

**TOWN OF FRANCONIA**  
**BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S REGULAR MEETING**

**Tuesday, January 2, 2018 AT TOWN OFFICES**

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**TOWN OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Bernardette Costa, Jill Brewer, Eric Meth

**TOWN OFFICIALS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Holly Burbank, Jenny Monahan, Police Chief John Monaghan, Sergeant Martin Cashin, Fire Chief Rick Gaudette, Mary and Peter Grote, Kim Cowles and Karen Foss.

**The meeting was called to order at 3:03pm**

**APPOINTMENTS:**

Chief John Monaghan was present to review the Police Department's 2018 Proposed Budget with the Board. Both Chief Monaghan and Sergeant Cashin discussed budget items and provided explanatory as needed.

The Board also noted that they had received Chief Monaghan's resignation letter. Chief Monaghan advised that his last day would be January 12, 2018.

Jill Brewer made a motion to enter non-public session at 3:53pm pursuant to NH RSA 91-A:3 II (a). Chief Monaghan and Sergeant Cashin were included in the non-public session.

The Board came out of non-public session at 4:17pm.

Chief Rick Gaudette was present to review the Fire Department's 2018 Proposed Budgets for the Fire Department and Forest Fire with the Board. The Board would like to meet with Chief Gaudette to discuss purchasing new turnout gear using Capital Improvement funding or funds left over from the Safety Service Building bond. He said he would at least like indoor firefighters to receive new turnout gear and would like to use funds from the building bond if possible.

The Life Squad Budget was not reviewed at this meeting and is expected to be reviewed with the Board Thursday, January 4, 2018 instead.

Kim Cowles was present to discuss the purchase of a sidewalk spreader with the board. Kim said that the town's sidewalks have a tendency to get very icy in some areas causing a safety issue for pedestrians. The Board agreed that they have noted the same issue and would like to address it for improved public safety. Kim has done some preliminary research and spoken with Joe DePalma (Littleton's Public Works Director) as well. A Bauman spreader was recommended as a reliable choice with a price range of \$4400 to \$5600 depending on model and features. The Board requested Kim continue to research and plans to revisit the topic in mid-January.

**SIGN/APPROVE:**

The Board reviewed and approved the December 4<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes and approved as amended.

The January 4, 2018 Transaction List was reviewed and signed.

The Board reviewed and approved a building permit for Map 12 Lot 88.

**TO DISCUSS/REVIEW:**

**Town Administrator Update:** Holly advised she is working on end of year wrap-up and this month will be very busy tying up loose ends. Town report work will begin soon.

**Correspondence:** Holly advised the board that Barbara Holt dropped off a letter letting the Board know that she will be resigning as Cemetery Trustee in March.

Jill Brewer was in receipt of two letters from part-time residents expressing privacy concerns about the trail project. Jill is waiting for grant funds confirmation before delving too deeply into property owner issues.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Conservation Commission:** None

**CIP Committee:** None

**Energy Commission:** Eric Meth gave an update on the streetlight project. We are still waiting for delivery of the lights.

**Planning Board:** None

**Northern Pass:** Eric shared an email from a local citizen regarding Granite State Power Link. Email is attached to these minutes. He also discussed a letter from NHDOT to NP Site Evaluation Committee. The letter is also attached to these minutes. Eric also had copies of Easton's warrant articles from last year regarding construction of NP and thought it may be a good idea for the town to consider doing something similar. He will speak with the Planning Board regarding the articles. Bernadette Costa also read aloud information from the Forest Society regarding their opposition to Northern Pass.

**PUBLIC INPUT:** Mary Grote inquired regarding pre-paid taxes, and whether the pre payments will be part of 2017 town income or 2018. Holly advised her they will reflect under 2017 income as a line item for prepaid taxes. Peter Grote inquired whether they will be received as cash or accrual. Holly will check on this.

Bernadette Costa made a motion to enter non-public session at 5:13pm pursuant to NH RSA 91-A:3 II (a).

The Board came out of non-public session at 6:05pm. Bernadette Costa made a motion to seal the minutes of both the non-public sessions. Eric Meth seconded the motion. All were in favor. **Motion Passes.**

With no further discussion, the Board adjourned at 6:06pm on a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,



Victoria F. Sheehan  
Commissioner

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



William Cass, P.E.  
Assistant Commissioner

December 22, 2017

Pamela G. Monroe  
Administrator  
Site Evaluation Committee  
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10  
Concord NH 03301

Subject: Joint application of Northern Pass Transmission, LLC and Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy for a Certificate of Site and Facility, NH Site Evaluation Committee Docket No. 2015-06

Dear Ms. Monroe:

The Department of Transportation has received the applicant's December 12, 2017 request for the SEC to delegate authority which includes several items to be assigned to NHDOT. A list of the Section III items being requested of the Department follows along with the Department's response to the request:

**A. Monitoring and compliance authority with respect to the use of locally and state maintained roads during construction and operation of the Project**

Response: NHDOT agrees it will monitor the construction of the utility project within the Department's Maintenance jurisdiction, for compliance with NHDOT permits and agreements, consistent with any other utility construction project. Per the conditions of approval the applicant will be responsible for any costs associated with that construction monitoring effort. Due to the limited resource available to conduct normal operation, the Department intends to contract this work to private firms with limited oversight by the Department. The Department does not have the resources to monitor the work on municipally maintained local roads which would require knowledge of local ordinances and municipal operations which the Department does not have. Additionally, the Department does not believe it should be approving and overseeing construction and making decisions that may impact long term operations and maintenance on roadways that others will have maintenance responsibilities for nor authority over.

