existing railroad right of way cannot be followed and was informed by Ms. Schultz that there is no room in in the Davidson Park corridor. Wakefield is using the railroad right of way but Stoneham would require a private property easement. She explained that there are two different rights of way, one which is actual, the other, not currently being used. She noted that this is both an operation and safety issue. Ms. Schultz indicated that the railroad has guidelines for how far Eversource would have to be from the train track. She noted that there are overhead lines around railroad tracks in other areas of Massachusetts. She explained that many factors go into selection of a route and a check would have to be made to determine whether the installation would be above or below the ground.

Vice Chairman Johnson indicated that he really does not want the transmission line disrupting the quality of life for the citizens in Winchester. He suggested that a quick way of eliminating a half mile of road construction would be to go through Davidson Park and he feels that the Legislature would approve of this change. He suggested that this be explored further. Chairman Grenzeback recalled that the Town has a project to look at the restoration of Davidson Park. The Vice Chairman indicated that he feels the Town's State Legislative Delegation would work to push through Article 97 in this instance.

Construction Impact

Chairman Grenzeback questioned whether property takings would be necessary or not. Beverly Schultz informed the Board that there would be no property taking because no Eversource equipment would be located on private property and staging would be done only on the agreement of the property owner.

Chairman Grenzeback next raised the issue of interfering with the Town's facilities and the long-term impact of this. Ms. Schultz indicated that Eversource would occupy the same spaces in which Town facilities are located. Vice Chairman Johnson raised the question of whether any excavation would be lower than the Town's water / sewer lines. Director Gill indicated that water / sewer lines vary between

4 ft. and 8 ft. in depth. Ms. Schultz explained that in some areas, the consultant has requested that facilities be moved, pointing out that additional depth means additional traffic impact.

Vice Chairman Johnson noted that the Board has a responsibility to the taxpayers, questioning how much of the existing right-of-way would be utilized by Eversource, because whatever Eversource uses will be lost to the Town in the future. Ms. Schultz indicated that the manholes are 4 ft. wide and 5 ft. deep. Because so much of the Town's right-of-way would be used by Eversource, the Vice Chairman asked about the residual effect on the community as Eversource has not mentioned compensation for the loss of the right-of-way.

Town Engineer Beth Rudolph noted that Selectman Johnson's point is an important one because there will not only be construction impacts but long-term impacts on the Town's infrastructure. The Board was informed that the Mystic to Woburn project has approximately 20 manholes and there are approximately 28 manholes in the entire Woburn to Wakefield project. Eversource agreed to provide information on the number of manholes to be installed in the Winchester portion of the project. The Board was informed that the excavated soil would be trucked away and flowable fill used to replace it. Police detail officers would be on site.

Eversource reported that the construction work zone would be isolated and protected, keeping pedestrian and vehicular traffic separate from the work area. Each work zone would be analyzed by a traffic engineer. How quickly construction proceeds is dependent upon the conditions and the other utilities in the ground. Eversource explained that there is not just one good answer to this question. Representatives indicated that the project could move between 25 feet and 150 feet per day.

Vice Chairman Johnson questioned whether both the 115kV line and the 345kV line in Winchester would be done at the same time. Eversource indicated that this would have to be discussed and built into any contingency plan. The Vice Chairman indicated that he does not mind the wide streets in Winchester being used but many of the streets are very narrow. The Eversource representative indicated that a traffic engineer would create staging plans, and traffic could be maintained on the narrower roads without significant shoulders. Parking spaces could also be taken on a temporary basis.

Chairman Grenzeback noted that residents are anxious about health impacts. Dr. Peter Valberg, PhD, pointed out that a lot of alarmist statements have been made on this issue but public health agencies do not feel that this is a big issue. He noted that guidelines provide for allowable exposure. Chairman Grenzeback noted that many of the studies focused on the overhead transmission lines and asked if there is a benefit to the underground lines. Dr. Valberg noted that the studies have focused on both above and below ground transmission lines and nothing has been found related to the underground lines.

Chairman Grenzeback asked whether there is a shielding mechanism that could be added to the manholes. Dr. Valberg explained that by taking the lines from above ground to underground cancellation is brought closer and mitigation is dramatic. He indicated that close compaction cancels out concerns and the rate of fall-off is much more dramatic. Chairman Grenzeback requested a diagram of how this fall-off measures out. Beverly Schultz indicated that there have been steel plates used in some projects, however this is not effective. Dr. Valberg pointed out that the pipes do some shielding. Selectman Bettencourt asked if the project costs would increase if the lines were in steel versus pvc pipes. Eversource indicated that there would be maintenance issues.

Selectman Whitehead indicated that one line has protection, the other does not. Eversource explained that there is cathodic protection on the steel line, however the entire project has protection.

Chairman Grenzeback raised the issue of tax impact and whether the value of the homes in the area would decrease. Ms. Schultz indicated that there is no documentation that the values of properties in

proximity to the lines are any less. An Eversource representative explained that the routing in the project parallels the 115kV line in service, and which has been in place since the early 1980's. New lines would be in addition to this line.

Beverly Schultz explained that the company pays personal property tax on the value of the asset in the community. The entire project is valued at \$107million and based on the length of the project, the line is about \$75million.

Vice Chairman Johnson raised the question of whether there would be long-term mitigation funds available with this project. Ms. Schultz informed the Board that Eversource will be working through a mitigation agreement with each community. Eversource also indicated that a betterment would compensate for temporary inconvenience as a mitigation measure. Ms. Schultz noted that Eversource is talking with the Town Manager and staff about this.

