

~AD HOC REPORT~

**Algonquin Gas Transmission Line (AIM) - 2 Year License
Thursday, January 21, 2016**

Chairwoman Christina Chieffalo called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 21, 2016, in the Caucus Room, 3rd Floor, Danbury City Hall, 155 Deer Hill Avenue. Present were Committee Members Joe Cavo and John Esposito. Also present were Mike Esposito, Ex-Officio Member; Les Pinter, Deputy Corporation Counsel; Sharon Calitro, Director of Planning; and Dave Hardy of Carmody, Torrance, Sandak & Hennessey, Counsel for Algonquin Gas Transmission; Martin McCarthy, Right-of-Way Supervisor for Algonquin Gas Spectra Energy; and David Cappiello, Consultant for Spectra. Dean Esposito, Mayor's Chief of Staff came in at 6:04

Ms. Chieffalo stated the purpose of the meeting is to discuss the Algonquin Gas Transmission Line request for a two year lease for use of land at Driftwood Road.

Mr. McCarthy noted this is a portion of their 39-40 miles of pipeline in New York, Connecticut, and a small portion of Rhode Island. In Danbury, there are 4.3 miles of pipe needing lift and replacement from a 26 inch pipe to a 42 inch pipe. He discussed portions in Connecticut that have been completed. Mr. McCarthy described the need for temporary work space of approximately 25 X 75 square feet located at the Driftwood Road crossing. He detailed the work that would take place between March 1st thru November 1, 2016 with walk-throughs during the second year. In addition, Mr. McCarthy described other areas that are currently in construction.

Mr. Cavo inquired regarding minimizing the effect on neighboring homes and whether there would be potential blasting. Mr. McCarthy reviewed a map of the area, meetings that have been held, and details of agreements that have been reached with various neighbors. There could be blasting in the trench, letters would go out. He responded to Mr. Esposito regarding normal hours of operation from 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. unless boring is involved. Mr. McCarthy responded to Ms. Chieffalo regarding a timeframe for property restoration which will take place in 2016.

Ms. Calitro discussed the recommendations of Planning. She noted certain activities, such as repair and maintenance of vehicles, fueling of trucks and construction equipment, and fabrication of metal, are prohibited in the subject lease area which is within the Aquifer Protection Area. She inquired what is involved with the welding planned, assurances best management practices would be adhered to, certain inspections by Public Utilities related to water, and being cognizant of tracking devices relating to the roadway/driveway. She indicated noise issues have been addressed. Mr. McCarthy stated they can ban fueling and there would be no welding in the temporary work space; the welding could take place on the property where it is being installed; however, there is a very small section on City property and he is not sure whether that would be a weld area.

Ms. Chieffalo noted Public Works Director Antonio Iadarola made a recommendation indicating no objections with the following understandings. The two-year lease should note that it is one year of construction. The property should be restored to its natural condition as much as possible when the work is completed in consultation with the Public Works Department. The gas company should contact the City to obtain a Public Utility Permit to remove the trees mentioned and work with the Tree Warden on a replanting program. Mr. McCarthy noted they have already contacted Mark Miller.

Mr. Pinter responded to Mr. Cavo regarding how to proceed. He noted his comments are brought up not to discourage the project, but so that Council as full knowledge of the issue. He commended Ms. Calitro's recommendations noting they should be in the record. The State has been involved in stormwater management

permits and he is not sure whether this would affect what needs to be examined; the Public Utilities Department is charged with the process. Adjacent property notice has been addressed. Blasting letters have been discussed. The Public Works letter came in today and it should reference the Planning letter. He commented on the License Agreement; he is not sure whether the City's insurance carrier will cover. He inquired if the City were to decline, what would the result be. Possible issues are noise exemptions and water wells, and open space use that potentially requires a Public Hearing which would be up to the Council to decide. He suggested a checklist be developed. The earliest a Public Hearing could be set is February with final approval in March.

Mr. McCarthy stated they would have to make do without the work space if declined. They could work with timeframe mentioned. He commented that they have been working with Engineering and the Public Works Department for quite some time. Any complaints from neighbors would be addressed by his company. He responded to Mr. Pinter that the suggested \$5,000 compensation for the temporary work space is based on a market study by Howard Russ & Associates and he can supply the summary sheet.

Mr. Hardy noted that the primary issue is the temporary work space being requested as opposed to broader concerns regarding construction of the pipeline, etc.

Mr. Cavo noted the City Council meeting for March is on the 1st and would like to have a Public Hearing in February, then hold a Committee meeting and get in on the March Agenda. He suggested the Assessor's Office be included for a report. Mr. Cappiello received clarification regarding what public discussion could entail at that hearing. Mr. McCarthy will forward a license agreement draft and work with Mr. Pinter. He was handed copies of the Planning Commission report, Planning recommendations, and the Public Works report.

A motion was made by Councilman Cavo, and seconded by Councilman John Esposito, to refer the Algonquin Gas Transmission Temporary Work Space Permit to a Public Hearing, along with a report from the Assessor's Office at the same time, and recall to the Chair of the Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Chieffalo, and seconded by Councilman Esposito, that the Ad Hoc Committee be adjourned. The motion passed unanimously at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Goor
Recording Secretary

Attest,
Mark D. Boughton, Mayor