

TOWN OF WILTON  
SELECTMEN'S MINUTES

Date: September 28, 2015  
Time: 6:30 P.M.  
Place: Town Office  
Present: Chairman Richard E. Swanson, Selectmen William F. Condra and Kermit R. Williams.  
Recording Secretary Pamela Atwood.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by Chairman Swanson.

Chairman Swanson thanked the audience for attending, including the Energy Committee and the Conservation Commission, also State Representatives Kermit Williams and Carol Roberts.

Chairman Swanson opened the floor for public comment other than Pipeline comments. Tracy Ewing asked about why the lights are on at the school all night at FRES. The Selectmen did not know, but stated they will find out. Tracy asked that they be turned down. Selectman Condra said it was a school board issue but the town can raise it to a school board member or staff.

Bart Hunter asked about the library drainage issue. Selectman Williams said they were trying to work when the library was not open but he's not sure if that continues to be the case.

Chairman Swanson opened the floor to public comments regarding the pipeline.

Glynn Graham from Abbot Hill Rd stated that she felt there were major issues, and hoped Wilton would join neighboring towns against pipeline. She cited health risks, ecological events, and possible contaminated ground water. She hopes New Hampshire will join its neighbors against the pipeline and Wilton will take it even further.

Richard Kahn, member of Energy Committee, read the Committee's position, which can also be found on their web site. In summary, the Energy Committee does not support the construction of the pipeline.

Andrew Finlayson expressed concern that Wilton has not acted and had not had the discussion like other towns. The proposed pipeline is right up next to the Town. He expected to hear a discussion from the Conservation Commission, the Energy Committee and the Board of Selectmen. The Conservation Commission was not able to join with other Conservation Commissions because they weren't able to act with Board of Selectmen's blessing. Andrew further noted that Wilton is a vulnerable white territory (on the map) and the pipeline route could be changed to to be in Wilton if that is what Kinder Morgan wanted. Andrew stated that they have seen no action from Wilton so that is why they are here tonight. He cited dangerous, radioactive, chemical toxins being released including known human carcinogens. The pipeline owners are not required to disclose what they release.

Andy Hoar of Isaac Frye Highway observed that the argument reminds him of the 60's - 80's when Massachusetts was taking their waste and filling our forest. The release of toxins is not an accident; rather it is their normal mode of operation. Being on top of a main aquifer does not benefit the State of New Hampshire.

John Shepardson, Building Inspector, stated that the argument of inaction is the inevitability of being taken over by FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission). He stated that 36% of pipeline proposals have been withdrawn when there is significant opposition.

Bart Hunter, Chairman of the Conservation Commission spoke next. He stated that the Conservation Commission has discussed the pipeline in great detail and is divided on the issue. He stated that most local towns have put this on the Town Warrant and are voting on it. Selectmen Williams agreed that several towns did it last March. Bart talked about the pipeline going through wetlands. There are concerns about the local wildlife, including bats. Bart said that they can and will move the path of the pipeline if enough noise is made. Chairman Swanson and Selectman Williams agreed that the Conservation Commission can take a position on the issue, and so can the Board of Selectmen.

Joe Broyles, who is on the Conservation Committee and was previously on the Energy Committee, stated that he was uncomfortable taking a position without conferring with the Board of Selectmen. He said you have to follow your best instincts.

Selectmen Williams stated that the Conservation Commission was established for specific purposes to manage the conserved property and to act on behalf of the town to conserve property, but nothing says they can't give their opinion on an issue. Selectman Condra agreed. Bart told that 3 members voted for the pipeline and the rest abstained, so he asked that motion be withdrawn. The Conservation Commission cannot come to a consensus.

Mike Anderson, a member of the Energy Committee told how the Energy Committee produced a statement that did not have unanimous consent from committee, and the Committee did not assume they were speaking on behalf of the Town. He spoke about a letter that the Town of Amherst sent to FERC in June. Mike stated his opinion that the State of New Hampshire should be focusing on the infrastructure we have now. He does not see a lot of benefit for New Hampshire or for the Town of Wilton. He believes there will be future solutions will make more sense than the pipeline.

Lincoln Geiger, representing the Temple Board of Selectmen and the Temple/Wilton Community Farm stated that the local farmers are pretty concerned. He discussed the impact to the farming community, including maintaining the area by mowing or using *Round Up*. He talked about over 4,000 pounds of pressure; equivalent to 40 propane tanks for 2 miles. When asked how fast they release the gas, Lincoln says over a day it would mean an unbelievable amount of gas in our town. Lincoln feels the Town must try to stop it as best we can, and as fast as we can. A Town Meeting would get a strong message to the region. Lincoln stated that the Monadnock region is special, and the pipeline is a bad idea. Kinder Morgan has interests of their own. Speaking as a Temple Conservation member, Lincoln said the position would carry more weight if the Town is behind it.

Carol Roberts made a plea to the Board of Selectmen to act and she posed a question to the group: "What is a neighbor?" She feels a neighbor is one who shares a common interest, a common vision, wants clean air and clean water. She stated that this is everybody's backyard, and Wilton is one of very few towns where the Board of Selectmen has not taken a stand. She asked the Board, with all due respect, would they take a stand for the townspeople of Wilton and our neighbors?

Sandra LaFleur of Burns Hill Road asked what the compelling reasons for the pipeline are. She has heard conflicting reports, it might create jobs, and it might not. In any case, she feels it's a distraction from what the Town should be doing. She talked about net metering, which allows you to put solar panels on your homes and lets the power go back to the grid. She feels the pipeline is destructive. She stated that FERC

gets it's funding from the energy industry, and now people's eyes have been opened to FERC. There could be an explosion or a leak, and is Wilton going to sit by? Sandra's position is to take a stand.

