

**TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**Environmental Committee**  
**Via Zoom**  
**October 26, 2020 at 6:30 PM**

Present: Rebecca Haugh, Chair  
Ed Harrington, Vice Chair  
Ken DiFazio, Councilor  
Fred Happel, Councilor  
Chris Heffernan, Councilor

Also Present: Pascale Burga, District One Councilor  
Chief Fuller, Weymouth Police Department  
Chief Stark, Weymouth Fire Department  
John Mulveyhill, Emergency Management

Coordinator  
Joe Callanan, Town Solicitor

Recording Secretary: Diane Hachey

Chair Haugh called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. She took a roll call vote with all committee members present.

**Concerns for Lack of Safety, Risk Analysis and Evacuation Plan for Compressor Station**

Chair Haugh has been fighting the compressor station matter for 6 years and wants a safety plan established. She thanked Alice Arena for appearing before the Council on October 5, 2020 and raising concerns.

Chair Haugh disclosed that all committee members just received a safety plan this morning and it is extensive- contingency plan is 1,100 pages long. She noted that the Mayor has posted a link to all compressor station information on the town's website and she indicated on a map, for the benefit of the committee and those in attendance, the area involved. The link indicates all opposition the town has taken and includes a time line of events and a history of the compressor station.

John Mulveyhill, Emergency Management Coordinator spoke and said that Chief Stark took the lead on the compressor station public safety plan and

noted that they cannot speak on all aspects of the plan due to Homeland security issues.

The plan is site specific and was just published today- and he asked that everyone review and direct any questions to him. The Regional Sheltering section needs to be updated, but the plans, policies and procedures remain the same.

Chair Haugh asked if departments have had training. Chief Stark said that Enbridge, EMS, and Emergency Management have all been involved in training, noting that this week there were site tours and all were brought up to speed. On November 4th training was held in “Gas School” for all of Fire Department personnel and other groups. Chief Fuller noted that all are trained in incident command. It was additionally noted that both Police and Fire performed simulated emergency responses; Enbridge pays for training, some grants are available, and training takes place in Stowe.

Chief Fuller noted that Enbridge is paying for a police detail at the site but once it goes online it will cease. Chair Haugh suggests that this continue and Chief Fuller agrees that it should for security reasons at the beginning of reopening and more importantly that the site is considered a terrorist target.

Chair Haugh noted a discrepancy in the map listing 10 Bridge Street, when the actual address is 6 Bridge Street. John Mulveyhill has spoken with the town engineer who is investigating.

Councilor Happel asked if the command center is set up at 216 Bridge Street or the Police Station? It was confirmed that it is set up at the Police Station. The emergency operating center will facilitate the needs in the field. Chief Stark noted that they arrive on scene and stage there.

Chair Haugh noted that on the evacuation route it references Evan Street and it should be Evans Street. Joe Callanan stated that the Information Technology GIS department has been asked for more detail on evacuation plans and will devise shortly. She asked if they have taken into consideration coordinates for Quincy since it is located within a 1 mile radius; Mr. Mulveyhill confirmed that they are handling Weymouth-- Braintree and Quincy are devising their own evacuation plans. The town’s responsibility ends at the town line-but he is in contact with them though.

Councilor Happel asks if we experience an explosion is there a manual shutoff to the gas feed. Chief Stark notes said that the Fire Department is contacted who in turn contacts an 1800 number to Enbridge, they can shut off the gas within 15 minutes, there are certain benchmarks to gas shutoff. The manning of the site is not 24 hours per day but there are 2 people in charge who live nearby.

Councilor DiFazio is surprised that there isn't an auto triggered shutoff valve once certain thresholds occur. Chief Stark believes there is an auto shut off once he contacts the 1800 number to Enbridge. If a resident smells gas or sees fire they are to call 911 immediately, who will in turn reach out to Enbridge.

Chief Stark suggests running simulations on emergency situations. He has 3 Massachusetts Maritime students using this as a capstone project, additionally he has an undergraduate student completing an internship on emergency management, all of which he is utilizing.

Councilor DiFazio asked if public safety officials are aware of important compartments and the specific layout of the site. Chief Starks notes that staff are attending site visits and being supplied with aerial maps. Solicitor Callanan noted that the plan includes eye wash stations, emergency shutoff locations and they are requesting of Enbridge if this information can be released to the public.

Councilor Heffernan feels we need Enbridge to work with us and asked if they are simulating plans, it was confirmed that they have an in-house Emergency Management person as well.

Chair Haugh notes that Johnson and Wessagussett Schools are located within a one mile radius of the station and asked what is the plan during school if there were an emergency. Mr. Mulveyhill noted that each school has evacuation plans for any emergency. He can't disclose the details due to Homeland Security issues. Chair Haugh noted that when 150 Bridge Street had a fire it caused pandemonium; and she questions at what point do we call for evacuation. Mr. Mulveyhill responded that the Fire Department incident commander makes that call, and there are many conditions that determine when an evacuation order would be called.

