

**TOWN OF CANAJOHARIE
MONTGOMERY COUNTY
SPECIAL MEETING
October 15, 2015**

The Town Council met for a special meeting at the Town Hall building, 12 Mitchell Street, Canajoharie, New York.

Present: Supervisor Herbert Allen, Councilpersons: William Armitstead, John Toomey, Jr., and Rodney Young, Councilwoman Judith Burgess absent

The meeting was opened by the Supervisor at 1:00pm

Proposed Resolution #11 was presented to the Board and discussed

**RESOLUTION #11 OF 2015
FOR TOWN COURT TO PURSUE GRANT TO FUND UPGRADES AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE
TOWN COURTROOM**

Sponsor: Councilman William Armitstead

Second: Supervisor Herbert Allen

WHEREAS, the Town Court of the Town of Canajoharie is in need of multiple upgrades and equipment to modernize the courtroom and make it more secure, and

WHEREAS, grant funds are available through the Court Assistance Program of New York State,

RESOLVED: The Town Council authorizes Justice Philip J. Gizzi, Jr., and Court Clerk, Peggy Allen, to pursue a grant to fund upgrades and equipment for the Town Courtroom.

VOTING:	AYE	NAY	ABSENT
Supervisor Herbert Allen	X		
Councilman William Armitstead	X		
Councilman John Toomey	X		
Councilman Rodney Young	X		
Councilwoman Judith Burgess			X
Laurie M. Vroman Town Clerk			

October 15, 2015

Proposed Resolution #12 was presented to the Board and discussed

RESOLUTION
#12 of 2015
Town of Canajoharie
RE: Dominion New Market Project

Sponsor: Councilman John Toomey
Second: Councilman Rodney Young

WHEREAS, Dominion Transmission Inc. (“Dominion”), headquartered in Richmond, Virginia, has proposed the “New Market Project” (CP14-497-000), to significantly increase the capacity of its 200 mile long natural gas pipeline in New York State, with the installation of additional compressor stations and other infrastructure, including the significant expansion of its existing compression station at Brookman Corners in the Town of Minden, Montgomery County; and

WHEREAS, contaminants emitted from gas pipelines and compressor stations include methane, formaldehyde, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, radon and radioactive decay products, and greenhouse gases, which are known carcinogens and/or otherwise dangerous to human and animal health or pose significant climate risks; and

WHEREAS, peer-reviewed scientific studies show that emissions from pipelines and compressor stations are associated with negative health impacts including respiratory, developmental, neurological and cardiovascular problems, as well as leukemia, breast, kidney and liver cancers, in addition to other harmful environmental and climate impacts; and

WHEREAS, emissions from pipelines and compression stations are a concern not just locally, but for the entire region surrounding pipelines and compression stations and the climate as a whole; and

WHEREAS, Dominion’s existing pipeline intersects the Iroquois pipeline (owned largely by Dominion) at Brookman Corners, and a proposed South-to-North (“SONO”) project would reverse flow of the Iroquois pipeline so that gas from the Dominion pipeline can be exported out of the United States, thereby depleting U.S. reserves while putting the surrounding community at risk of air quality, safety, noise and other negative impacts; and

WHEREAS, the Brookman Corners compressor station is located in a part of Minden with unique topography and meteorological characteristics, adjacent to Otsquago Creek and in the Otsquago Valley, which regularly experiences temperature inversions that could expose residents in the surrounding area to concentrated emissions and also carry those emissions downwind to the Village of Fort Plain and Town of Canajoharie; and

WHEREAS, due to its proposed design involving two turbine compressors, two reciprocating compressors, and limited emission controls, the Brookman Corners compressor station as presently proposed would produce nearly twice the emissions of compressor stations planned for Madison and Chemung counties, and much higher levels of pollutants dangerous to human health, including formaldehyde which would be 22 times higher; and

WHEREAS, design alternatives and readily available technology exist that could substantially reduce emissions at the Brookman Corners site, which Dominion has not incorporated in its proposed project; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Brookman Corners compressor station expansion is located within an agricultural district requiring special review; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“FERC”) has indicated that it is preparing an Environmental Assessment (“EA”) of Dominion’s proposed project, rather than a more detailed Environment Impact Statement (“EIS”); and

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation is required to review air quality permits for the project, and has authority to deny such permits if improvements are not made, consistent with its mandate to protect public health and the environment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Town of Canajoharie stands with the Town of Minden and Village of Fort Plain in calling for the following to protect local and regional air quality, and the public health and well-being of affected communities:

RESOLVED, that a full Environmental Impact Statement (“EIS”) be prepared with respect to the New Market Project instead of the short form Environmental Assessment (“EA”);

RESOLVED, that an independent comprehensive analysis by experts acceptable to local government be performed of air dispersion at the site, accounting for unique topography of the Otsquago Creek Valley, the potential for temperature inversion and stabilization, local weather and wind patterns, and other parameters, considering emission plumes from combustion exhaust at various load conditions, as well as ground-level fugitive emission, blowdowns, and other releases;

RESOLVED, that a comprehensive analysis of the proposed design relative to through-put be required to evaluate the amount and size of compressor equipment necessary to serve the stated purpose of the project;

RESOLVED, that Dominion be required to modify the proposed design of the Brookman Corners compressor station to use mitigation measures that would diminish harmful emissions, including:

- installation of oxidation catalysts on each exhaust stack (including the existing turbine if it is retained)
- installation of a single turbine compressor with an oxidation catalyst (like at the proposed compressor stations in Madison and Chemung Counties) instead of two turbine compressors
- installation of fuel-saving vapor recovery technology to reduce fugitive emissions which are particularly problematic for reciprocating engine compressors,
- installation of electric-drive rather than gas-fired compressors which are increasingly used by industry to reduce emissions, recognizing that power is available from electric transmission lines co-located with Dominion’s pipeline
- use of “zero-emission” dehydrators at the Brookman Corners compressor station and neighboring M&R station on Brookman Corners Road
- the use of blow-down prevention technology and techniques, including the location of off-site shut-off valves closer to the facility, and
- any other currently available mitigation measures;

RESOLVED, that a comprehensive safety analysis of the proposed project be required, including the evaluation of pipeline integrity and potential for leakage, rupture, and catastrophic failure associated with increasing the volume of gas in Dominion's aging pipeline and the transfer of pressurized gas to the Iroquois line, and also considering capability and readiness of emergency responders to handle industrial accidents or catastrophic events such as gas leaks, fire, and explosion;

RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (CP14-497-000) and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation with the request that the health, safety and other concerns referenced in this Resolution be addressed and mitigated before permits or certificates to proceed are granted with respect to the New Market Project.

ADOPTED: October 15, 2015

VOTING:

Herbert T. Allen, Supervisor	AYE
William Armitstead, Council Member	AYE
Judith Burgess, Council Member	ABSENT
John Toomey, Jr., Council Member	AYE
Rodney Young, Council Member	AYE

DATED: October 15, 2015
Laurie M. Vroman, Town Clerk

Adjournment

On a **motion** by Supervisor Allen, **seconded** by Councilman Armitstead, the meeting was adjourned at 1:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie M. Vroman, Town Clerk