Wil Melcher of Burns Hill Road spoke about Wilton not coming forth yet with a stance, and he talked about the trouble Wilton's Main Street is having right now.

Less Tallarico stated that the pipeline is going under rivers, under brooks, under the Souhegan River, through the Taft Wildlife Area and the Russell Tract; causing ruin to many areas.

The Selectmen were asked what their reason might be to favor it.

Chairman Swanson said that natural gas to Wilton might be a benefit; but it's not, so it's not a reason to support it. Selectman Condra mentioned that there are economic issues that could be served by natural gas. He spoke about the compressor station in the City of Nashua. Cost for compressed natural gas (CNG) there is \$1.90 as opposed to \$3.90 for gas. He stated that CNG is 3x cleaner to burn, and consistently half the price of gasoline. The project took 2 years to build and has been operating for 3 years with no failures at the CNG plant at Nashua Public Works. He feels the need to say a few things on the good side because everyone has said all the bad things.

A conversation about fracked gas as opposed to natural gas followed.

Andrew Kennedy is concerned that these big companies defer maintenance, and Kinder Morgan doesn't live here. The pipeline threatens conserved lands, and Wilton has invested money to conserve this land. He reminded them that Wilton's spot on the map is blank. He asked why the Board hasn't acted. He feels that if the Selectmen want a special town meeting they better hurry up; time is of the essence.

More citizens spoke of their feelings and concerns. Chairman Swanson stated that he would like to wrap up the discussion.

John Shepardson made an observation about the Conservation Commission's vote, stating that three votes in favor and the rest in abstention, is in fact a unanimous decision. Bart stated that he agrees but didn't have *Robert's Rules of Order* available that night, plus he feels if they speak with one voice they speak louder. Personally, Bart is against the pipeline, and he hopes the Conservation Commission comes to a consensus.

Chairman Swanson turned the conversation back to the Board of Selectmen.

Selectmen Williams represents Wilton on NRPC, a state regulatory agency to help the region plan, and offered some insight from his NRPC involvement. He suggested that people look at the NRPC website for information. He stated that, in the end, the decision gets made by FERC. The Natural Gas Act is about broad distribution and sets a policy for FERC. Selectman Williams stated that Kinder Morgan is the largest pipeline company in the country, and it is highly unlikely that we will be able to stop this pipeline. Economics makes a company withdraw, not opposition. He spoke about a bill he has written.

Andrew stated that Massachusetts said no. He feels the power of people is infinite. He feels they will change it. More discussion followed. Selectman Williams said that he feels there is no benefit to Wilton for the pipeline – no jobs, no money. He's opposed to it. Selectman Condra said of his previous economic comments that they were not his sole purpose and justification. He gave his history in Wilton saying that at least 20 of his 30 years in Town he has worked in some way for the Town; and he has done mostly what

they prefer, so he will vote with the other Board members. Chairman Swanson stated he was ready to take a position. He has written a draft which he read aloud. The crowd clapped loudly.

A discussion followed to refine the final wording on the statement. The final approved statement reads as follows.

“POSITION OF WILTON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGARDING THE  
NORTHEAST ENERGY DIRECT (NED) PROPOSED PIPELINE  
Approved on September 28, 2015 by unanimous vote of the Wilton Board of Selectmen

The Selectmen of Wilton are opposed to the Northeast Energy Direct (NED) natural gas pipeline proposed by Kinder Morgan. The Selectmen have the following concerns:

1. The size of the compression station would present a significant risk to our safety, health, and quality of life.
2. The pipeline poses a risk of contamination to the aquifer that is a resource for the Wilton Water Works and private wells.
3. The potential risk is not justified because the pipeline would provide minimal benefits to Wilton or New Hampshire.
4. Our opposition is intended to join neighboring towns such as Milford, Greenville, Brookline, Mason, and Temple who are affected by the pipeline.
5. The pipeline would come as close as a few hundred feet from Wilton’s town limits and could threaten our property values.
6. We oppose the use of eminent domain for takings of property or easements for private commercial gain.”

**Motion:** Selectman Williams made a motion to take the position as outlined by Chairman Swanson’s statement. Selectman Condra seconded, followed by a brief discussion, and then a vote, all in favor. Motion carries. There was loud clapping and a standing ovation.

Next, the Board of Selectmen reviewed various items for signature and approval. They discussed the knob and tube wiring issue as reviewed by Grace Electric. Chairman Swanson would like to contact Margaret Dillon for her. Pam was asked to contact Grace Electric for punch list and/or a quote.

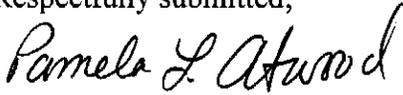
Other electricians were suggested for Pam to contact.

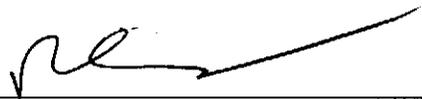
Selectman Condra brought up the Town Administrator Study Committee, saying that different areas of town government were being covered and he would like to suggest that Harry Dailey be asked to be on the committee. Selectman Williams agreed to this suggestion.

The discussed the Firemen’s Association request for a bingo night. Selectman Williams doesn’t think they can do it if they are not a 501(c) 3. He suggested they look at the license requirement on the gaming commission.

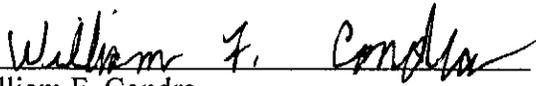
A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:34 P.M. by Selectman Condra, seconded by Selectman Williams, followed by a vote with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted;

  
Pamela L. Atwood,  
Recording Secretary

  
Richard E. Swanson, Chairman

  
Kermit R. Williams

  
William F. Condra

10-26-15  
Date Signed