

Approved July 2, 2013

TOWN OF CORNWALL
SELECT BOARD SPECIAL MEETING: TOWN FORUM
Cornwall School
Wednesday, June 19, 2013

Present: Bruce Hiland, Judy Watts, Ben Wood, Dave Sears, Abi Sessions
Guests: Cy Tall, Forum Moderator; Don Gilbert, CEO Vermont Gas Systems;
Eileen Simollardes, VP Supply and Regulatory Affairs; Chris Recchia,
Commissioner of the Public Service Department

Attachment A: Bruce Hiland's Opening Remarks

Bruce Hiland called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, with approximately 140 people in attendance. Members of the media were present. The entire meeting was filmed.

The special meeting had a single agenda item – to continue information gathering by listening to citizens' concerns and questions regarding the natural gas pipeline project proposed by Vermont Gas Systems.

Bruce H. began with opening remarks, introducing Don Gilbert and Eileen Simollardes from Vermont Gas; and Chris Recchia, Commissioner of the Public Service Department (PSD). Chris R. said his role and that of his staff at this meeting was to listen and to incorporate their observations into the PSD recommendation to the Public Service Board regarding the "public good."

Bruce H. described the pipeline permitting process and history of the proposed project affecting Cornwall. He framed key issues around the proposed pipeline project, called Phase Two, or the International Paper Transmission Pipeline, and asked the question, "What does Cornwall want?" before handing the gavel over to Cy Tall, who moderated the forum.

The rules for comments and questions were that each person was given three minutes to speak or to answer a question. Questions and comments were to be directed to the moderator who would then direct any questions to the appropriate person for answers. Twenty-nine citizens, all residents of Cornwall, stood up, one by one, to express their thoughts and concerns and to ask questions. Many who spoke expressed their opposition, not only for a natural gas transmission line through Cornwall, but for the International Paper Transmission Pipeline, altogether. A signed statement of opposition from some of the landowners in the path of the selected route through Cornwall was presented to the Selectboard and to Vermont Gas.

Bruce concluded the meeting by saying that the Selectboard “has work to do.” He invited all citizens of Cornwall to continue to provide feedback to the board, by phone, email, letter, and face-to-face conversations. All Selectboard meetings are open to the public, with time reserved near the beginning of every meeting for public comments on any issue.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02.

Respectfully submitted, Sharon Tierra, Clerk of the Selectboard