

## **Special Town of Vermont Board Meeting**

December 13, 2019

3:00 P.M. @ Vermont Town Hall: 4017 County Road JJ

Present: John Hallick, Karen Carlock, Alex McKenzie, Doug Meier, Scott Moe (phone). Absent: Katie Zelle and Rebecca Thompson

1. Call to order and certification of notice posting. Meeting was called to order by Karen Carlock at 3:04 p.m. Notice of the meeting was emailed to the online subscribers, posted on the Town of Vermont website, posted on the door of Town Hall and posted at BMO Harris bank branch in Mt. Horeb
2. Approval of agenda. Doug moved to approve the agenda. John seconded and motion approved 5-0.
3. Consideration and possible decision regarding Cardinal Hickory Creek appeal. At the Monday December 9<sup>th</sup> Town Board meeting, the board approved a motion to consider joining the appeal if the language in the retainer agreement was updated to cap expenses and to include termination language. ELPC provided an updated retainer agreement and indicated that if the Town of Vermont wished to join the appeal, the agreement need to be submitted by Friday December 13<sup>th</sup>.

John commented that when the Town board disbanded the CHC committee, intention was that the Town would no longer formally be involved in business related to the transmission line opposition. The Town had left open the possibility of getting involved in an appeal if one were to happen. However, we did not budget for any funding of opposition activities. This appeal would involve an expectation of a significant amount of town time as well as pressure on citizens to raise money to cover costs up to the expense cap.

Alex commented that with the line not coming through the Town of Vermont, it is more difficult to justify our formal involvement in a legal appeal.

Karen commented that while the town was involved in very fruitful opposition efforts, the impact we can have through this appeal is unclear and it is difficult to justify the time and potential cost.

John commented that with Dane County and Iowa counties involved in the appeal, the Town of Vermont's involvement in the appeal is not critical to the success.

Doug commented that while we have been involved to-date, with costs increasing on many other items for which the Town is responsible, we have an obligation to focus on our core responsibilities.

Michael McDermott spoke to the impact of the line specifically and this energy strategy on Town residents for years to come. He also commented on the concern with how the PSC made its decision and that there is justification for appealing the decision. He also shared that citizens are willing to raise the funds to support the appeal.

Karen moved that the Town of Vermont not join in on the ELPC appeal of the CHC line, Alex seconded and motion approved 5-0.

4. Adjournment. John moved to adjourn, Alex seconded and motion approved 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Katie Zelle, Clerk