

MINUTES
Town of Andover Economic Development Commission (EDC)
May 11th, 2016
Andover Old Fire House

Call to Order:

Jim Dake called the meeting to order at 7:08PM

Present:

Elaine Buchardt, Jim Dake, Tim Gilmore at 7:25

Absent: Patrick Dougherty, Jeanne Person

Public Speak: Public present:

Kathy Knox, Anne Vaughn, Donald Frick, Jean Mamonas, Joe Cooper, Maria Tulman, Diane Grenier, Joan Foran, Salvatore Petrella, Jeff Ballard

Jeff Ballard said he is opposed to the gas infusion station being proposed. Doesn't believe it is in the best interest for the town of Andover.

Kathleen Knox is opposed to the gas infusion station concerned about its' safety and believes people won't want to come to Andover because of it.

Anne Vaughan said she was concerned about the safety of the transport of the gas and the processes at the station and wondered how it was going to affect our fire department. She is worried about explosions.

Joan asked if public discussion would be ok during Salvatore Petrella's presentation. Jim and Elaine were fine with it. We had no quorum, so no vote was taken.

Minutes: Have to wait for quorum. We will set up a special meeting for this.

Liaison Reports:

Tolland County Chamber of Commerce: Jim and Elaine attended a Chamber EDC meeting on May 9th where the gas infusion station was discussed. We invited local attorney Salvatore Petrella to our EDC meeting to present details to us. We are concentrating on the EDC aspects of the "virtual pipeline".

Planning and Zoning: Patrick not available for discussion.

Farmers Market News: Postponed to special meeting.

Current Business: Zoning directives postponed to special meeting.

New Business: Gas infusion station.

Presentation made by Salvatore Petrella, local(Cromwell) attorney for the Global CNG Holdings, LLC proposing the virtual pipeline.

Attorney Petrella said the “Gas infusion Station is a project in flux”. All the work done so far on the project was for the purpose of creating the applications for Planning and Zoning and Inlands Wetlands Comissions. The operations details are forthcoming and will be presented at future public hearings. After the applications are made, it is the burden of the applicant to address safety issues and the benefits to the town. They will have to address concerns about safety, noise, traffic, lights, etc.

The benefits to the town are substantial tax revenue to the town based on a six million dollar(aprox.) facility. Attorney Petrella mentioned around \$150000 to \$180000 a year, but that is a ballpark based on what the potential assessment is. There is also a proposal being made that another company might set up a diffusion system that will allow for natural gas to be extracted from the pipeline and used by local Andover residents. That is dependent on some other company to be willing to do that as well as create pipelines to feed local residents and businesses. Global CNG will need 80 to 90 employees for various jobs to be offered to Andover residents first.

The “virtual pipeline” is a series of gas trucks that will be traveling from Pennsylvania and elsewhere transporting natural gas that Global GNG Holdings buys from various sources to Andover at a site next to Ben Franklin’s off route 6. They will be traveling route 84 to route 384 to route 6 onto Lake Rd and then to the infusion site to be built. There will be a special infusion station with a process that decompresses the gas from the truck to put the gas into the Algonquin pipeline. This process will be repeated approximately 4 to 5 times an hour, 24/7 during the heating months of November to March. There should be no transport the other months.

The trucks will have to adhere to all the safety rules established by the states regarding the transport of natural gas.

The actual infusion system is a series of mechanical processes that take the compressed gas out of the trucks and decompresses it, then puts the decompressed

gas directly into the pipeline. The physical plant will be landscaped so as not to be very visible from route 6.

Regarding safety of the facility, there are several proposals being made including the possibility of a “halo” that will contain any gas spills and put out any fires. This is all in the planning phase. The Andover Fire Safety officers are being consulted about all these aspects.

Based on questions concerning whether this kind of project has been done before, it was said that this system to offload a truck, decompress gas and infuse it into a decompressed environment does exist and successfully operates elsewhere as smaller operations for singular companies. So it is something that has been done before. But a facility this large for the sole purpose of infusing as much gas as possible into the pipeline for use further up the line has not been done before.

Global CNG Holdings will also have to create a reverse system in Pennsylvania that loads the trucks up with compressed gas to head to Connecticut.

Diane mentioned that the proposal is for 16 diffusion stations which seems like more than is needed for 4 to 5 trucks that take about an hour to infuse the gas at a time. Attorney Petrella said it would probably be changed to have fewer stations.

Diane asked about an exit strategy. The removal of equipment and how the site is to be left after the process is no longer needed will be up to the landowner and the town of Andover. The meter will be left behind that allows for other companies to get gas out of the pipeline.

This is being proposed as a temporary process for 5 to 15 years until the short fall of natural gas in the northern states can be handled some other way. This is just to handle an immediate need until there is another pipeline or demand goes down.

It was brought up that this project was turned down by the town council in Rocky Hill and wasn't allowed to go to zoning. The proposed site was town owned.

We asked if there were other towns being considered if Andover turns it down and Attorney Petrella said there were two other towns in Connecticut being considered.

Maria and Jeff both expressed their concerns about using natural gas or even supporting it since there are many environmental and safety concerns surrounding fracking.

Most attending asked that the EDC look into solar and wind energy for the town of Andover.

Assignments:

Elaine to put an ad in the News Bulletin for alternates so we can have a quorum.

Elaine to set up a special meeting with town clerk.

Next Meeting: Next special meeting will be Wednesday, May 18th, 2016.

Adjournment: EDC adjourned at 8:25.

Respectfully submitted by: Elaine Buchardt