Chair Haugh wants to know if public outreach will occur with residents as they can't be expected to read the volumes of documents contained in the plan. Mr. Mulveyill confirmed that through WETC, neighborhood meetings and the North Weymouth Civic Association, he plans to get the word out, noting that a public safety message will be issued from the Mayor's Office; and he has reached out to Karen Johnston from Elder Services as well.

Chair Haugh recognized Councilor Burga who is the District 1 Councilor and is in attendance. She is speaking as resident and noted that there are emergency gas shutoffs at each entrance and they are very prominent. A frozen valve was opened for more than 24 hours before it was detected and she is very concerned with the closest person living in Waltham which is more than a 30 minute commute, without taking traffic into consideration. Will the Fire Department be notified, they weren't in the past. Chief Stark confirmed that they would be notified and were when there was testing done as there was an issue but there was no emergency medical or catastrophic issues. The leak was so minute it wasn't even detected. They called NGrid but discovered it wasn't their issue, so Enbridge was contacted. They learned a lot from that incident.

Councilor Burga notes that the evacuation plan includes Evans Street which is very busy when the bridge is up and she suggests that this not be the evacuation route as it should be further away.

Chair Haugh notes that 285k cubic feet of gas was released and you could clearly smell it, she envisions that there probably were numerous 911 calls made as a result. Chief Stark noted that is why the Fire Department is on the call list. She suggests residents sign up for the compressor station code red notifications- there were technical issues and residents have to go back in and re-sign for the alerts. Mr. Mulveyhill explained that the following are avenues for communicating to residents: an excerpt in the tax bills, Mayor's Office; Casey in the Mayor's Office has been designated to assist residents if issues occur signing up and the glitch has been corrected. He is working on a Homeland Security notification feature which would send an Emergency Alert message to residents within a 1 mile radius and transient commuters based on cell towers.

Councilor Happel mentioned that he had a call from a union member regarding HUD work permits- the state made it mandatory that permits are required but they are passing out permits and not requiring proof. Mr.

Mulveyhill answered that allegations were unfounded and work has been completed-- they fall into crevice that they can do things due to classification as the gas provider. They have found loopholes in the system. Councilor Happel noted his concerns as it has been a mandate put in place due to firefighter lives lost.

Councilor Heffernan extended his thanks to all for dedication for 6 years now-- issues are coming to light. The state legislators are helping and the Mayor has pushed for legal defense. He is disappointed that the Governor and state agencies turned his back on FRRACS.

Chair Haugh notes that other Algonquin Compressor sites don't have densely populated home areas, N. Weymouth is very populated and thousands would have to be evacuated in the event of an emergency. She questions if we can evacuate to move people or shelter in place- she is concerned that many are home without cars. Mr. Mulveyhill replied that there are many modes of evacuation- first being a shelter in place. They have plans for single family, elderly housing, apartment buildings, seasonal traffic and they have policies and procedure in place for each scenario. If there is an explosion by the time help arrives and damage is done- the Fire Department will put out fires and will transfer those needing medial attention to Red Cross shelters. He can't elaborate in full due to Homeland Security issues. Emergency Management has a history of knowing evacuation routes due past experience such as the fourth of July which is a model for how well it works as they move thousands of people out of North Weymouth-- it matters the specific scenario. And they have models for differing scenarios. There are 7,462 people living in North Weymouth and Chair Haugh wants to know what to tell residents to do should an incident occur. Mr. Mulveyhill continued that an emergency code red will be issued and the Mayor can call a state of emergency through all cell phone providers; facebook and twitter notifications would be issued. They are launching an emergency Broadcast system into tv and radio which allows take over to public outreach. Ted Langill is the Public Information Officer and will send out information and coordinate through Braintree and Quincy to ensure that unison messages are received.. Six people in town are authorized to launch a code red and it is well under control.

Chair Haugh extended her appreciation to all participants and wants to do an information session with Councilor Burga to disseminate information to residents, Mr. Mulveyhill offered his assistance and agreed to participate.

With no further business to conduct at 7:55 PM Councilor Heffernan motioned to adjourn, motion seconded by Councilor Happel.

Chair Haugh took a roll call vote as follows:

Councilor Harrington-YES

Councilor DiFazio-YES

Councilor Happel-YES

Councilor Heffernan-YES

Chair Haugh-YES

Respectfully Submitted by Diane Hachey as Recording Secretary

Approved by Chair of Environmental Committee-Councilor Rebecca Haugh  
Voted unanimously on 7 December 2020