**B. Approval of exception requests submitted to DOT pursuant to the Utility Accommodation Manual**

Response: NHDOT will approve exception requests for work within state maintained highways once the applicant has satisfied all of NHDOT's concerns. The Department has no jurisdiction on municipally maintain roadways and since we would have no long term maintenance responsibility or authority for the locally maintain sections, we do not believe NHDOT should be making decisions which could impact the long term operation and maintenance of their roadways.

**C. Approval of detours on locally maintained roads and I-93**

JOHN O. MORTON BUILDING • 7 HAZEN DRIVE • P.O. BOX 483 • CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03302-0483  
TELEPHONE: 603-271-3734 • FAX: 603-271-3914 • TDD: RELAY NH 1-800-735-2964 • INTERNET: WWW.NHDOT.COM

Response: NHDOT does not have the authority to approve detours on local roads and does not want to set the precedent that would usurp local authority with regards to usage for their roadways. All official detours for State Highway projects are required to use state maintained highways. The Department does not see any reason to change this longstanding requirement.

*D. Approval of the traffic management plan and traffic controls prior to construction*

Response: See Condition 22 of the NHDOT conditions of approval submitted to the SEC April 3, 2017. The Department has a policy of not using local roadways for project traffic control unless approved by the local community. The Department would not look favorably on using non state roads for detours and traffic control on this utility project unless this was a request and/or approved by the local community that is responsible for roadway operations and maintenance.

*E. Approval of curb cut permits, driveway permits, and other specific access permits to the right-of-way for construction.*

Response: NHDOT will approve all permits required for access to state maintained highways. The Department does not have the authority or resources to issue permits on local roads. There are 109 aerial crossings of state and local highways within the application. Of these, 29 cross state highways. Delegating the authority for access permits for these locations would more than triple the effort required of state staff for just these permits for this project.

The Department is willing to perform the above items on the State Highway system where they are responsible for roadway maintenance. The project review and permitting efforts to date have taxed the Department's resources and taken resources away from other Department functions. The Department does not have the funding or resources to extend itself to add the above requested project review and compliance monitoring functions for local municipal roads. An extension of the Department responsibilities would result in delays to normal Department duties such as processing other project driveway, excavation and utility permits, oversight of state project construction and potentially impact STIP projects if Department design staff has to be reassigned to meet this request.

There is also a concern that state highway funds would be used for non-state highway uses and that may be a violation of state law. Therefore, NHDOT requests that the SEC pursue other options for delegating that authority.

Please do not hesitate to contact Melodie Esterberg, Chief of Design Services if you need further information.

Sincerely,



William Cass, PE  
Assistant Commissioner

WCMAE/me  
CC: V. Sheehan  
D. Rodrigue  
M. Esterberg

Jenny Monahan

## Administrative Secretary

1/2/2018

Print

**Subject:** YOU'RE INVITED: Jan 5th in Concord - Granite State Power Link / Citizens Energy Listening Session  
**From:** Sean Downey (sdowney@hilltoppublicsolutions.com)  
**To:** sdowney@hilltoppublicsolutions.com;  
**Bcc:** ericlmeth@yahoo.com;  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 2, 2018 9:20 AM

Dear Friend,

Please join the Granite State Power Link and project co-developer Citizens Energy for a listening session event in Concord on the proposed renewable energy project and its benefits for New Hampshire.

**WHAT:** Granite State Power Link and Citizens Energy Listening Session

**WHEN:** Friday, January 5, 2018 - 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

**WHERE:** Holiday Inn Concord Downtown - State Room - 172 North Main Street, Concord, NH

**DETAILS:** Granite State Power Link representatives will provide a brief update on the project and Citizens Energy will discuss their model to provide low income energy assistance benefits for Granite State families. Most importantly, we want to learn from you and other local leaders on the best ways to leverage the Citizens benefit model in New Hampshire. *Coffee, soft drinks and light refreshments will be served.*

Space is limited! RSVP by replying to this email, or calling 603-369-9579.

Thanks in advance and we look forward to seeing you on January 5th!

Sincerely,

Sean Downey

🌟 **About the Granite State Power Link:**

The Granite State Power Link (GSPL), a project co-developed by National Grid and Citizens Energy, will deliver 1,200 MW of clean, affordable Canadian wind power to New England. Staying within or adjacent to existing transmission corridors, GSPL will build approximately 59 miles of new HVDC (direct current) transmission line from a new converter station in northern Vermont to a new converter station in Monroe, New Hampshire. From Monroe, the interconnection point, approximately 109 miles of existing AC (alternating current) transmission line will be upgraded to a new switching station in Londonderry, New Hampshire. Click [HERE](#) for more about GSPL.

🌟 **About Citizens Energy**

Citizens Energy is a Boston-based non-profit dedicated to using revenues from successful commercial energy ventures to help finance charitable programs to help families in need, including heating fuel assistance, solar panel installation and home weatherization services. Citizens will use a portion of its investment proceeds from GSPL to support low income energy assistance efforts in Vermont, New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Click [HERE](#) for more about Citizens.

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Sean Downey  
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New England  
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