Chairman Grenzeback informed Eversource representatives that for the January 27th and February 10th meetings, the Board would like to find an effective way to reach residents. Selectman Powers indicated that he would like to make sure that the notification list is bigger rather than smaller. Chairman Grenzeback suggested that Town Meeting Members also be contacted.

Selectman Powers pointed out that Stoneham did change the route and it looks like the bulk of the revenue from the project will end up in Woburn. Ms. Schultz indicated that this is correct. Selectman Powers questioned whether any community has rejected the project in its entirety. Ms. Schultz noted that Stoneham does not want Eversource in their Town. If changes to the route are made, Eversource will have to renotify abutters and lengthen the amount of time for review. Another Eversource representative explained that not only would there be an impact on other parts of the route, but a cumulative impact as well.

Vice Chairman Johnson requested a tentative construction schedule, information about hours of operation, number of weekday work days proposed, etc. He expressed concern about the Muraco School area. He informed Eversource that he would like to allow Town staff to have time to evaluate this proposal as he is particularly concerned about construction when kids are walking to and from school, reducing issues of concern for Winchester residents.

Community Representative Bill Zamparelli informed the Board that Eversource has drafted responses in an FAQ format that could be posted on the Town's website. His team will try to provide answers for those questions raised this evening.

At 9:55 PM Chairman Grenzeback declared a brief recess. He reconvened the meeting at 10:10 PM.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approve / Correct Meeting Minutes:

Monday, October 19, 2015; Monday, October 26, 2015;

Monday, November 30, 2015; Monday, December 7, 2015;

Monday, December 14, 2015; Wednesday, December 16, 2015

One Day Alcoholic Beverage License(s)

Griffin Museum – Thursday, January 14, 2016;

Maureen Nuccitelli, Mixology Diva – Sanborn House – Friday, January 22, 2016

Vacation / Sick Carry Forward Request:

Comptroller Stacie A. Ward

Approval: Chapter 268 §20(d) Exemption for Landscaping Design Services

related to the Mt. Vernon Street Bridge Flood Mitigation Project:

Juli Riemenschneider (Design Review Committee member)

*Motion: That the Board of Selectmen approve the Consent Agenda for Monday, January 11, 2016 that includes approval of meeting minutes for October 19, October 26, November 30, December 7, December 14 and December 16, 2015; One Day Alcoholic Beverage Licenses for the Griffin Museum on Thursday, January 14, 2016; Maureen Nuccitelli, Mixology Diva – Sanborn House – Friday, January 22, 2016; vacation / sick carry forward for Comptroller Stacie A. Ward; approval of Chapter 268 §20(d) exemption for landscaping design services related to the Mt. Vernon Street Bridge Flood Mitigation Project: Juli Riemenschneider (Design Review Committee member).

Johnson – Bettencourt

All in favor.

VOTED.

COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKING GROUP REPORTS

The Board acknowledged receipt of the following correspondence:

1. Frank DePaola, General Manager, MBTA from Chairman Grenzeback re: Winchester / Lowell Line Commuter Rail Service Schedule
2. Town Engineer to Special Parking Permit holders re: discontinuance of Special Parking Permit designation
3. Lynch Parent Association re: Pond Street safety
4. Eric Hayden, Wainwright Road re: 40B project at 416 Cambridge Street
5. Mass. Municipal Association – Annual Meeting Notification
6. May Benoît Lutgen, Bastogne re: 71st anniversary commemoration of the Battle of the Bulge presentation
7. NStar d/b/a Eversource – Grant of Location Request – Church Street
8. Letter to Local Business Owners / Residents: Mt. Vernon Street traffic changes during EnKa Fair and Mt. Vernon Street Bridge culvert project
9. School Committee Agenda – Tuesday, January 12, 2016

Non-Docket Business from the Selectmen

Chairman Grenzeback noted that a local resident is willing to take a look at the Town's website in order to set up a "Town Crier" format for announcements. This would allow connection with Facebook, Twitter, etc. Selectman Bettencourt noted that this is the first step in better citizen communication. Selectman Whitehead pointed out that the School Department is reviewing their outreach software for better communication between teachers and parents. Town Manager suggested development of a 'social media' policy.

*Motion: That the Board of Selectmen authorize an expenditure of up to \$2500.00 with a source to be determined for technical consulting services related to the Town's website.

Johnson – Bettencourt

All in favor.

VOTED.

Relative to the Eversource Projects, Vice Chairman Johnson informed his colleagues that he would like to see a map of where the manholes will be located for both project.

Selectman Bettencourt requested a clear, simple presentation about electro-magnetic fields. Also requested was the following:

- tax revenue information for the existing power lines;
- the estimated income based upon the lines currently in place;
- more information about the hierarchy of the process, i.e., who is the ISO;

**Monday, January 11, 2016
Board of Selectmen Meeting**

- outline of the appeal process if the Board of Selectmen says ‘no’ to the project;
- what are the options available to the Board;
- opinion from Town Counsel on the Board’s latitude in this matter;
- more information on the proposed ‘preferred’ alternative, i.e., Green Street, Woburn;
- what are other communities doing?

Adjournment: 10:30 PM

*Motion: That the Board of Selectmen adjourn for the evening.

Johnson – Bettencourt

By Roll Call Vote: Whitehead, Bettencourt, Powers, Johnson, Grenzeback VOTED.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard C. Howard, Town Manager