

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Work Session
August 30, 2006

A work session of the Jamestown Town Council was called to order at the Jamestown Philomenian Library, 26 North Road at 6:35 pm by Julio J. DiGiando, Vice President to discuss the Jamestown Audit prepared by Parmalee and Poirier. The following members were present:

William A. Kelly
Barbara A. Szepatowski
absent: David J. Long, President
Michael Schnack

also present:

Bruce R. Keiser, Town Administrator
Arlene D. Petit, Town Clerk

Present representing Weaver's Cove Energy:

Ted Gehrig, President, COO
Gordon Shearer, Chief Executive Officer
Marcia MacClary, Director of Public Affairs
Leon Bowdoin, Vice President of Operations
John Bentley, Maritime Manager
James A. Grasso, President, CEO of Grasso Associates, LLC, Consultant

Gordon Shearer gave a presentation outlining the purpose for siting the liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal in Fall River, Massachusetts. Mr. Shearer indicated that with the increase of energy consumption, the Weaver's Cove LNG terminal would bring additional supplies of LNG to the Northeast, which in turn, would reduce the cost of energy in the region.

Mr. Shearer noted that the proposed LNG terminal is on a navigable stretch of deep water in the Taunton River and is located near a natural gas transmission pipeline. Dredging for this project would result in creating approximately 2.5 million cubic yards of dredge material.

Mr. Shearer noted that with the ban on removing the Brightman Street Bridge, it has become necessary to plan for the use of smaller ships with an approximate length of 700 feet. The use of smaller ships would make it necessary to increase the number of transits per year to approximately 120. The Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority will be requiring that the Pell Bridge be shut down for twelve to fifteen minutes while an LNG ship is passing through the bay. Mr. Shearer explained the safety features of the double hull structure of the ships.

Mr. Shearer reviewed the risk assessment analysis and the safety and security measures to be taken to overcome or eliminate any potential risks.

The Council had a number of concerns and discussed each in length. The Town Council felt that the Town did not have adequate staff that could be assigned the security of the waterfront as an LNG ship passed through the Narragansett Bay. Nor did the Council feel that the harbor boat or the fire boat could be used to assist with security for the LNG ships. The Council expressed great concern with the possibility of any unfunded mandates which could be enacted forcing the Town to either add to or take over any security services relating to the shipping of LNG into the Weaver's Cove facility.

Another area of great concern to the Council was how the travel of the LNG ships would affect the maritime uses associated with an island community such as Jamestown.

Council Vice President DiGiando invited the public to ask questions.

Residents and non-residents voiced their concerns and opposition to the siting of an LNG facility in Fall River.

There being no additional comments, the work session adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Attest:

Arlene D. Petit
Town Clerk

c: Town Council Members (5)
Town Administrator
Town Solicitor
Administrative Circulation