

Present: Vice-Chair, Denis Hebert, Jack Pare, John Frink, Coz Iocovozzi, Selectman, Charlie Smart, Bldg. Inspector and Tom Morgan Town Planner.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Hebert at 6:42 PM.

Minutes: Minutes of 2/9/04 will be reviewed at the 3/8/04 Planning Board Meeting.

Schiller Station Conversion: Presentation by Dick Despins and Kathleen Lewis of PSNH. Lucy Tillman represented the Portsmouth Planning Board. Before presentation was made, Frink questioned why he hadn't heard of any other company bids. Aren't there any other energy companies trying to compete in NH. The response was no. Mr. Despins began presentation with why they are looking at burning woodchips in NH. They have looked at existing facilities and they thought about building a new power plant in NH. After looking at various options, they stated that NH is the 2nd most forested state in the nation. Thus, the "Northern Wood Power Project" became a viable option for renewable energy for New Hampshire. Mr. Despins outlined PSNH reasons and plans for investing \$70 Million at the Schiller Station to use woodchips as fuel. He outlined the environmental benefits, the economic benefits and the customer benefits. There was a question whether virgin wood chips would be used. Despins stated only clean wood would be used. He stated that PSNH is bound by emissions rates. Hebert expressed concern regarding the process for FSEC and the process of notifying towns of the hearings that occurred. He stated Newington did not know about the project. Discussion continued regarding the Regional Impact of project. Frink and Hebert asked if the railroad was being considered. It was felt they could be a big player, a means of getting to the North Country and inhibitors. Frink spoke of meeting he attended with the railroad company. He did not feel there was a lot of money needed to improve the rails. Stated there is a grant to improve rail transportation and felt PSNH should inquire if companies would be interested. Portsmouth had suggested that PSNH look at rail use for transporting wood chips. Ms. Lewis advised the Board that PSNH does plan to look at rail transportation as a long-term solution, but need to look at a short term solution at this time. Despins said he feels the rail would kill this project at this time. It would represent a 40% increase in production costs. Representatives were asked if PUC had given PSNH a license to do this and response was they have been given an order, however they do have to get building permit from Portsmouth. PUC has capped the project at \$70 M. There was discussion regarding cost and recovery and cost (impact) to users. Hebert concerned regarding use of Gosling Road on Newington side; the cost and how costs could be recouped. Felt there would be adverse impact on Gosling Meadows in terms of safety. Discussion went back and forth between PSNH and Hebert regarding impact on the road and the up keep. Question was asked what they will do with upgrade to Gosling Road and Shattuck Way? Despins advised the Board that a geo-technical survey had been done a couple of weeks ago and he's not sure of the plan at this time.

Morgan

advised PSNH representatives that the goal of the Town of Newington was to separate Commercial from Industrial because of uses. He further stated he liked the slide presentation by PSNH and particularly liked the slide regarding reduction of air pollution. Feels it's a great project. Copies of slide presentation and further information can be obtained from the Town Planner's office.

John Frink and Coz Iocovozzi had to leave after presentation, thus leaving Board without a quorum. Remainder of items on agenda remanded to the March 8, 2004 Planning Board Meeting.

Pare moved and Iocovozzi 2nd that meeting be adjourned at 8:50 PM. Motion Carried. Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 8, 2004.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandra W. Sweeney
Secretary